

Dennis Owens, ABC 27 News Anchor Moderator

Since 1993, Dennis has been a part of the ABC27 team and he's played many roles at the station. He began as a weekend sports anchor at WHTM under legendary Sports Director, Gregg Mace. In that position, he reported on Super

Bowls, World Series, Bowl Games, NASCAR races, baseball's Spring Training, and Penn State football. But he's most proud of co-creating Friday Night Football, a show that celebrated its 25th year in 2021. The show continues to showcase High School athletes, cheerleaders and bands that make Friday nights special across Central Pennsylvania.

In 1999, Dennis switched to news and co-anchored Live at Five, which spotlighted his ability to connect with viewers and the community. Whether it was jumping out of airplanes, attending the local fair, or learning to make Easter eggs, Dennis' warmth and personality and his love of the Midstate were always on display.

Dennis also answered the call to the anchor desk. First with Valerie Pritchett at 7 p.m. and then Alicia Richards at 6 p.m.

Dennis is also a passionate story teller and journalist. He has been nominated for more than 70 Regional Emmy Awards, winning 15, including Best Anchor in the Mid-Atlantic Region. He has also won the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award for his reporting on the influence of lobbyists in Harrisburg.

He is a familiar face at the State Capitol and one of the most respected television reporters on that beat. His state government reports appear daily on Nexstar owned stations across the commonwealth. He is also the host and co-producer of This Week in Pennsylvania, the only statewide political talk show in Pennsylvania. His guests include, governors, senators, congressmen and women, and a who's-who of political powerbrokers in Pennsylvania.

Dennis is a Philadelphia native and LaSalle University graduate. The eternal optimist, he is a proud fan of Philly sports, as painful as that can be. He and his family reside in Cumberland County, outside Harrisburg.



Jon Gray,
President and Chief Operating Officer, Blackstone

Jonathan ("Jon") Gray is President & Chief Operating Officer of Blackstone and is a member of the Board of Directors. He sits on the firm's Management Committee and nearly all of its investment committees.

Mr. Gray was appointed to his current role in 2018. Since that time, Blackstone's assets under management have more than doubled to nearly \$1.2 trillion, as the firm has greatly expanded the breadth of clients it serves, including insurance companies and individual investors. He has also emphasized a thematic approach to investing across Blackstone's businesses to drive performance.

Mr. Gray previously led Blackstone's Real Estate business, which he helped build into the largest commercial real estate platform in the world. He joined Blackstone in 1992 in the M&A and Private Equity areas.

Mr. Gray has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hilton Worldwide since 2007 and is also on the board of XRG.

He and his wife, Mindy, established the Basser Center for BRCA at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 2012 focused on the prevention and treatment of BRCA-related cancers. They have also established numerous programs for low-income children in New York, including creating NYC Kids RISE, a college savings initiative provided to every NYC public school kindergartner. The Grays have been named to The Chronicle of Philanthropy's list of the largest donors in the U.S.

Mr. Gray received a BS in Economics from the Wharton School, as well as a BA in English from the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.



Khaldoon Al-Mubarak,
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mubadala

Khaldoon Al Mubarak is one of the Middle East's most prominent and globally-engaged business leaders. He is also an influential UAE government policymaker, and an accomplished international envoy.

He is the Managing Director and Group CEO of Mubadala, the \$330 billion innovative and disruptive sovereign investment firm with assets in more than 50 countries across six international offices. He has led the company from its inception in 2002 and, through organic growth, acquisitions, and mergers, overseen the continuous generation of sustainable financial returns for Mubadala's shareholder, the Government of Abu Dhabi.

Khaldoon also Chairs the Board of Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, is Vice Chairman of MGX, an investment company to enable the advancement and deployment of leading edge technologies, and serves on the Board of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and G42, the Abu Dhabi headquartered global AI company.

In addition to his commercial responsibilities, Khaldoon holds the mandate of Chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority, the specialized government agency that provides strategic policy advice to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. He is also the Presidential Special Envoy to China and leads several significant country files on behalf of the UAE.

He serves as a member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council - a position he has held since 2004 - and he is a member of the Abu Dhabi Supreme Council for Financial and Economic Affairs. In January 2024, he became a founding member of the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology Council (AIATC) and in February of the same year he was appointed Vice Chair of the newly founded Mohammed bin Zayed Water Initiative. He is also a member of the Abu Dhabi Advanced Technology Research Council. He co-founded the US-UAE Business Council and the UAE-France Strategic Dialogue and co-chairs the Abu Dhabi-Singapore Joint Forum.

Khaldoon was instrumental in establishing New York University Abu Dhabi and serves on the New York University Board of Trustees. In February of 2025, he was appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, a graduate research university dedicated to advancing AI as a global force for humanity.

Since 2008 he has been the Chairman of Manchester City Football Club, the most successful Premier League club of the last decade, currently the top-ranked football club globally by revenue and valued as the world's premier football brand.

Khaldoon is also the Chairman of City Football Group, established in 2013 to be an investor and operator of international football-related businesses. The Group now has 13 Clubs within its global network and is valued at more than US \$6 billion.

He holds a degree in Economics and Finance from Tufts University in Boston, USA.



Farnam Jahanian,
President of Carnegie Mellon University

Farnam Jahanian is the 10th president of Carnegie Mellon University. He is currently serving in his second five-year term at the university's helm and previously held posts as Carnegie Mellon's provost and chief academic officer and vice president for research. Jahanian holds three faculty appointments—in Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science (Computer Science), the College of Engineering (Electrical and Computer Engineering) and the H. John Heinz III College of Information Systems and Public Policy.

Prior to CMU, Jahanian led the National Science Foundation Directorate for the Computer and Information Science and Engineering from 2011 to 2014. Jahanian also served as co-chair of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Technology, providing coordination and oversight of research and development activities of 17 government agencies. Jahanian holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Austin.



David Sacks,
AI and Crypto Czar, White House

David Sacks is the White House A.I. & Crypto Czar. He has been a successful founder and investor in Silicon Valley for 25 years. In 1999, David started his career in tech as PayPal's first product leader and COO. Subsequently, he founded enterprise collaboration startup Yammer, which was acquired by Microsoft for \$1.2 billion. He then founded Craft Ventures, a venture capital firm based in San Francisco. He has invested in over 20 unicorns, including Affirm, AirBnB, Facebook, Palantir, Slack, SpaceX, and Uber. David is co-host of the All-In Podcast, the top pod in tech.



Rene Haas,
Chief Executive Officer, Arm and Board Director, SoftBank

Rene was appointed Chief Executive Officer and to the Arm Board in February 2022. Prior to being appointed CEO, Rene was President of Arm's IP Product Groups (IPG) from January 2017. Under his leadership, Rene transformed IPG to focus on key solutions for vertical markets with a more diversified product portfolio and increased investment in the Arm software ecosystem. In addition to his role as CEO, Rene also sits on the boards of Arm China, AstraZeneca, and SoftBank Group.

Rene joined Arm in October 2013 as Vice President of Strategic Alliances and two years later was appointed to the Executive Committee and named Arm's Chief Commercial Officer in charge of global sales and marketing.

Before joining Arm, Rene held several applications management, applications engineering and product engineering roles, including seven years at NVIDIA as vice president and general manager of its computing products business. Prior to NVIDIA, Rene held executive roles at Scintera Networks and Tensilica.

Rene is based in Silicon Valley, U.S., he also spends significant time in the major technology centers of the UK, Europe and APAC.

Rene earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Clarkson University and is a graduate of the Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive Education Program.



Dina Powell McCormick,
Former U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor
Moderator

Dina Powell McCormick is Vice Chairman & President of Global Client Services and a Partner of BDT-MSD. Powell McCormick joined BDT & MSD Partners from The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., where she was Global Head of Sovereign Business. She also held the role of Global Head of Sustainability and Inclusive Growth and served on the firm's Management Committee and the Firmwide Client and Business Standards Committee.

Powell McCormick initially joined Goldman Sachs in 2007, and from 2007 to 2017 she served as Head of the firm's Impact Investing Business and served in various roles during that period, including Head of the Urban Investment Group, President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation, and President of Goldman Sachs Gives.

Earlier in her career, Powell McCormick served in the U.S. government for more than a dozen years, including as Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel and Senior White House Advisor, as well as Assistant Secretary of State and Undersecretary for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy. In 2017, she served as Deputy National Security Advisor.



The Hon. Rick Perry, *Former Secretary of Energy and Governor of Texas* **Spotlight 1**

Former Secretary of Energy Rick Perry served as the 14th Secretary of Energy.

Prior to joining the Administration as Secretary of Energy, Perry served as the 47th governor of Texas. As Governor of the Lone Star State, Perry championed conservative principles that helped Texas become America's economic engine.

Governor Rick Perry is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having flown C-130 tactical airlift aircraft in Europe and the Middle East. He is deeply involved with supporting the active duty and veteran community, both as Governor and now as Secretary of Energy.

Perry earned distinction early in his life as an Eagle Scout. He was one of the first in his family to go to college, earning a degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and a Yell Leader.

He is a lifetime member of both the NRA and American Legion Post #75.

Perry married his childhood sweetheart, Anita, in 1982. They have two children, two beautiful granddaughters, and a grandson.



Salena Zito,
Columnist, Washington Examiner
Moderator

Salena Zito joined Washington Examiner in 2016 as a Western Pennsylvania based national political reporter covering national politics and culture; she is also a contributor at the Washington Post.

An eyewitness to history she is the author of *Butler: The Untold Story of the Near Assassination of Donald Trump and the Fight for America's Heartland*— the book that offers an unprecedented accounting of what happened that day in July, but also the massive shift in American politics as a result of it.

Zito covers not just politics but also culture, agriculture, energy, manufacturing and the faith community— she is noted for calling her stories dispatches from “the middle of somewhere” focusing on cities, towns and communities that are often overlooked by the national press. She does not fly when reporting, nor does she use interstates, but instead focuses on the back roads of the country that gives a more in-depth understanding of how people’s lives are impacted through culture and politics.

Her columns are syndicated in hundreds of newspapers across the country.

In 2018 she won first place for her columns in the Associated Press for her coverage of American politics outside the Beltway, as well as winning the Barbara Olsen Award for Excellence and Independence in Journalism. She has won the Clarion Award for her coverage of America In politics an unprecedented three times.

Zito has taught journalism at the Harvard Institute of Politics, Washington and Lee University, the University of Pittsburgh and was a Journalism Fellow at Hillsdale College.



Jake Loosararian,
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Gecko Robotics

Jake Loosararian is the co-founder and CEO of Gecko Robotics, the company combining advanced robotics and AI-powered software to help ensure the availability, reliability and sustainability of the critical infrastructure that powers our world - today and tomorrow.

Loosararian built the first version of Gecko's wall-climbing robots as a college engineering student after learning how frequently assets failed at a local power plant. He discovered how little data we have about the important assets that power our daily lives. As an engineer, he saw this as a solvable problem, and his initial robot helped that power plant drastically reduce its downtime, saving the plant money and preventing power outages for thousands of families.

At 22 years old, after graduating from Grove City College, Loosararian launched Gecko Robotics in 2013. Today, Gecko's business model of creating data with robots, and building enterprise software with it, is pioneering an emerging business model for the real world. The business model focuses on data that has never been accessible before: from pipelines, boilers, tanks, ship hulls, missile silos and other critical asset types. Gecko's AI-driven software platform enables human experts to improve sustainability metrics of those assets, determine optimal performance and ensure predictive maintenance by creating digital twins. Beyond Gecko's work with energy, oil and gas, and manufacturing companies around the world, Gecko also works with the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy to protect and optimize maintenance plans for critical infrastructure.

Jake currently lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with his wife, and four kids.



Kim Ward,
President Pro Tempore, Pennsylvania State Senate

Senator Kim Ward has represented Pennsylvania's 39th Senatorial District since 2008. A history maker, Ward is the first woman to represent the residents of Westmoreland in Harrisburg. Known as a problem solver, Ward was elected to serve as the first female Senate Majority Leader in 2020. Having earned the respect of her Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Ward became the first woman elected as Senate President Pro Tempore in 2022 and again in 2024.

The foundation of every decision made by Ward is based on what is good for Pennsylvanians and our Commonwealth. A hallmark of her legislative leadership is to ensure the people's voice is never lost.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ward championed a constitutional amendment that instituted the largest transfer of executive power since President Herbert Hoover. It gave the people of Pennsylvania a greater say in how our government operated in times of crisis including the shutdown of schools and businesses. Under her leadership, Ward also advanced legislation that set best practices in the areas of regulatory reform including hospital funding – making some health care and business waivers permanent. Ward also took steps to ensure the state's fiscal solvency. A champion of Pennsylvania families and children, Ward also led efforts to enact legislation reforming Pennsylvania's child abuse laws, and her Ready to Succeed legislation created one of the most successful higher education grant programs that helps middle-class families.

