

FEATURED *Speaker*



JENNIFER BREDT

VP OF OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Jenny Bredt is VP of Operational Excellence at Renewable Energy Systems (RES) where she employs lean principles and methodology, paired with strategic leadership, to deliver improvements across RES' construction business in North America.

Ms. Bredt has 18 years of experience in renewable energy. Her career started with the Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD), under the Department of Interior, Indian Affairs. She used GIS to map tribal energy and mineral resources and supported tribes in the exploration of their renewable resource potential.

She joined RES in 2008 as a Wind Development Manager and has been directly responsible for the development and oversight of 10+ GWs of assets and contributed to the sale of over 1 GW of wind, solar and storage assets. She also led RES' transformation activities for 2+ years facilitating a streamlined business and reduced LCOE in the post-subsidy market.

Jenny has a Master of Science in Global Energy Management from the University of Colorado, Denver. She is also a lecturer and member of the Advisory Council for the Global Energy Management program at the University of Colorado, Denver.

FEATURED *Speaker*



Sarah Derdowski

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENERGY

JP MORGAN CENTER FOR COMMODITIES &
ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Sarah is currently the Executive Director of CU Denver's Energy Center where she is acting as an influential leader across different fields, building partnerships, engaging in strategic planning, and successfully overseeing a platform for energy dialogue. She has extensive experience managing business processes and driving organizational growth both domestically and internationally. She performs a wide range of high-level functions to further organizational growth.

Sarah has spent the majority of her career as a connector and convener of people, building relationships and education across all aspects of energy to ensure a "just transition" for communities and building the energy workforce of the future. She sits on many non-profit boards that support diversity in Energy including Women's Energy Network.

Sarah is skilled at creating dialogue, programming, discussions, and partnerships that ensure we reduce our emissions while building out and innovating our human energy capital. She is passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion in energy, both in fuels and people.

FEATURED *Speaker*



UCHE EJIASA

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION LEADER

DCP MIDSTREAM

Uche Ejiasa is an experienced professional having held various leadership roles in the disciplines of Supply Chain and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Driven by a desire to be the best leader he can be, Uche takes pride in truly getting to know people, always seeking to be a source of inspiration to those he meets. In his most recent role as DEI Leader, his goals included building out a DEI program from scratch and scaling it across his company within the Oil and Gas Midstream space. In addition to his primary job functions, Uche served on COGA's DEI committee and volunteers with various organizations around the Denver Metro area.

As a child of Nigerian immigrant parents, Uche has always experienced the world through a multi-cultured lens, navigating his world as a first generation American citizen while holding firmly to his Nigerian heritage – he admits the balance between these two realities can often be elusive. Nonetheless, he understands firsthand the ramifications of an inequitable playing field that have spanned both his professional and personal experience, and as such, his passion for tangible change is always front and center.

FEATURED *Speaker*



KYLE FRAZER

**DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR
STRATEGY AND CI**

XCEL ENERGY

Kyle started his career in the United States Navy operating the nuclear reactor on the submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) from 2002 to 2006. After separating from the Navy Kyle returned home to Colorado to continue his education, and started a small handyman business to pay his way through school. On top of electrical and nuclear engineering from the Navy, Kyle studied Science and Technology Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver, before entering the GEM program at UC Denver in 2010. Kyle used his small business experience to help other small business owners with business consulting while completing the GEM program in 2012.

Kyle started an operational Management consulting firm in 2013. He continued with the management consulting role, working offshore in the North Sea, at chemical plants in the UK, Austria, and France, and supporting analyses in the Middle East and Asia, as well as Scandinavia.

In 2019, Kyle joined Xcel Energy where he supported nuclear, gas, and special projects. He took the role of Director of Nuclear Strategy in 2022. Kyle currently leads the advanced reactor team and works on Xcel Energy's advanced nuclear goals and strategy for the corporate goal of achieving 100% carbon free by 2050.

FEATURED *Speaker*



SEN. CHRIS HANSEN

SENATE DISTRICT 31

COLORADO STATE SENATE

Senator Chris Hansen represents Senate District 31 in the Colorado State Senate, and previously represented HD6 in the House. He specializes in energy sector economics and data analytics, with 20+ years of experience in the global energy industry.

Before beginning public service, Hansen was a Senior Director at IHS Inc., a global research and consulting firm, and has nearly two decades of business experience in the clean technology sector. Hansen has also taught energy economics and policy courses at the University of Colorado, and has become a leading legislative voice on the energy and environmental issues facing the state.

In addition to his current role in the State Senate, he is also a Co-Founder of the Colorado Energy & Water Institute and the Colorado Science and Engineering Policy Fellowship. He teaches GEMM 6690 a Special Topics course that is international.

FEATURED *Speaker*



NATASHA HERRING

SENIOR CLIENT SUCCESS MANAGER

ENERGYHUB

With over a decade of experience in energy consulting, Natasha's career trailblazes the critical intersection of Energy, Sustainability, Equity, and Systems. She's an impactful leader who successfully conceptualizes and executes project vision and achieves complex milestones while adapting to changes and shifting priorities.

Natasha believes a business enterprise's core is its people and the culture in which it operates. She is a strategic thinker known for collaborating with multiple stakeholders and cultivating sustainable relationships that drive profitability. She is catalyst for change and growth within an organization, constantly seeking new ways to improve or modify existing processes and providing the analytical framework and business judgment necessary to evaluate various company initiatives.

