

Communities Adjacent to Los Alamos National Laboratory and Savannah River Site to discuss NNSA and EM management and hosting expanding NNSA missions meeting



Denise Derkacs

Denise Derkacs is the chair of Los Alamos County Council. She has served on Council since January 2021 and served as vice-chair in 2022.

Denise is a retiree from Los Alamos National Laboratory after 20 years of employment, where she worked as a chief of staff to senior management most of her career. She previously worked as a technical writer and as a reporter and editor on newspapers in Texas, Iowa, and Hawaii.

Denise holds a Master's degree in Organizational Communication from the University of New Mexico and Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Denise has lived in 10 states and settled in New Mexico in 1982. She and her husband have three sons and seven grandchildren.



Pat Moss

Patrick Moss serves as the Acting Deputy Manager for Business, Security, and Mission at the NNSA's Los Alamos Field office, where he is responsible for business and contract management, safeguards and security, and mission assurance and infrastructure.

Prior to becoming the Acting Deputy Manager, Moss worked as the Pit Production Execution Manager, Deputy Manager for Field Operations and has served as a criticality safety subject matter expert.

Moss holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Physics from Creighton University. He was the Los Alamos Site Office Criticality Safety Program Manager from September 2006 until February 2019. He was the lead technical interface at the Field Office for Nuclear Nonproliferation, Science, Emergency Response, and Intelligence

programmatic activities from 2002 until 2006. He began his carrier with DOE in 2000 as a participant of the Technical Leadership Development Program.

Prior to joining the federal government, Moss worked as a design engineer with LAB-InterLink, Inc. in the areas of optical engineering, systems analysis and optimization, and robotics. He was a team member in the latest revision of ANSI/ANS 8.23, Nuclear Criticality Accident Emergency Planning and Response. He is co-author on the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standardization standard, AUTO2-A, Laboratory Automation: Bar Codes for Specimen Container Identification; Approved Standard. He is listed as inventor on the U.S. Patent for a scanning system for reading bar codes affixed to an item regardless of angular orientation. He has participated in numerous Nuclear Safety Assessments and Emergency Response activities within the NNSA complex as both a team member and team lead.



Clifford Parr

Mr. Clifford H. Parr is the Deputy Director for Program Operations, Plutonium Program Office in the Office of Defense Programs (NA-10) where he oversees plutonium pit production operations for nuclear and non-nuclear components and design activities to support the pit production mission.

Prior to joining the Office of Defense Programs, Mr. Parr was a program manager in the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (NA-20) and responsible for the disposition of foreign and domestic excess uranium and plutonium. He began his career at NNSA at the Savannah River Site as a design and construction engineer on multiple nonproliferation line-item projects within NA-20.

Mr. Parr earned a Master of Science in Engineering Management and Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering both from the University of South Carolina.



Randall Ryti

Randall was re-elected to the County Council in the November 2022 general election. Randall has lived in Los Alamos since 1992. He came to start a small business, Neptune and Company, with four other scientists. In addition to helping lead a successful small business and raising a family in Los Alamos, Randall has volunteered for community organizations such as the Pajarito Environmental Education Center Board and the Los Alamos County District Science Fair committee. He was a Los Alamos County Transportation Board member from 2012-2016 (Chair from 2014-2016).

Randall earned a bachelor's degree in biology from University of California Los Angeles and a Ph.D. in biology from University of California San Diego. Before retiring from Neptune and Company in 2018, he worked on basic and applied environmental problems,

including ecological and human health risk assessments for the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Hanford Site and other clients.

He enjoyed campaigning for re-election, particularly meeting voters while knocking on doors, and is committed to continue getting and using community input to help make decisions while on the Council.



Robbie Bennett

Robbie economic developer for more than 18 years. In 2009 he returned to the Greater Augusta area where he spent the past 13 years developing product, supporting businesses, and addressing workforce needs. During his career in economic development, he has supported the creation/retention of more than 10,625 jobs and \$1.25 billion in capital investment, and site certification of more than 2,600 acres. Robbie's successes are made possible because of the support of his wife and daughters.