Senator Ward is a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Hempfield Township. She and her husband, Dr. Thomas Ward, have three sons: Tom, Michael and Matthew. They also have eight beautiful "grand angels," Josie Jane, Thomas, George, Roman, Kennedy, Beau, Noah and Jacob.



Bruce Flatt,
Chief Executive Officer, Brookfield Asset Management

Bruce Flatt is the Chief Executive Officer of Brookfield Asset Management, a leading global alternative asset manager with over \$1 trillion in assets under management. He assumed the CEO role in 2002 and has been instrumental in transforming Brookfield from a primarily Canadian real estate company into a diversified global powerhouse with investments across real estate, infrastructure, renewable power

and transition, private equity, and credit.

Brookfield has a notable presence in Pennsylvania's renewable energy sector. Between 2014 and 2016, Brookfield Renewable acquired a portfolio of hydroelectric power stations in Pennsylvania, which collectively have over 700 megawatts of capacity. These facilities, including the Safe Harbor and the Holtwood station on the Susquehanna River and the Wallenpaupack station on Lake Wallenpaupack, provide power to over 200,000 homes annually.

Under his leadership, Brookfield has significantly expanded its global footprint and investment strategies, focusing on long-term value creation through acquiring and operating high-quality, essential assets. Flatt is known for his disciplined investment approach strategic vision, and ability to identify and capitalize on opportunities across various economic cycles.

He joined Brookfield in 1990 and has held several senior positions within the company, including President and Chief Operating Officer. Flatt is also a director of several Brookfield-managed companies. He holds Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Manitoba.



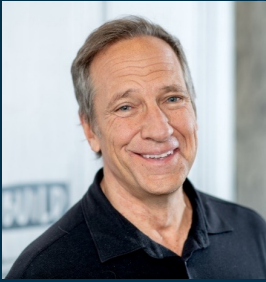
The Hon. Howard Lutnick, U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Howard Lutnick serves as the 41st United States Secretary of Commerce. In this pivotal role, he plays a significant part in shaping the nation's economic, trade, and technological policies, which intrinsically link to the energy sector. As Secretary, he has voiced strong support for policies that promote American economic competitiveness and energy independence and expressed a commitment to reducing regulatory burdens across various sectors, including those that impact energy infrastructure and development.

Before entering public service, Lutnick was a prominent figure on Wall Street for over three decades, simultaneously serving as Chairman and CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P. and BGC Group, as well as Executive Chairman of Newmark. He joined Cantor Fitzgerald in 1983 and quickly rose through the ranks, becoming President and CEO at just 29 years old.

Tragedy struck on September 11, 2001, when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, and Cantor Fitzgerald lost 658 of its 960 New York-based employees, including Lutnick's brother and his best friend. He emerged from these events with an indomitable sense of purpose to rebuild the firm to honor those lost, support their families, and become a beacon of hope for those who remained.

Lutnick served on the Board of Directors of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and Weill Cornell Medicine. He was named the Financial Times Person of the Year in 2001 and Ernst & Young's United States Entrepreneur of the Year in 2010. He also received the Department of the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest honor granted to non-military personnel by the Navy.



Mike Rowe,
Chief Executive Officer, mikeroweWORKS Foundation

Mike Rowe, widely recognized as the host of the hit television series “Dirty Jobs,” is a prominent advocate for the skilled trades and a vocal proponent of American industry and energy independence.

Through “Dirty Jobs,” Rowe highlighted the often unseen and undervalued work that keeps society functioning, from coal miners and oil rig workers to electricians and plumbers. This firsthand experience shaped his perspective on energy, leading him to champion the importance of reliable, affordable energy sources.

He is the founder of the mikeroweWORKS Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to changing the stigmas surrounding skilled trades and providing scholarships for individuals pursuing careers in these essential fields. The mikeroweWORKS Foundation has previously awarded Work Ethic Scholarships to students at Pennsylvania College of Technology, which prepares students for skilled trades. He has experience testifying before Congressional committees on the growing skills gap in America and the need to re-emphasize vocational training.