Natasha is currently a Client Success Manager with EnergyHub. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering from Dartmouth College, along with a Master of Science in Global Energy Management from the University of Colorado Denver.

FEATURED *Speaker*



BRENT MATTSON

**PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT & MANAGING
PARTNER**

FORMINSIGHT LTD

Brent Mattson has over 25 years of experience in talent management and learning and development in some of the world's most respected organizations. He is an expert consultant, coach, instructional designer and facilitator who leverages practical and analytical approaches to enable leaders to solve complex business challenges. His areas of expertise include career development, psychological assessment, change management, acquisition integration, facilitative leadership, conflict resolution, team dynamics, and coaching.

Brent has led talent management and learning and development organizations for some of the world's most respected companies. Organizations he has led have been awarded more than 80 U.S. and global patents for their work on employee health and energy management, safety and productivity innovations.

He most recently served as Vice President and Chief Talent Officer for nVent Electric. Other notable roles include: Vice President and Chief Talent Officer for Aramco, Vice President and Chief Talent Officer for Schneider Electric, and Vice President of Organization Effectiveness for GE. Brent holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. John's University and a Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Minnesota in the United States.

FEATURED *Speaker*



FARHANA MORALES

**SR MANAGER CORPORATE
RESPONSIBILITY, ESG**

TARGET

Farhana Morales has worked in the oil and gas industry for over 14 years in many US basins and overseas in North Africa. She is originally from the United Kingdom and has lived in Colorado since 2001.

She considers herself an anomaly as a woman of color who did not grow up around the oil and gas industry but is still a passionate advocate for it.

She gained her Bachelor's in Information Technology from the University of Denver and Master's degree in Finance from Colorado State University and recently completed an ESG microcredentialing program at the University of Houston. She currently works for ENGAGE helping them implement their Fintech software and advises on internal and external matters relating to ESG and sustainability.

FEATURED *Speaker*



MICHAEL J. ORLANDO

MANAGING DIRECTOR

ECON ONE RESEARCH

Dr. Michael J. Orlando is Managing Director for Econ One Research in Denver, Colorado. His practice advises organizations facing complex commercial, financial, and political risks, and those seeking expert analysis and testimony in judicial and regulatory settings.

In addition to his consulting practice activities, Michael is a Lecturer in the Global Energy Management Program at the University of Colorado Denver, where he teaches courses on valuation and capital structure, political risk analysis and strategy, and energy business issues.

His prior positions include Vice President of Research for a business analytics startup, Vice President and Economist of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Denver Branch, and Engineer at Shell Oil Company.

Michael earned PhD and MA degrees in Economics from Washington University in St Louis, an MBA from Tulane University, and a B.S. in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University.

FEATURED *Speaker*



J.W. POSTAL

FOUNDER & CEO

WATTMORE

Jonathan (J.W.) Postal founded Nikola Power (now Wattmore) in 2017 and led the formation of the company through its recent successful Series A round while positioning it for future growth and success. He was also the co-founder of Main Street Power, a pioneer in the distributed generation power purchase agreement space and an innovator in clean energy finance. While at Main Street Power, J.W. spearheaded the first combined New Market and Investment Tax Credit portfolio in the country.

J.W. has also served as an executive, Chief Development Officer, and Chief Operating Officer with Milender White Construction, SunShare, and Clean Energy Collective respectively.

J.W. is a leader in clean energy in Colorado and across the country. He has worked on trailblazing legislation for distributed solar, community solar, and renewable energy finance and has traveled the country developing solar projects in AZ, CA, CO, MA, MN, NJ, NM, SC, and TX. He has been a frequent speaker at industry events around the nation for topics such as clean energy finance, community solar, and now solar + storage and entrepreneurship.

FEATURED *Speaker*



DEB RYAN, P.E., MBA

HEAD OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES

S&P GLOBAL COMMODITY INSIGHTS

Deb Ryan is the Head of Strategic Commodities for S&P Global Commodity Insights, a division of S&P Global and the leading provider of information and benchmarks for the energy and commodities markets.

Based in Denver, Deb leads the Low Carbon Commodities team, which focuses on analytics that underpin carbon and methane emissions, as well as the market mechanisms for carbon and low carbon commodities.

Deb brings almost 20 years of upstream oil industry experience, having worked for as a Petroleum Engineer for both oil and gas operators, and in consulting.

Deb is a Professional Engineer in Colorado and Texas with a Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering and Masters degree in Petroleum Engineering, both from Curtin University in Australia, and an MBA from Penn State, US. Deb serves on the International Board of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and previously served as the Treasurer for the Women's Energy Network Foundation.

FEATURED *Speaker*



KATHLEEN STAKS

DIRECTOR

WESTERN FREEDOM

Kathleen Staks has extensive experience in policy and strategic engagement on a broad spectrum of bipartisan energy issues in the public and private sectors. She has worked in house and as a consultant on government and public affairs for a variety of energy and natural resources companies.

Kathleen served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Energy Office under Governor Hickenlooper where she worked to broaden the influence and impact of the office by developing and securing bipartisan support for long-term funding while expanding wide-reaching relationships across the energy spectrum. Prior to that, Kathleen was the assistant director for energy and minerals at the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, where she developed and implemented oil and gas and mining policy across Colorado in coordination with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, and the Governor's Office.

Kathleen also serves as the Interim Chair of the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority, an independent special purpose authority that will prioritize and enable the development of transmission lines that will deliver clean energy to Coloradans and the region. She is also the Chair of the Colorado Solar and Storage Association board and the Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee.