

2025 Economic Mission to Gulf Arab States Delegates List

Office of New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy

Philip Murphy Governor of New Jersey



Philip D. Murphy took the oath of office for a second term as New Jersey's 56th governor on January 18, 2022. He is the first Democratic governor to serve a second term in 44 years.

Governor Murphy currently serves as Chair of the Democratic Governors Association. The Governor also completed his year-long Chairmanship of the National Governors Association in July of 2023. He is the first governor to have led both organizations simultaneously.

Since taking office in 2018, Governor Murphy has focused on building a stronger, fairer, and more affordable New Jersey. Under his leadership, New Jersey has made strides in growing the state's economy and creating new economic opportunity while shrinking longstanding inequities, restoring fiscal responsibility to state government while expanding critical investments, and delivering real tax fairness and relief, including 14 tax cuts for New Jersey's middle class and seniors.

Governor Murphy guided New Jersey from being the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic to a model state for following the highest level of public health standards and data-driven response, implementing among the nation's most robust vaccination efforts and fostering a strong economic recovery. Over the course of two years, the Murphy Administration has provided billions of dollars in state and federal relief to small businesses, schools, homeowners, tenants, and landlords, and middle-class families.

Governor Murphy has put a special emphasis on making New Jersey more welcoming to both established high-tech enterprises and start-up companies in the innovation economy. In January 2021, he enacted a new set of state economic incentives, focused on promoting the growth of new small businesses and innovative startups, enacting the state's first tax credits for historic preservation, and expanding credits for brownfields reclamation and redevelopment, among other initiatives.

Under the governor's leadership, New Jersey has emerged as a leader in the deployment of clean energy technologies, including one of the nation's most-aggressive proposals for the development of offshore wind. He helped break ground at both the Paulsboro Marine Terminal and the South Jersey Wind Port in Salem County, where more than 1,500 new jobs will help secure New Jersey's place as a global leader in offshore wind component manufacturing and logistics.

The Governor has also focused on making New Jersey a leading location for film, television, and digital production, enacting a new incentive program that drew more than half-a-billion dollars in investment to New Jersey in 2021.

Under Governor Murphy's leadership, New Jersey had already emerged as a national leader on a number of nationally significant issues prior to the pandemic. He secured the dignity of working families by moving to a \$15-per-hour minimum wage, guaranteeing earned sick days, and expanding paid family leave. The governor has enacted initiatives to provide a tuition-free public college education for qualified students. He has embraced policies that have driven down the cost of healthcare. He has expanded protections for the state's immigrant and LGBTQIA+ communities. And he has enacted and proposed gun safety laws to combat gun violence and promote responsible gun ownership.

Governor Murphy has also made New Jersey a model state for social justice through fostering the state's nascent adult-use cannabis industry, enacting among the country's strongest automatic voter registration measures, restoring voting rights to individuals on parole or probation, expunging the records of numerous non-violent offenders, and creating the nation's strongest provisions for environmental justice, alongside numerous other new laws. He has also put a focus on eliminating stigma and promoting a compassionate approach to tackling opioid misuse.

Career Prior to Becoming Governor

From 2009 until 2013, Governor Murphy served as the United States Ambassador to The Federal Republic of Germany, appointed by President Obama.

Governor Murphy has been deeply engaged in civic life and philanthropic pursuits. In 2002, he began his involvement with 180 Turning Lives Around, a Monmouth County women's shelter where he ultimately served as board president from 2005 until 2009. That experience led the Governor and First Lady to found the teen helpline 2nd Floor.

Additionally, Governor Murphy was a member of the Board of Directors of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a non-profit organization which works with local community development associations to transform urban neighborhoods across the country, from 2002 until 2009.

In 2005, he chaired the New Jersey Benefits Review Task Force. He also co-chaired, with former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and the late Professor Roger Wilkins, a national task force on public education in the 21st Century for the Center for American Progress.

In 2006, he was appointed National Finance Chair of the Democratic National Committee by Chairman and former Vermont Governor Howard Dean. During his tenure, which ran until 2009, Democrats recaptured both houses of Congress, and his efforts helped build the infrastructure that elected President Obama in 2008.

In 2014, Governor and Mrs. Murphy founded New Start New Jersey, a "think-and-do tank" dedicated to seeking new policy directions to grow New Jersey's economy and middle class. The Murphys partnered with the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University to create the New Start Career Network, which specifically helps long-term unemployed New Jerseyans over age 45 get back into the workforce.

From June 2015 until March 2017, Governor Murphy served proudly on the national Board of the NAACP. In December 2018, Governor Murphy was named one of four honorees of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Ripple of Hope Award from the nonprofit organization run by the family of the late Sen. Kennedy for his efforts to ensure social justice and equal economic opportunity. Among the other three honorees was former President Barack Obama.

Prior to entering public life, Governor Murphy worked for over twenty years at Goldman Sachs, starting as an intern in 1982 and ending in 2003 as a member of the firm's management committee. During his business career, he led offices in Frankfurt, Germany, and Hong Kong.

Family Life

The youngest of four children of the late Walter F. Murphy, Sr. and Dorothy Murphy, Governor Murphy was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 16, 1957, and was raised in both Newton and nearby Needham, Massachusetts.

The Governor is a graduate of Needham High School, Harvard University, and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He has been awarded numerous honorary degrees.

Governor Murphy and his wife, Tammy Snyder Murphy, reside in Middletown, Monmouth County, and are the parents of four children: Josh, Emma, Charlie, and Sam.

Tammy Snyder Murphy
First Lady of New Jersey



Born in 1965, Tammy Snyder Murphy is a native of Virginia and a graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A., English and Communications, 1987). She and her family reside in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Tammy and New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy have been married for 30 years and together have four children: Josh, Emma, Charlie, and Sam. A transformative experience for the Murphy family was proudly representing the United States in the Federal Republic of Germany from 2009 to 2013. Tammy, individually and together with her husband, spoke and led on behalf of the United States of America. She chaired meetings, gave speeches, and hosted meals and receptions, strengthening our nation's relationship with a critical ally while impacting the lives of thousands

of Germans and Americans.

Upon returning to New Jersey, Tammy and Phil realized that the incredible state they call home needed bold new leadership. Together, they founded a think tank to explore ways to help grow the middle class and jumpstart New Jersey's economy. During the campaign, transition, and now as First Lady, Tammy has been energized and inspired traveling the state and meeting New Jerseyans to hear their concerns, utilizing her experience in the private and nonprofit sectors to work through policy ideas and solutions.

Over the years, Tammy has worked with non-profits, a think-tank, and other organizations focused on the environment, education, health care, youth and family services, as well as the arts and trans-Atlantic relations. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and charter member of The Climate Reality Action Fund, an organization founded by former Vice-President Al Gore.

Tammy previously worked in finance in the United States and Europe and has traveled extensively throughout the world living overseas in each of London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, and Berlin. She speaks German and some Italian.

As First Lady, Tammy's policy initiatives focus on infant and maternal health, climate change education, and fostering women-owned businesses throughout New Jersey. She has worked to create Family Festivals across the state to increase access to resources for mothers, children, and families; worked with the New Jersey Department of Education to incorporate climate change throughout the K-12 state education guidelines to better prepare our students for the future economy; and partnered with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to increase angel investing in women-led businesses. She continues to be a partner to Phil as he works with Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way to tackle the formidable challenges facing New Jersey and its incredible residents.

Eric Brophy
Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic Growth, Governor's Office



Eric Brophy serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic Growth, managing economic affairs for the Governor's Office.

Previously, Mr. Brophy served as Senior Advisor for Economic Growth in the Governor's Office and as Executive Director of the Educational Facilities Authority.

Prior to his service in the Murphy Administration, Mr. Brophy was a partner at Diegnan & Brophy, LLC, where he practiced municipal law and civil litigation. Mr. Brophy is a graduate of the University of Scranton and Seton Hall University School of Law.

Mr. Brophy was born and raised in New Jersey and is a resident of Monmouth County, where he lives with his wife, two sons and dog Eli.

Tim Hillmann
Chief of Staff, Governor's Office



Tim Hillmann serves as Governor Murphy's Chief of Staff. Previously, Tim served as the Governor's Director of Appointments. Prior to joining the Murphy Administration in 2019, he spent nine years on the staff of Senator Bob Menendez, rising to the position of Deputy State Director. He is a graduate of Fordham University and resides in Metuchen with his wife Catherine, son Owen, and dog Gus.

Meet Patel
Special Assistant to the Governor, Governor's Office



Meet currently serves as Governor Murphy's Special Assistant. Prior to that, he served as the Governor's Aide for Intergovernmental Affairs, where he coordinated Governor's outreach to small businesses, non-profits, and constituents across the state impacted through COVID-19. He also drafted the Governor's daily briefings. Meet began the administration serving as the Governor's Intergovernmental Affairs Intern in 2018. He also served as the Committee Person for the New Brunswick Democratic Organization.

Meet received his B.A. in Economics from Rutgers University, where he also served in the University Senate.

Natalie Hamilton
Press Secretary, Governor's Office



Natalie Hamilton serves as Press Secretary to the Governor. Prior to her role as Press Secretary, Hamilton served as Deputy Press Secretary, handling a portfolio of various departments and issues, overseeing the Governor’s television appearances, and coordinating messaging for weather emergencies. She first joined the Governor’s team in 2019 as a Communications Intern, and later served as Press Intern during the 2021 gubernatorial campaign. After, she joined the Administration full-time as a Press Assistant. In October 2023, she took a leave from the Administration to serve as Communications Advisor to Brandon Presley’s gubernatorial campaign in Mississippi. Hamilton graduated magna cum laude in 2021 from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication and concentration in Public Relations.

Corporate

George Helmy

Executive Vice President, Chief External Affairs and Policy Officer, RWJBarnabas Health



George Helmy is the Executive Vice President, Chief External Affairs and Policy Officer at RWJBH. Helmy served as Chief of Staff to Governor Murphy, where he oversaw all the workings of the Governor's office and the Executive Branch, including the Governor's cabinet and agencies. Helmy holds the record as the state's longest-serving Chief of Staff to a Governor. A native of Jersey City, Helmy served as State Director to U.S. Senator Cory Booker for three years, serving on the Senator's senior staff and overseeing the day-to-day operations of his New Jersey offices. Prior to serving as State Director, he worked as Senator Booker's state office Deputy Chief of Staff for two years. Prior to serving in Senator Booker's office, he worked in the private sector with two Fortune 100 companies and served as an aide to the late U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, handling issues such as gun safety and financial affairs.

George is a former United States Senator, serving from August to December 2024, and was appointed by Governor Phil Murphy following the resignation of Senator Bob Menendez. George currently lives in Morris County with his wife and two children. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University and a Master's degree from Harvard University.

Joseph Kelley

Partner, Commercial & Healthcare, CHA Partners



Joe Kelley is a Partner at CHA Partners, a full-service real estate development firm based in Bloomfield, New Jersey. In this role, Joe helps to lead CHA’s strategic planning and business development efforts, with a specific focus on large-scale healthcare, residential, and transit-oriented developments. In this role, he draws from his nearly twenty years of experience in business, government, and politics to drive transformational public private partnerships.

Prior to joining CHA, Joe served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic Growth in the Office of the New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy. In this role, he oversaw economic affairs for the Governor’s Office, which entailed managing several large-scale real estate and infrastructure projects throughout the state; developing and passing key economic development legislation; and working directly with the Governor on marketing the state to businesses around the world.

Joe also served as Deputy Campaign Manager to the 2017 Murphy for Governor campaign; and, served in a senior capacity in several winning statewide political campaigns across the United States.

Joe serves on the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of NY and NJ. In 2013, he was appointed by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer to midtown Manhattan's Community Board 5. He is also a Member of the Councilor's Program of the Atlantic Council, a foreign policy think tank.

Amy Towers
Founder, The Nduna Foundation



Amy Towers is the Founder of The Nduna Foundation. In this role, Amy leads the foundation's efforts in community redevelopment and human rights, providing aid to children in the developing world with an emphasis on food security, HIV/AIDS, education, conservation, and wildlife restoration in Africa.

Beginning her career on Wall Street in the 90s, Amy rose to become the Chief Operating Officer of Glenview Capital. Founded in 2000, the hedge fund manages billions of dollars in capital for its investors through a series of private investment funds. As COO, she managed the day-to-day functions of the firm, ensuring the smooth execution of business strategies, and overseeing non-investment activities like hiring, legal compliance, and vendor management.