Toby Rice,
President and Chief Executive Officer, EQT Corporation
Moderator

Toby Rice is the President and Chief Executive Officer of EQT Corporation, the largest natural gas producer in the United States which is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He assumed the role in July 2019. In 2022, EQT was named one of Pittsburgh's Top Workplaces and Rice was honored as a "Top Leader."

Prior to his leadership at EQT, Rice co-founded Rice Energy with his brothers Daniel and Derek. He served as President, Chief Operating Officer, and a board member of Rice Energy from October 2013 until its acquisition by EQT in November 2017. Under his leadership, Rice Energy grew into a significant natural gas producer in the Marcellus Shale.

Rice is known for his data driven approach to operations and his focus on efficiency and technology within the natural gas industry. He is an advocate for expanding U.S. natural gas exports, believing it crucial for energy security and independence. He often speaks about the role of natural gas from Pennsylvania in powering the nation and its potential to support emerging industries like AI, with specific discussions around converting former coal plants in Pennsylvania to natural gas for data centers.

Since May 2018, Rice has also been a Partner at Rice Investment Group, a multi-strategy fund with investments across the oil and gas sector. He graduated from Rollins College in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry.



The Hon. Josh Shapiro, Governor of Pennsylvania

Josh Shapiro is the 48th Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Since being sworn in to the Office of Governor in January 2023, Governor Shapiro has brought people together to get stuff done and defend Pennsylvanians' fundamental freedoms. In his first 18 months in office, despite working with the only politically divided legislature in the nation, Governor Shapiro has hit the ground running and delivered meaningful results for the people of Pennsylvania.

Governor Shapiro believes all Pennsylvanians should have the freedom to chart their own course and the opportunity to succeed, and the actions he's taken in his first year and a half have been rooted in that promise. He signed an executive order on his first day in office announcing that 92 percent of state government jobs are open to people without a college degree – because in Pennsylvania, we value what skills and experience someone brings to the job, not arbitrary requirements. The first bill he signed into law was bipartisan legislation to require insurers to cover preventive breast and ovarian cancer screenings for high-risk women at no cost.

The Governor has made clear his commitment to invest in quality schools, safe communities, and an economy that works for all. Under his leadership, he brought Democrats and Republicans together to invest more in public education than ever before, hire hundreds of new State Police troopers, and invest millions in economic development to create jobs in communities too often forgotten and left behind.

Now, when children in Pennsylvania go to school, they can get free breakfast and there are more mental health counselors and resources available when they need them. When those students graduate from high school, they have more opportunities to chart their own course – whether in the workforce, through an apprenticeship program, or at college – and their communities are safer and more prosperous.

He's consistently trying to make government work more effectively and efficiently – and ensure there's no wrong door for Pennsylvanians who need to access their state government. That led him to implement automatic voter registration and develop the Commonwealth's first ever in-house digital services team – CODE PA – to develop better tools for government officials and the public alike. He reformed the permitting process, eliminated backlogs, and showed his GSD attitude when he put together the team that reopened I-95 in just 12 days after a portion of the highway collapsed and the experts said it would take months to repair.

Governor Shapiro is investing in the people of Pennsylvania, but he also understands that in creating opportunity, people shouldn't be defined by their worst day. That's why he delivered on his promise to reform the criminal justice system, ensuring probation serves as a tool to help Pennsylvanians re-enter their communities and paving the way for more Pennsylvanians to get the second chances they deserve.

As Governor, he has made it a priority to represent all Pennsylvanians, traveling to communities all across the Commonwealth and meeting Pennsylvanians from all walks of life.

Through it all, Governor Shapiro continues – as he’s done throughout his career – to take on big fights, bring people together to get stuff done, and defend Pennsylvanians’ rights and freedoms.

As Governor, he’s built on his work as Attorney General, when he successfully defended the right to vote, protected reproductive freedom, held powerful corporations – like opioid manufacturers – accountable, and oversaw the groundbreaking investigation of sexual abuse into the Catholic Church.

He served as Attorney General from 2017 to 2023, Chair of the Board of Commissioners in Montgomery County from 2011 to 2017, and State Representative from 2005 to 2011.

Governor Shapiro grew up in Pennsylvania, watching his parents serve their community – his father is a pediatrician and served our nation in the navy, and his mother is a retired educator. Their example and his faith inspired him to enter into public service.

Governor Shapiro is married to his high-school sweetheart, Lori. She is proud to serve the Commonwealth as its First Lady and is doing meaningful work with nonprofits and volunteer organizations all across this Commonwealth. They are the proud parents of four children: Sophia (22), Jonah (19), Max (15), and Reuben (13).



Matt Garman,
Chief Executive Officer, Amazon Web Services

Matt Garman has served as CEO Amazon Web Services (AWS) since June 2024. Mr. Garman has been at Amazon since 2006 and helped launch the initial set of AWS services. He most recently served as Senior Vice President, AWS Sales, Marketing, and Global Services and has held a variety of leadership positions in AWS, including responsibility for product management, engineering, and operations for all compute and storage services at AWS. He has a BS and MS from Stanford University in Industrial Engineering and an MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management.



The Hon. David McCormick,
United States Senator from Pennsylvania

Senator David H. McCormick was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, and raised in Bloomsburg. The son of two lifelong teachers and prominent educators and the oldest of two boys, Dave was raised to understand the value of hard work. Growing up, Dave played football and wrestled, trimmed Christmas trees, delivered newspapers, and bused tables at the Magee Hotel.

Dave was nominated to the United States Military Academy by a Pennsylvania Senator, and became the first kid from Bloomsburg to attend West Point in decades. After graduating, Dave went on to serve in the 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper. He was deployed to the Middle East during the First Gulf War and following his service in Iraq he retired as a Captain.

After the Army, Dave earned his Ph.D. in international relations from Princeton University before moving to Pittsburgh to start a career in business. He worked his way up to become the CEO of FreeMarkets, a successful tech startup that employed hundreds in Western Pennsylvania.

In 2005, Dave was called to service again, this time in the highest levels of government, including as Under Secretary of Treasury and as Deputy National Security Advisor. For four years, Dave spearheaded the fight to protect American technology from Chinese theft, advised the President on key national security issues, and helped negotiate the global response to the 2008 financial crisis.

Following the administration, Dave joined Bridgewater Associates, one of the largest, most successful investment firms in the world, which manages the pension plans of groups including teachers, firefighters and law enforcement. He served as CEO until he resigned to run for Senate in Pennsylvania in 2022.

Dave and Dina are proud to support organizations that work with veterans and their families.

Senator McCormick is looking forward to using his unique leadership experiences over the last four decades to deliver results for the Keystone State. He isn't afraid to stand up to both parties to do what's right, and he'll do whatever it takes to fix our broken economy and restore the American Dream for current and future generations of Pennsylvanians.



Dr. Neeli Bendapudi,
President, Pennsylvania State University
Moderator

Neeli Bendapudi, an accomplished scholar, imaginative problem solver and leader known for her student-centric approach, began her tenure as the 19th president of the Pennsylvania State University on May 9, 2022. Previously, Bendapudi served as president of the University of Louisville.

Bendapudi is a dedicated educator, researcher and business executive with a nearly 30-year career spanning higher education and the corporate sector. She leads Penn State's multi-campus network and top-ranked online World Campus with a focus on advancing excellence and creating opportunities for students, faculty and staff to thrive.

Among her leadership experiences, Bendapudi has served as provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas, dean of the School of Business at the University of Kansas and as founding director for some of the world's largest companies and organizations, she was the executive vice president and chief customer officer for Huntington National Bank.

With a background in the study of consumer behavior in service contexts, her research focuses on customers' willingness to maintain long-term relationships with firms and with the brands and employees that represent them. Bendapudi has been recognized for contributions in her field and has been honored at the national and university levels. She has taught marketing at the University of Louisville, University of Kansas, Texas A&M University and OSU.

Bendapudi earned her bachelor's degree in English and MBA from Andhra University in India and her doctorate in marketing from the University of Kansas.



The Hon. Doug Burgum, *U.S. Secretary of the Interior*

Spotlight 2

Doug Burgum is the 55th Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Raised in Arthur, North Dakota, Burgum worked as a chimney sweep to help pay his way through North Dakota State University before earning an MBA from Stanford University. In 1983, Doug literally “bet the farm” to provide seed capital for a software startup called Great Plains.