In 2012, he was recognized by Augusta Magazine and the Augusta Metro Chamber as one of "Augusta's Top 10 in 10 Young Professionals to Watch". In 2015, he was selected as Lander University's Young Alumnus of the Year and in 2019, Development Counsellors International (DCI) selected him as one of the Top 40 under 40 in Economic Development. In 2022, GA Trend Magazine named him to the Top 500 Most Influential Leaders in Georgia.

Robbie holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Lander University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of South Carolina. He has earned certifications from the International Economic Developers Association (CEcD), Advanced Economic Development Leadership Program (MEDP), and South Carolina Economic Developer Association (SCCED). Robbie is married to Trenney Bennett and they have two beautiful daughters.



Will Williams

Will Williams has 25 years of economic development experience at the state, regional and local level. Since 2011 he has led the WesternSC Economic Development Partnership, a four-county regional/local EDO. During this time, he has facilitated more than \$2.7 billion in new capital investment that led to over 4000 new jobs being created in the region. He has advocated for ongoing and new missions at The Savannah River Site both as the local economic development professional and as a member of the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) Board of Directors, where he is currently the Chairman of the Board. He has served on the board and as Chairman of the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) a 17-state regional economic development trade organization.

Will is also a Past President of The Rotary Club of Aiken and serves on the boards of The Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce and the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce. Will has twice been recognized for his economic development achievements: In 2017 The

South Carolina Economic Developers Association (SCEDA) named him the Local Developer of The Year and in 2021 he was recognized as one of the Top 50 Economic Developers in North America by Consultant Connect.

Will earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from The Citadel. He is a Certified Economic Developer by the State of South Carolina and has earned the designation of Master Economic Development Practitioner from a four-university consortium. A native of Georgetown, South Carolina he is married to Ellen. They reside in Aiken and are the proud parents of two adult sons.

Chuck Smith

Chuck Smith is a former four-term Council Member of Aiken County, South Carolina. Currently, servers as a board member of the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization and previously served as a Chairman of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA).



Steven Lynne

Steve holds a Master's Degree in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. Prior to coming to Los Alamos County, Mr. Lynne worked with public accounting firms in Florida and New Mexico, with an emphasis in auditing local government clients.

Since joining Los Alamos County in February 1996, Steve spent the first 14 years with the County's Office of Management and Budget rising to Chief Financial Officer in 2000. In 2010, he was promoted to Administrative Services Director/Chief Financial Officer responsible for the performance of the Information Technology, Office of Management and Budget, and the Procurement, Materials Management and Risk Management divisions. In February 2011 he was appointed to one of two Acting Assistant County Administrator positions to assist in the operational oversight of all departments and overall coordination of several of the County's major projects. Steve was appointed County Manager in July 2021.

As a resident and a public servant, Steve believes it is his job to enhance the quality of life in Los Alamos by effectively implementing the County's strategic goals and policies.

Mindy Mets

Mindy Mets is the Director of Regional Workforce Programs for the Savannah River Site (SRS) Community Reuse Organization. Her work involves connecting nuclear employers and educators in a two-state region of Georgia and South Carolina. She directs programs that are focused on expanding education and training capabilities for local citizens. Mindy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Auburn University. She has 30 years of experience associated with the Savannah River Site and the surrounding region's workforce needs.



Paul Allen

As Dean of Instruction, serves as the campus's Chief Academic Officer and has overall responsibility for administration of the instructional programs and faculty at UNM-LA. Also oversees the Library, Academic Support Center, Adult Basic Education, Dual Enrollment, and Community Education and Workforce programming.

Served in the 101st Airborne Division before getting a Bachelor's in English Literature at the University of Buffalo. Subsequently received a Master's in Renaissance Studies/History and a PhD in European History from Yale University.

