

## SPEAKERS

### John Colborn



John Colborn, Executive Director of **Apprenticeships for America** has amassed over 30 years of experience with community-based and national nonprofits, including serving as an education, workforce, and human services practitioner, Director of the Aspen Institute Skills for America's Future program, Vice President Operations at the Ford Foundation, and program manager at the Philadelphia-based Reinvestment Fund. Colborn holds a BA from Oberlin College and a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sarah Diel-Hunt serves as **Heartland's** Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, providing strategic leadership for undergraduate academic programs, adult and continuing education, the College's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, and all enrollment services and marketing operations. Dr. Diel-Hunt is actively engaged in community and statewide service, contributing to initiatives that align educational programs with workforce needs and foster civic engagement among college students.

### Dr. Sarah Diel-Hunt



### Iris Palmer



Iris Palmer is the Director for Community Colleges at **New America** and is a member of the Higher Education program and the Center on Education & Labor program. She provides research and analysis on community colleges, adults enrolled in higher education, and apprenticeships. Palmer previously worked at the National Governors Association on postsecondary issues, where she helped states strengthen the connection between higher education and the workforce, support competency-based systems, and use data from effectiveness and efficiency metrics.

Daniel Serota is the Vice President of Government and Public Affairs at **Aon**, where he leads the firm's North America public policy, regulatory strategy, and political engagement. In this role, he oversees the development of strategic relationships with policymakers, industry partners, and civic leaders. Mr. Serota played a central role in establishing the Chicago Apprentice Network, which has become a nationally recognized model for expanding apprenticeship pathways. He was appointed by Governor J.B. Pritzker to the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board, where he chairs the Apprentice Illinois Committee. A recognized civic and business leader, Mr. Serota is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, an Edgar Fellow, and a Crain's Chicago Business 40 Under 40 honoree.

### Daniel Serota



## PRESIDENTS

Dr. Morris began her college career at **Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC)**, earning her Associate of Arts before earning her Bachelor of Science degree from Western Illinois University. She went on to earn her Masters in Counseling and a Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education, both from Northern Illinois University. Dr. Morris served as a high school teacher, K-8 school counselor, and a community college advisor and orientation coordinator before entering higher education administration. In December 2022, Dr. Morris was selected as the first IVCC graduate to be named IVCC President, a role she has held for 3 years.

**Dr. Tracy Morris**



**Dr. Josh Bullock**



Dr. Bullock has served as the president of **Lake Land College** since 2013. Under his leadership, Lake Land College has implemented a comprehensive strategic plan focused on “Education that Fits Your Life”, initiated co-requisite remediation frameworks for student success, integrated a data analytics platform to facilitate data-driven decision making, and developed unique training models to help local businesses sustain a skilled workforce. Dr. Bullock also serves on the boards of numerous regional and state organizations, including the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and is a faculty practitioner for the Ferris State University Doctorate in Community College Leadership (DCCL) program. He is married to the love of his life, Jen, and enjoys spending time with his family.

**Dr. Avis Proctor**

Dr. Avis Proctor has served as the sixth president of **William Rainey Harper College** since July 2019 and brings more than 30 years of experience in education and leadership. An Aspen Presidential Fellow and higher education scholar, she is recognized for her innovation in advancing student success and strengthening workforce and economic development. Under her leadership, Harper College has expanded academic offerings in high-demand fields such as artificial intelligence, aviation, cybersecurity, and fire science. Dr. Proctor earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics education from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, a Master of Science in Teaching Mathematics from Florida Atlantic University, and a doctorate in higher education from Florida International University.



**George Evans**



George Evans was named the President of **Kaskaskia College** in 2018, after 10 years of service to the College in leadership roles as Dean of Career and Technical Education, Director of the College’s Education Program at the Centralia Correctional Center, and adjunct faculty member. A proud Kaskaskia College graduate, he is a strong advocate for CTE and vocational education, registered apprenticeships, and workforce development initiatives that connect students with high-demand careers. Under his leadership, Kaskaskia College has expanded partnerships with employers, industry organizations, and workforce agencies to strengthen talent pipelines throughout Southern Illinois. In 2024, Governor J.B. Pritzker appointed Evans to the Illinois Community College Board, where he continues to champion workforce training and economic development across the state.