Doug led Great Plains through a successful IPO and grew the company to over 2,000 employees before its acquisition by Microsoft. Burgum remained with Microsoft for six years as the Senior Vice President of Business Solutions.

Doug later co-founded Arthur Ventures and served as chairman for international software companies including Atlassian, SuccessFactors, and as a board member for Avalara.

In 2016, Burgum was elected to serve as North Dakota’s 33rd Governor. In 2020, he was re-elected in a landslide. Under his leadership, North Dakota passed the largest tax cut in state history and dramatically reduced red tape.

As a testament to Burgum’s leadership, Forbes named him “America’s Best Entrepreneurial Governor.” During his tenure, North Dakota experienced the highest growth in real GDP and had the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

Burgum has three adult children. He is married to Kathryn Burgum, a nationally recognized advocate for addiction recovery.



Senator Joe Pittman,
Majority Leader, Pennsylvania State Senate
Moderator

Senator Joe Pittman currently serves as part of the Senator Republican Leadership team as the Majority Floor Leader.

As leader of the Seante Republican Caucus, Joe works with his colleagues to ensure the rights of Pennsylvania citizens remain safeguarded. He has been a champion for advancing legislative initiatives to expand access to family-sustaining jobs, implement infrastructure improvements, support law enforcement and limit government overreach.

Standing up for fiscal responsibility and protecting taxpayers are of paramount importance to Joe. He has been a key voice in efforts to help grow and strengthen the Commonwealth, while upholding core conservative principles.

He has carried on the tradition of working to better his community by serving as a past board member of the United Way of Indiana and as a member of the Purchase Line Red Dragon Foundation. Joe is also a life-member of the NRA, as well as a member of the Indiana County Republican Committee, Ford City Sportsmen's Association and the Indiana-Franklin Lodge #313.

He is focused on policies to allow Pennsylvania to continue to be an energy powerhouse, while responsibly using our God-given natural resources and implementing an all-of-the-above energy strategy. Prior to being elected to the Senate, Joe served as former Sen. Don White's chief of staff. In that role, he developed strong working relationships with members of the General Assembly, legislative staff and officials across several state agencies.



The Hon. Lee Zeldin, *Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency* **Spotlight 3**

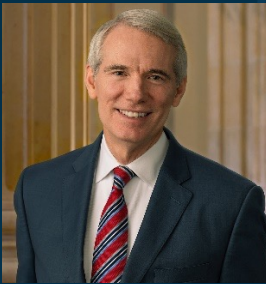
Lee Zeldin was sworn in as the 17th Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency on January 29, 2025.

Administrator Zeldin has dedicated his life to public service. He served 22 years in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve in May 2025. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 and later represented New York's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015-2023.

During his eight years in Congress, Zeldin worked across party lines to preserve the Long Island Sound and Plum Island. He supported key legislation that became historic, bipartisan success stories like the Great American Outdoors Act and Save our Seas Act to clean up plastics from our oceans. He also led the fight for Sea Grant, combated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, voted for the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, and supported clean energy projects on Long Island.

At just 23, Lee became the youngest attorney in New York State at the time.

Born and raised in Suffolk County, New York, Lee and his wife Diana are proud parents to their twin daughters, Mikayla and Arianna.



The Hon. Rob Portman,
Former United States Senator from Ohio
Moderator

Rob Portman, whose career in public service spans three decades and includes serving in three presidential administrations, two terms in the United States Senate, and six terms in the United States House of Representatives, is a distinguished visiting fellow in the practice of public policy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). At AEI, Sen. Portman focuses on public policy and opportunity, free trade expansion, US-China relations, US-Russia relations, the conflict in Europe, US budget and entitlement reform, worker training, retirement security, and other issues.

Sen. Portman served in two cabinet-level jobs in the George W. Bush administration, Director of the Office of Management and Budget and US Trade Representative. He also served as Associate Counsel to the President and Director, White House Office of Legislative Affairs, under President George H. W. Bush.

During Sen. Portman's tenure in the Senate, more than 220 of his bills were signed into law by Presidents Joe Biden, Donald Trump, and Barack Obama. His long list of accomplishments include being the lead Republican negotiator on the bipartisan legislation to improve the nation's infrastructure; playing a key role in US foreign policy as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and as co-chair and founder of the Senate Ukraine Caucus; authoring the 2016 bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 2018 bipartisan Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act, which are part of America's effort against the opioid epidemic; and authoring legislation to align America's education system with the needs of the 21st-century workforce, including the bipartisan Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act and the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Through Effective Employment and Reentry Act.