Has been a professor at Yale University, the University of Utah, Weber State University, and Salt Lake Community College. For fifteen years has held progressively higher administrative positions at three different colleges.



John Daniels

As the Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Nevada Field Office (NFO), John Daniels is responsible for serving as the technical advisor for the Nevada National Security Site's public, intergovernmental and congressional relations as well as internal communications and outreach activities for the NFO.

Daniels began his government service in the U.S. Army and South Carolina Army National Guard, serving in the Field Artillery as both a Fire Direction Specialist and Fire Support Specialist. Upon completing graduate school, Daniels transitioned to the U.S. Navy in the Medical Service Corps, where he worked as a Medical Administration Officer and Radiation Health Officer. He transferred to the U.S. Navy's public affairs community and completed numerous staff and operational assignments.

After retiring from active duty, Daniels joined the Navy League of the United States as the Vice President of Communication. He returned to the U.S. Navy as a civil servant as the Public Affairs Officer for Strategic Systems Programs – the sole U.S. Navy command responsible for the sea-based leg of the Nation's strategic nuclear deterrent. Following this, Daniels took a position as the Public Affairs Officer for NNSA's Savannah River Field Office in Aiken, South Carolina. In August 2020, he transferred to the NFO as its Public Affairs Officer.

During his government career, Daniels has been awarded the Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars; the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; and the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Daniels holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the College of Charleston. He also holds a master's in health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina.



Seth Kirshenber

For over 25 years, Mr. Kirshenber has been the Executive Director of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), the national non-profit organization of elected local government officials adjacent to nuclear facilities in the United States. He oversees the daily activities of the organization and ensures that DOE, industry and others understand and address local community issues and integrate them into policy decision-making.

He has published several books and articles and regularly speaks on renewable and advanced reactor energy development, environmental cleanup, spent nuclear fuel, public private partnerships, public participation, brownfields, and reuse of federal facilities and he regularly speaks at conferences and meetings. He has participated on several national federal advisory committees and boards on International Atomic Energy Agency, US EPA and US DOE issues and has participated on several national initiatives including those led by the Aspen Institute, Keystone Institute and others around the areas of the environment, public private partnerships, nuclear waste, spent nuclear fuel, nuclear energy production, and national defense.

He is also an attorney at Kutak Rock LLP where he has worked on over \$25 billion dollars of structured finance transactions in the US and abroad including those located on DOE and other federal government facilities, international nuclear fuel storage facilities and a small modular reactor.

Mr. Kirshenber holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the Washington College of Law at the American University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Florida. He has been a Vice Chair of the Privatization, Outsourcing and Financing Transactions Committee for the American Bar Association and is an Executive Board Member of the Council of Development Finance Agencies.



Kristen Ellis

Kristen serves as the Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Regulatory and Policy Affairs, and well as the permanent Director of Regulatory, Intergovernmental, and Stakeholder Engagement, within the US Department of Energy's Environmental Management (EM) Office. Her portfolio includes waste policy, regulatory compliance, intergovernmental, international, and stakeholder engagement.

She previously served as EM's Senior Advisor for STEM and Talent Acquisition, as she assessed future STEM workforce needs. She also served in the DOE Office of Public affairs during the Biden Administration transition.

She also served as the Chief of Staff for DOE Under Secretary for Science, overseeing all daily operations, including personnel, budgets, policy, media, and interface with DOE senior leadership. That portfolio included over \$14 billion in Federal funding for

fundamental energy research, energy technologies, and science; direct management of 11 of the Department's national labs and user facilities; the environmental and legacy management missions; and technology commercialization activities.

Previously, she ran the EM Office of External Affairs, directing the media and Congressional strategies of the EM complex. She also formerly served as Director of the EM Intergovernmental Office, partnering with national intergovernmental organizations, tribal governments, and community organizations. She has also served in multiple positions in DOE's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. She received her Juris Doctorate in 2006 from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

She is licensed to practice law in the State of Maryland. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Western Maryland College, with concentrations in Communications and Journalism.