

# EITC Funders Network Annual Meeting

## September 2013

### Speaker Bios



**Tony Banegas** is a Philanthropic Advisor with The Arizona Community Foundation in Phoenix, Arizona. He joined the Foundation in December of 2006. In that capacity he is responsible for grant making, donor engagement and special initiatives such as Latinos Unidos, Latina Giving Circle, the Arizona Family Economic Success initiative and Project SAM (Shared Assets Measurement). Prior to joining the Foundation he spent 18 years in management positions overseeing a variety of projects dealing with child development, health, behavioral health, prevention, adult education, child welfare, community development and employment and training. In 2006 the President of Honduras appointed Tony as Honorary Consul of Honduras in the state of Arizona with jurisdiction over Utah, Colorado and Nebraska. Tony earned a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration and Master in Public Administration both from Arizona State University.



**Jackie Lynn Coleman** is the Executive Director of the National Community Tax Coalition. She has five years of experience in community banking and 15 years of experience working in the areas of organizational, community, economic and workforce development, and public policy. In the past Jackie Lynn has provided capacity building to a number of organizations across the country, including those in the fields of construction, child care, manufacturing, apprenticeship programs, the Chicago One-Stop Career Centers, and the Illinois Department of Human Services. Jackie Lynn holds an M.S. in Human Services Administration from Spertus College, graduating Magna Cum Laude, as well as a B.S. with honors in Political Science from Chicago State University. Jackie Lynn's work at NCTC includes partner collaboration and communication; leveraging strategic partnerships; working with the NCTC Board of Managers; advocating on behalf of the VITA and community tax preparation field; fundraising; and designing innovative initiatives.



**Alfredo A. Cruz** is originally from Nicaragua, grew up in Miami, and lived in Tallahassee for eight years before moving to Louisiana. He joined Foundation for Louisiana in 2011 as the Program Officer for Economic Opportunity. Alfredo's responsibilities include identifying partnership and investment opportunities throughout the state that are aligned with the goals of the Foundation's Economic Opportunity Portfolio, providing technical assistance and aid in proposal development to grantees and potential grantees, and helping to scale economic opportunity strategies for statewide impact. Prior to his position with the Foundation, Alfredo worked at the Florida Legislature as the Legislative Assistant to Florida State Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D-9). Alfredo has also served as a program officer for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Alfredo earned his B.A. in English Literature from Florida State University where he also completed a M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning and M.P.A. studies. In his off time, Alfredo enjoys volunteering in the community, writing, cooking, reading and traveling.



**Diane M. DiGiacomo**, APR, has 30 years of experience in the public relations field. She has been the Director of Communications at The Piton Foundation in Denver since 1990. Her responsibilities include strategic communications planning for all the foundation's program areas, media relations, and writing and coordinating all foundation publications, web site content and electronic media. In addition, she developed the foundation's annual statewide information campaign on the Earned Income Tax Credit, through which more than 1,500,000 copies of educational materials are distributed each year, and is in charge of Tax Help Colorado, Piton's partnership with the Colorado Community College System to provide free tax-preparation services statewide. Diane has a master's degree in public relations from The American University in Washington, DC and an undergraduate degree in English Education from the University of Maryland.



**Elizabeth Kneebone** is a fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings Institution and co-author of *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America* (Brookings Press, 2013). Her work primarily focuses on urban and suburban poverty, metropolitan demographics, and tax policies that support low-income workers and communities. In *Confronting Suburban Poverty In America* she and co-author Alan Berube address the changing geography of metropolitan poverty and offer pragmatic solutions for reforming and modernizing the nation's policy and practice framework for alleviating poverty and increasing access to opportunity. Prior to joining Brookings, Kneebone worked as a research project manager for IFF (formerly the Illinois Facilities Fund), where her work assessed the geographic distribution of need for services and programs targeted to low-income people and places. She holds a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and a bachelor's degree in history from Indiana University.



**Steve Holt** and his firm HoltSolutions provide evaluation, research, management, and public policy consulting services to government, foundations, and non-profit organizations. Since 2002, he has been a consultant to the community tax field through the Annie E. Casey Foundation's NTA Campaign, and he also works with the field on behalf of the National Community Tax Coalition, the Aspen Institute, and the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Holt has served as Block Grant Director for the City of Milwaukee, led the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative, and been a lobbyist at the state and federal levels on welfare, employment, and tax policy. Holt is the author of the Brookings Institution's *Ten Years of the EITC Movement: Making Work Pay Then and Now* and *The Earned Income Tax Credit at Age 30: What We Know*. Other recent publications address expansion and consolidation of refundable tax credits, cumulative marginal tax rates facing lower-income workers, EITC compliance issues, and options for periodic payment of the EITC.



**Angie Carr Klitzsch** is the Director of Community Impact - Family Success for the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF). In her role, she serves as a liaison between service providers, the community, and the Foundation's boards advising nonprofit organizations on governance and leadership, financial and programmatic efficacy and effectiveness, and the foundation's grantmaking priorities and processes. Angie leads CICF's Family Success Community Leadership Initiative, a multi-year collaborative effort to increase the earnings and assets of low-income individuals, and build capacity/ improve the quality of support services

in the community. Angie is an alumna of The University of Notre Dame where she received a bachelor's degree in philosophy and history. In 2004, she returned to Indiana to pursue a master's degree in public affairs and a master's degree in philanthropic studies at Indiana University.



**Chauncy Lennon** focuses on helping low-income workers gain economic security through access to good-quality jobs that offer benefits and opportunities for promotion. The goal of his grant making is to help working families overcome poverty and achieve self-sufficiency through improved work supports such as the earned income tax credit, and building employer support for policies that promote retention and advancement. Before joining the Ford Foundation in 2009, Chauncy was senior vice president for Asset Building at Seedco, where he was responsible for the growth and

operation of national initiatives that connect low-wage workers to income-enhancing benefits and services. He has more than 10 years of experience researching the mobility patterns of the working poor and organizing and implementing workforce development programs. Chauncy earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia University, master's degree from the University of Chicago and bachelor's degree from Williams College. He has taught urban studies at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and at Barnard College.