Larry Fink,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, BlackRock

Laurence "Larry" D. Fink is Chairman and CEO of BlackRock, the global investment and technology firm he co-founded in 1988 with seven partners. Under his leadership, BlackRock has become the world's largest asset manager, dedicated to helping clients build better financial futures. Before founding BlackRock, Fink was a Managing Director and member of the Management Committee at The First

Boston Corporation.

He serves on several boards, including the World Economic Forum, NYU Langone Medical Center, the Museum of Modern Art, and the International Rescue Committee, and is involved with academic and business organizations such as Tsinghua University and the Partnership for New York City. Fink earned both his BA and MBA from UCLA.



Darren Woods,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ExxonMobil

Darren Woods has over 30 years of experience in the energy industry and has held numerous senior leadership roles within ExxonMobil before becoming CEO. He served as Vice President of ExxonMobil Chemical Company, he managed global specialty-chemical businesses, then served as Director of Refining for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, and later as Vice President of Supply and Transportation.

He was named President of ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company in 2012 and elected Senior Vice President in 2014. He became President and a Board member of ExxonMobil in 2016. He launched ExxonMobil's Low Carbon Solutions business, to help guide the company through a complex, long-term energy transition. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University, followed by an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.



Brendan Bechtel,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Bechtel

Brendan Bechtel is the chairman and chief executive officer of Bechtel, becoming CEO in 2016 and chairman in 2017. A fifth-generation leader of the family-owned company, he has held senior roles across Bechtel's global operations, including president of its global energy business and head of its liquefied natural gas division.

He has managed major energy, infrastructure, and power projects across North America, Australia, and Africa. Brendan began working at Bechtel during high school summers. He also spent two years working for a conservation nonprofit before returning to Bechtel. Brendan serves on the boards of the Business Roundtable and the Fremont Group and is a trustee of the National Geographic Society and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College, followed by an MBA and a Master of Science in Engineering in construction engineering and management from Stanford University.



Dario Amodei,
Chief Executive Officer, Anthropic

Dario Amodei is the CEO and co-founder of Anthropic, a public benefit corporation focused on creating AI systems that are steerable, interpretable, and safe. Founded in 2021 alongside six former OpenAI colleagues, including his sister Daniela Amodei who serves as president, Anthropic was valued at \$61.5 billion in 2025 and maintains partnerships with Alphabet and Amazon.

Prior to Anthropic, Dario was Vice President of Research at OpenAI, where he led the development of influential large language models such as GPT-2 and GPT-3 and co-invented reinforcement learning from human feedback. He began his career as a Senior Research Scientist at Google Brain and holds a Ph.D. in biophysics from Princeton University, where he was a Hertz Fellow, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine.



**The Hon. Chris Wright,
*U.S. Secretary of Energy***

Chris Wright serves as the 17th U.S. Secretary of Energy. A longtime advocate for expanding access to energy, Wright brings decades of experience across oil and gas, nuclear, solar, and geothermal sectors. As Secretary, he is focused on advancing American energy dominance by promoting innovation and supporting all energy sources that are affordable, reliable, and secure.

He founded Pinnacle Technologies, pioneering hydraulic fracture mapping and contributing to the early development of shale gas. He later served as Chairman of Stroud Energy and most recently as Chairman and CEO of Liberty Energy, helping extend shale innovations to oil production and emerging geothermal and nuclear technologies. A Colorado native, Wright lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Liz.

Wright earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from MIT and pursued graduate studies in Electrical Engineering at MIT and UC Berkeley.



Ruth Porat,
President & CIO of Alphabet
Moderator

Ruth is President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and Google with responsibility for corporate investments and investment vehicles. She also oversees Alphabet and Google's philanthropic efforts and work to expand access to digital infrastructure and skilling initiatives globally.

Prior to joining Google, Ruth was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Morgan Stanley. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Blackstone Inc., the Stanford Management Company, the Council on Foreign Relations, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She previously spent 10 years on Stanford University's Board of Trustees.

Ruth holds a BA from Stanford University, an MSc from The London School of Economics and an MBA from the Wharton School.