In 2020, she was appointed to the Rutgers Board of Governors by Governor Phil Murphy, and in 2024, was elected by her peers to serve as Chair for a one-year term. Amy also currently serves as the board chair of MANA Nutrition, and as a board member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Institute of International Education, International Peace Institute, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) and President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition. She is a renowned humanitarian, and has been recognized throughout her career with multiple awards.

Shaun Keegan,
Founder and CEO, Solar Landscape



Shaun Keegan is co-founder and CEO of Solar Landscape, the largest and most experienced commercial solar developer in the U.S.

Together with COO Corey Gross, Shaun founded Solar Landscape in 2012, personally installing many of the company's first commercial rooftop solar projects. Under Shaun and Corey's leadership, Solar Landscape has deployed more than 500 megawatts of renewable energy projects – totaling over \$1.5 billion in capital investment – and leased 150 million square feet of commercial rooftops. It now employs over 300 employees in 20 states across the country.

Shaun's vision of a vertically integrated solar company expedites project development and simplifies benefits for property owners. Solar Landscape handles all elements of commercial rooftop solar, including leasing, financing, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC), and operations and management.

The company was named Inc. Magazine's Best in Business in 2024 and the #1 Distributed Generation developer by New Project Media. Solar Landscape was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for advancing clean energy and workforce development.

Shaun earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and a J.D. from Drexel University.

André Arpad “Arki” Busson
Executive Chairman, LumX Group Ltd.



Arpad “Arki” Busson, Founder and former Chairman of EIM Group, is currently Executive Chairman for LumX Group Ltd. Busson is also a Founding Member of The Alternative Investment Management Association Ltd., the world’s largest membership association for alternative investment managers.

In his past career he occupied the position of Principal at Moore Group, Inc., Chairman at E.I.M. S.A., Non-Executive Chairman at EIM United Kingdom Ltd., Principal at Tudor Group, Director at Galtere Ltd. and Founding Trustee at Absolute Return for Kids (ARK), a children’s charity that raises charitable contributions from the hedge fund industry for children from Eastern Europe, South Africa, and the UK who are victims of abuse, disability, illness, and poverty.

Higher Education

Lamont Repollet
President, Kean University



Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., a visionary educator devoted to fostering equity for all students, was appointed the 18th leader of Kean University in 2020 following a comprehensive national search. Since his appointment as President, the university has been named New Jersey’s first urban research university, recognized nationally as a leader in social mobility for its students and commended by the nation’s top rating agencies for its financial stability.

Before becoming Kean’s president, Dr. Repollet served two and a half years as the Commissioner of Education under New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, overseeing the shift to remote education amid the COVID-19 pandemic and playing a key role in planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Repollet is Kean University’s first Black president and was the first Black commissioner of education of the State of New Jersey. He has a long career in public education in New Jersey, having served as superintendent of the Asbury Park School District for more than three years and principal of Carteret High School for more than 9 years.

Audrey Kelly
Chief of Staff, Kean University



Audrey Kelly is Chief of Staff to Kean University President Lamont Repollet and Executive Director of the university's Board of Trustees. In this role, she manages the research, development and execution of policies, programs and new initiatives for the University and the various constituents it serves. Ms. Kelly also oversees the University's marketing and communications division, affirmative action, theatre management and events, as well as the general counsel's office. Prior to her work at Kean, Ms. Kelly served as Senior Vice President with an international brand management firm; deputy communications director in the administration of former NJ Governor Jim Florio; and, as a statehouse reporter for two New Jersey newspapers. She currently is a doctoral candidate in the Organizational Change and Leadership program at the University of Southern California.

Antonio “Tony” Calcado
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Rutgers University



Tony serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for all of Rutgers University, including the Academic Health Campus and healthcare system. He heads up Institutional Planning and Operations managing a \$550M operating budget for vital resources and programs including systemwide public safety, auxiliary, housing system, retail, facilities, transportation, capital planning and construction, environmental health and safety, and emergency services. He is responsible for delivering support services aligned with university goals and commitment to teaching, research, service and clinical care.

Teik Lim
President, New Jersey Institute of Technology



Dr. Teik C. Lim is the 9th President of New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and also holds the title of Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Lim’s career began in the private sector with the Structural Dynamics Research Corporation before transitioning to faculty appointments and then to university administration at The Ohio State University, University of Alabama, University of Cincinnati and University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Lim earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (ME) from Michigan Technological University, his Master of Science in ME from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and his Ph.D. in ME from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Lim is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Dr. Lim was recognized with the Thomas French Alumni Achievement Award, the GearLab Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the Distinguished Alumni Award for Academic Excellence from his alma mater, The Ohio State University.

Gina Lim
First Lady, New Jersey Institute of Technology



Ms. Gina Lim is the First Lady of the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). She met NJIT President Teik Lim at The Ohio State University while earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

After receiving her degree, Gina and Teik married and started a wonderful family with three children. Gina had the toughest job of all: raising their children and supporting Teik in his career. Gina is a proud Highlander and has been referred to as the Chief Ambassador of NJIT.

New Jersey Economic Development Authority

Tim Sullivan

CEO, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA)



Tim Sullivan currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), a role he has had since February 2018. As a member of Governor Murphy's Cabinet, Tim oversees the State's principal agency for driving economic growth and making New Jersey a national model for inclusive and sustainable economic development by focusing on key strategies to help build strong and dynamic communities, create good jobs for residents, and provide pathways to a stronger and fairer economy.

During his tenure, Tim has led the NJEDA's transformation into a comprehensive economic development organization dedicated to implementing Governor Phil Murphy's vision for a stronger and fairer New Jersey. Tim has overseen the creation of new programs that drive New Jersey's innovation economy, strengthen emerging and historic sectors, support small businesses, and cultivate equitable community development.

Under his leadership, the NJEDA has led the development and implementation of more than 15 programs created under the Economic Recovery Act of 2020 ranging from real estate development to film industry support, provided more than \$700 million in COVID-19 relief to small businesses impacted by the pandemic, facilitated the construction of the NJ Wind Port and growth of a robust offshore wind industry in New Jersey, launched the ground-breaking New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Fund, programmed \$150M in support for main streets and small businesses, invested in economic security through programs recognizing maternal and infant health, child care, and food security as economic enablers, and helped municipalities revitalize brownfields and other underused spaces into valuable community assets.

Tim most recently served as Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), where he oversaw State tourism and branding, brownfield redevelopment, transit-oriented development, and waterfront initiatives. Tim previously served as Chief of Staff to the New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, focusing on transportation and transit-oriented development, brownfield redevelopment, waterfront and maritime/port redevelopment, public and affordable housing policy, small business support, infrastructure finance, and public/private partnerships.

Prior to joining city government in 2010, Tim worked at Barclays Capital as Chief of Staff to the Head of Global Investment Banking. He began his career in investment banking at Lehman Brothers in 2003 as a healthcare banker, focusing on mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions for leading companies in the managed care, biotechnology, and healthcare services sectors.

Tim is native to Bergen County and is a graduate of Georgetown University.

Andrew Gross

Director of International Innovation and Partnerships, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA)



Andrew H. Gross serves as the Director of International Innovation and Partnerships at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the state agency tasked with strengthening the economy of the State of New Jersey. He oversees coordination with global entities, including businesses, academia, government officials and organizations to build economic relations, investment opportunities, and agreements from abroad to support the growth of the state's economy.

In 2019, he was announced by New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy and Secretary of State Tahesha Way as the Executive Director of the New Jersey-Israel Commission, which oversees the State's relations with the State of Israel across business, tourism, culture, education, and science. Between 2012 and 2019 Andrew served as the Director of Political Affairs at the Consulate General of Israel in New York. Prior to the Consulate, Andrew was a Fellow at the global public relations firm Burson-Marsteller. Andrew was born in New York City and raised in Bergen County, New Jersey.

He holds a B.A. in International Affairs from The George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, speaks conversational Spanish, and has a working knowledge of Hebrew and Arabic.

Terence M. (“Terry”) O’Toole
Chairman, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA)



Terence M. (“Terry”) O’Toole has been an investor, primarily in private companies, for more than 30 years. He is the founder and Managing Partner of Macanta Investments LLC. Terry was one of the founders of the Principal Investment Area (“PIA”) at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in 1989. He became a partner at Goldman Sachs in 1992, served on its Investment Committee from 1992 until 2004, and was the Chief Operating Officer of PIA when he retired from Goldman Sachs in 2004. From 2005 to 2020, he was the co-managing partner of funds associated with Tincum Inc., a firm that invests in private and public companies. Terry has served on more than 25 corporate boards during his career as an investor.

Terry and his wife Polly co-chair the O’Toole Family Foundation. Terry was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Villanova University from 2010-2012 and was Co-Chair of its 2018 Capital Campaign. He is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. He was appointed by Governor Philip Murphy to be New Jersey’s representative to the Board of Trustees of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum and served in that role from 2019 until 2022. Terry was also a member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund in 2020 and 2021.

Terry was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, where he attended public school. He is a 1980 graduate of Villanova University and received his MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business in 1983, where he was named the Henry Ford Scholar as the student with the highest academic achievement in his graduating class. Polly was born and raised in Haddonfield, New Jersey, where she attended public school, and is a 1980 graduate of Rosemont College.

Emma Corrado
Chief of Staff, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA)



Emma Corrado currently serves as the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's (NJEDA) Chief-of-Staff. In this role, Emma works closely with NJEDA leadership to drive the Authority's strategic direction and execute priority initiatives, while overseeing several core functions including Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Economics and Data Analytics, and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Emma joined the NJEDA in March of 2022, where she worked as a Senior Advisor for Community Development. Immediately prior to that, Emma served as a Projects Specialist for U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker where she oversaw all projects, legislation, outreach, and stakeholder management related to veterans affairs, defense, homeland and national security, foreign policy, first responders, and gun control. As a Senate staffer, Emma authored several pieces of legislation including the Veterans Education and Transfer (VET) Extension Act, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act, a resolution marking Women Veterans Day, and amendments to the annual National Defense Authorization Act. Before joining Senator Booker's team, Emma worked for the U.S. Department of Justice at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Emma holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Health and Government from Franklin & Marshall College and a Master of Public Administration in Economic Development from Columbia University.

Choose New Jersey

Wes Mathews

President & CEO, Choose New Jersey



Wesley Mathews brings over two decades of experience in economic development, diplomacy, and finance to his role as President & Chief Executive Officer of Choose New Jersey, the State's leading nonprofit business attraction organization.

Experienced in foreign affairs, international trade and investment, and economic development, Mr. Mathews is uniquely suited to lead New Jersey's business attraction efforts.

Prior to assuming leadership of Choose New Jersey, Mr. Mathews was a career diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service, focused on strengthening U.S. economic and commercial interests. During his 14-year career as a foreign service officer, he served at embassies and consulates in Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Germany, and Nigeria, as well as in Washington, D.C.

From 2018-2019, he served as a loaned federal executive to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, establishing the state's first international trade and investment office. Mr. Mathews was instrumental in enhancing New Jersey's global reach, devising successful strategies to attract greater foreign direct investment, and growing global ties for the State's institutions of higher education. Mr. Mathews played a critical role in opening new markets for the state and launching New Jersey Centers in five global markets.

As President & CEO of Choose New Jersey, Mr. Mathews is focused on leveraging these experiences to help the organization build on its success in promoting New Jersey as the premier American state to build and grow a business.

Mr. Mathews worked in finance and business development roles for Nortel Networks and FedEx prior to joining the Foreign Service. He earned an MBA from Southern Methodist University and a BBA in finance

from the University of Texas at Austin. He is the recipient of several U.S. Department of State awards, including multiple Superior Honor Awards for advancing U.S. economic diplomacy.

Mr. Mathews is also Chair of the New Jersey-India Commission and serves on several boards, including the New Jersey Innovation Institute.

He and his wife live in Hoboken with their daughter.

Ryan Fox
Chief of Staff, Choose New Jersey



Ryan Fox is the Chief of Staff at Choose New Jersey, New Jersey’s leading nonprofit economic development organization. Ryan is responsible for supporting the President & CEO, managing external stakeholder communications, and coordinating cross-departmental events, including domestic and international trade and business development missions. Before being promoted to Chief of Staff, Ryan was a Senior Business Development Officer responsible for supporting the lead generation and business development efforts for the Advanced Manufacturing, Logistics, and Clean Energy sectors.

Prior to joining Choose New Jersey, Ryan worked as a Special Projects Coordinator for NJ TRANSIT, where he oversaw the organization’s plan to introduce new and innovative modes of transport between Secaucus Junction and the Meadowlands Sports Complex. He has extensive experience in state and federal government, previously serving as Aide to the Chief of Staff in the New Jersey Governor’s office and as a Legislative Correspondent for a New Jersey Congressman in Washington, D.C.

Ryan received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Virginia Tech.

Bill Noonan
Chief Business Development Officer, Choose New Jersey



William “Bill” Noonan is the Chief Business Development Officer at Choose New Jersey, New Jersey’s leading nonprofit economic development organization.

Bill manages a team of business development officers and oversees the organization’s international teams to identify growth opportunities, nurture client relationships and develop strategies to promote interest in New Jersey as an ideal business location.

Bill has deep connections within New Jersey’s technology ecosystem including the Jersey City/Hoboken startup community. Prior to joining Choose New Jersey, Bill served as the Senior Director of SPHERE Technology Solutions – an IT company specializing in cybersecurity – responsible for marketing, sales and business development.

Bill’s extensive experience in the financial services industry includes leadership roles at HSBC Bank, TASC, Gevity and NeoVision Hypersystems, Inc.

Tim Crouch
Chief Strategy Officer, Executive Director, New Jersey West Coast Center



Tim Crouch is the Chief Strategy Officer at Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit economic development organization. Tim works across all functions to lead the strategic planning process for the organization and works with department heads to advise on future growth opportunities. He is responsible for ensuring the organization is as effective as possible, is prepared to meet domestic and international challenges, and is positioned to capitalize on emerging opportunities that could be transformative for New Jersey.

Tim has a deep background in economic development, and prior to joining Choose New Jersey, he oversaw foreign direct investment for the U.K.'s Department for Business and Trade in the United States – the largest bilateral investment relationship in the world. Tim has deep sectoral experience in film, media, and technology and a track record of designing and implementing policies that improve the business environment for the nations and regions he has served.

Tim was born and raised in the U.K. and has family ties in the U.K. and Ireland, but he has spent most of his adult life in the United States and naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 2016. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Bristol and a graduate degree from the University of Southern California's Price School of Public Policy, where he specialized in organizational design and leadership.

Andy Kuhn
Business Development Director, Choose New Jersey



Andy Kuhn is the Business Development Director at Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit business attraction organization. Andy manages business development activities and supports lead generation and business development efforts in Clean Energy and Advanced Manufacturing.

Prior to joining Choose New Jersey, Andy served as a Senior Project Officer at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority supporting strategic initiatives relating to the NJ AI Hub, the attraction of federal CHIPS and IRA funding for New Jersey photonics and semiconductor companies. Prior to moving to New Jersey in 2022 he served as Business Relations Coordinator for Franklin County, North Carolina, and was previously Executive Director at the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority.

Andy holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from North Carolina State University and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Marietta College.

Anastasia Blasi
Business Development Officer, Choose New Jersey



Anastasia Blasi is a Business Development Officer at Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit business attraction organization. In this role, Anastasia is responsible for supporting the lead generation and business development efforts for the Technology, Food & Beverage, Financial Services, and Logistics sectors.

Prior to joining Choose New Jersey, Anastasia served as Special Assistant to then-Secretary of State Tahesha Way, where she supported the New Jersey Department of State's business advocacy, tourism, elections, and cultural efforts. Anastasia began her career in New Jersey state government as an Aide to Governor Phil Murphy during the Governor's first term in office.

Anastasia was born and raised in New Jersey and holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Penn State University.

Carly Wronko
Director of Marketing, Choose New Jersey



Carly is the Director of Marketing for Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit economic development organization. Carly leads the marketing team and is responsible for overseeing the organization's marketing and communications efforts. Carly currently manages the strategy, development, and execution of the multimillion-dollar "This is New Jersey" marketing campaign, which includes advertising and inbound email marketing efforts in targeted domestic and international markets.

During her tenure at Choose New Jersey, Carly established the organization's digital strategy and sharpened its brand identity. Carly has led the design of customized pitchbooks and presentations for several Fortune 500 companies in addition to creative management of New Jersey's presence at major events like BIO International and SelectUSA.

She began her career in corporate sales at Staples Inc. While serving as Inside Account Manager, she established and oversaw 300+ accounts totaling USD 2.7 million in value for the B2B division.

Carly holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in Marketing from Loyola University Maryland. She completed coursework in International Business at Monash University in Australia.

Ashlea Coulter
Digital Marketing Specialist, Choose New Jersey



Ashlea Coulter is the Digital Marketing Specialist for Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit economic development organization. She is responsible for supporting the digital initiatives of the Marketing team, including website updates, email marketing campaigns, video and photo projects, and CRM management.

Prior to joining Choose New Jersey, Ashlea was the Associate Director of New Student Orientation and Family Programs for Rutgers University-New Brunswick where she oversaw the execution of large-scale events, website updates, and the creation of digital and print publications. In addition to her higher education experience at various universities, she also served as the Marketing Assistant for General Growth Properties in Altamonte Springs, Florida, where she implemented marketing campaigns and special events for retailers at the property.

Ashlea obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication and a Master of Education in College Student Affairs from the University of South Florida. She also earned a Master's degree in Communication and Media Studies from Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Danielle Rexrode
Marketing Project Manager, Choose New Jersey



Danielle Rexrode is the Marketing Project Manager for Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit economic development organization. Prior to joining the Choose New Jersey team, Danielle was the Marketing & Communications Director for the TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, where she developed integrated marketing strategies focused on engaging a membership of over 500 businesses and generating new member sales. She also served as a Marketing Assistant for Pottstown Area Industrial Development (PAID), Inc., where she primarily assisted in managing the I Pick Pottstown campaign that was launched to attract new business and investors to the area. Danielle also aided in the inception of TriCounty Young Professionals, a program for professionals ages 21-40 in Berks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties in PA, and served as Vice Chair of the program's committee. She obtained a B.S. in Marketing from West Chester University, where she was also involved in American Marketing Association and Best Buddies.

N. Steven Noieam
Events Manager, Choose New Jersey



N. Steven Noieam is the Events Manager for Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit economic development organization. An experienced Entertainment Production Director and Creative Leader with over 15 years of expertise in live events, media, and large-scale themed entertainment, Steven brings his extensive background in event management, production, and creative direction to support New Jersey's premier business attraction organization.

His previous roles include serving as Senior Technical Production Director for luxury properties and event spaces in New York City, where he managed technical production operations, budget oversight, and project execution for high-profile events such as the MET Gala Afterparty, New York Restoration Project Hulaween, and exclusive luxury private productions. At Paramount Media Networks, a leader in the TV and film industry, Steven took on the role of Production Safety Manager, overseeing health and safety protocols for major live broadcast productions, including the MTV Video Music Awards and the BET Awards.

Throughout his career, Steven has demonstrated a commitment to delivering high-quality, immersive experiences across various projects, including groundbreaking theme park productions at Universal Orlando and Disney. His achievements have been recognized with several accolades, such as the "Outstanding Achievement – Live Attractions Spectacular" for *The Bourne Stuntacular* and Walt Disney Parks & Resorts' "Emerging Leaders Magic Makers" award.

A graduate of Texas A&M University with certifications as a National Registered EMT and OSHA-30, Steven also volunteers as an EMT in his community. His diverse expertise in event production, safety management, and creative leadership makes him a valuable asset to the Choose New Jersey team.

Ryne Szott
Project Officer, Choose New Jersey



Ryne Szott is the Project Officer for Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit economic development organization. In this role, Ryne is responsible for assisting the fundraising, board relations, and development efforts of the organization. He also aids the Office of the CEO, providing meeting briefings and materials when needed.

Before he joined Choose New Jersey, Ryne worked as a Special Assistant for a New Jersey Congressman in the District Office, where he worked in both official and campaign capacities. He was in charge of driving the Congressman for all New Jersey-based travel, facilitating the schedule and daily meetings, managing all constituent correspondence coming from the District, and hiring and managing District interns year-round. Ryne also worked on three campaigns for the Congressman.

Ryne was born and raised in New Jersey and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from James Madison University.