



## **SPEAKER BIOS**

### **Advocacy 101 Training**



**Justice Horn, (he/him)**  
**Metropolitan Energy Center**  
**Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist**  
[Justice@MetroEnergy.org](mailto:Justice@MetroEnergy.org)

**Justice Horn** is a community leader, social justice activist, and political strategist. He fights for representation everywhere and broke barriers as the first openly gay multicultural college wrestler in the NCAA. Now in politics, he worked on the Biden campaign in the African American, LGBTQ, and Pacific Islander division of the 2020 Joe Biden Presidential campaign. He was also senior advisor to the Missouri for Biden team as well.

As an African American, Caucasian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and LGBTQ individual, he represents the many communities he comes from and currently serves on the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory board and the Kansas City Streetcar Advisory committee. Justice is one of the many voices of the future here in our community.



**Zack Pistora, (he/him)**  
**Kansas Sierra Club**  
**State Lobbyist**  
[Zack@Kansas.SierraClub.org](mailto:Zack@Kansas.SierraClub.org)

**Zack Pistora** is a longtime environmental activist and current lobbyist for the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club. Zack also serves on the Boards of the Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Rural Center. He resides on a farm in Linwood.

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## Legislative Briefing



**Rabbi Moti Rieber, (he/him)**  
**Kansas Interfaith Action**  
**Executive Director**  
[RebMoti@KansasInterfaithAction.org](mailto:RebMoti@KansasInterfaithAction.org)

**Rabbi Moti Rieber** has served as Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action and its predecessor organization, Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, since March of 2011.

He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. A life-long activist on peace, social justice, and environmental issues, Rabbi Moti brings a variety of pulpit, interfaith, and organizational experience to the work of Kansas Interfaith Action. Rabbi Moti and his wife, Suzy, have three adult children and live in Overland Park.



**Dawn Buehler, (she/her)**  
**Friends of the Kaw**  
**Executive Director**  
[RiverKeeper@KansasRiver.org](mailto:RiverKeeper@KansasRiver.org)

**Dawn Buehler** is the Kansas Riverkeeper and Executive Director with Friends of the Kaw. In her role as the Kansas Riverkeeper, Dawn is a non-governmental public advocate that works to protect and preserve the Kansas River. This is accomplished through holding the community accountable for the health of the river, working to resolve pollution concerns about the river, advocating for the Kansas River and its environs, educating the public, and providing outreach activities to get people involved in the river.

Dawn holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Conservation from Oregon State University and a Bachelor in Business Administration from Baker University. Dawn is the Chair of the Kansas Water Authority and the Governor's Appointee for the Oil & Gas Advisory Committee. Dawn is also active on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Land Trust and the Board of Directors for Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.



**Dorothy Barnett, (she/her)**  
**Climate + Energy Project**  
**Executive Director**  
[Barnett@ClimateAndEnergy.org](mailto:Barnett@ClimateAndEnergy.org)

As the Executive Director of the Climate + Energy Project, **Dorothy Barnett** has been successful in convening diverse voices in a conservative region of the country. She has coordinated winning campaigns to protect the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard from

special interest groups attacks during four legislative sessions, allowing the wind industry to grow to 40% of the state's power generation in just a decade.

Prior to her position as Executive Director, Dorothy served for 4 years as CEP's Director of Energy and Transmission, putting her on the ground in energy policy work at the local, state and regional level. Under Dorothy's leadership, CEP continues to innovate and reach new audiences with projects like WEALTH, Kansas Climate CORE, the Kansas Environmental Leadership project and the Clean Energy Business Council, a multi sector business group focused on the advanced energy economy.



**Beto Lugo Martinez, (he/him)**  
**CleanAirNow**  
**Co-Executive Director**  
[BetoMtz.Lugo@CleanAirNowKc.org](mailto:BetoMtz.Lugo@CleanAirNowKc.org)

**Beto Lugo Martinez** is an environmental justice organizer and the co-executive director of CleanAirNow in Kansas City which was started by a neighborhood group. He serves to raise community voices in the fight against environmental racism and to overcome systemic exclusion of fenceline communities from the decision making process.

His lived experiences growing up at the fenceline combined with the foundational environmental justice work done by CleanAirNow KC, are disrupting the status quo by taking action to bring systemic change in industry and government policies and practices to protect health and promote justice and bring attention to the environmental racism and inequity that perpetuates the unequal distribution of environmental pollution and health hazards that is fueling the climate crisis in overburdened communities.

Beto's contributions to the movement include organizing, community led policy that prioritizes environmental justice and community led research amongst many other community engaged initiatives to improve environmental protections and address environmental health inequities. Beto has co-authored multiple academic publications on community based health research, air pollution, data accessibility, community engagement. He also participates in multiple national climate and environmental justice coalitions and advisories. In August 2021 Beto was invited to serve on the EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, to represent a grassroots frontline perspective.



**Atenas Mena, (she/her)**  
**CleanAirNow**  
**Co-Executive Director/Environmental Health Director**  
[Atenas@CleanAirNowKc.org](mailto:Atenas@CleanAirNowKc.org)

**Atenas Mena** is the Environmental Health Director and shares co-leadership role at CleanAirNow.

Atenas Isabel Mena born and raised in Kansas City is a proud first generation Mexican American. Ms. Mena received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Avila University in 2014 and went on to receive her Master's in Nursing Leadership from Missouri Western State University in 2019. In addition to working as a nurse, Ms. Mena received extensive environmental health training in the field, working with the Children's Mercy environmental health team, as both an educator as well as a team coordinator.

Ms. Mena worked continuously throughout the last few years with Clean Air Now through boots on the ground projects, served as a Board of Directors, and has just recently transitioned into the current leadership role as environmental health director. Atenas centers her work around reducing health inequities, educating communities on environmental health impacts, and empowering community members to have a voice and fight for equity and environmental justice.



**Lydia Nebel, (she/her)**  
**KC Farm School at Gibbs Road**  
**Farm Director**  
[Lydia@KcFarmSchool.org](mailto:Lydia@KcFarmSchool.org)

**Lydia Nebel** began as a farm apprentice in 2013 at Gibbs Road Farm of CultivateKC (now KC Farm School at Gibbs Road). After two years, she moved on to manage New York City's Harlem Grown, then moved upstate to Four Winds Farm, a certified organic, no-till diversified vegetable operation, then ran Second Wind CSA for two years. Most recently, she was Second-in-Charge at Day's Walk Farm in Melbourne, Australia. She has organized with the National Young Farmers Coalition, Hudson Valley and Kansas City Chapters.

She is intent on the need for more farmers and more farms, looking most to small-scale, traditional, and indigenous methods of food and economy production, especially in this incredible prairie ecosystem.

Lydia has been involved with KC Farm School since their beginning as founding board co-chair. In 2021, she returned to KCFS at Gibbs Road as Farm Director, eager with curiosity and a humble heart to learn from the land and community, and to produce as much food as possible in loving, regenerating ways.

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**Zack Pistora, (he/him)**  
**Kansas Sierra Club**  
**State Lobbyist**  
[Zack@Kansas.SierraClub.org](mailto:Zack@Kansas.SierraClub.org)

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**Tami Alexander, (she/her)**  
**Metropolitan Energy Center**  
**Sr. Program Coordinator & Central Kansas Clean Cities**  
**Coordinator**  
[Tami@MetroEnergy.org](mailto:Tami@MetroEnergy.org)

**Tami Alexander** joined MEC in August 2017 to support the ethanol and biodiesel projects in Kansas. In January 2018, she became the Program Coordinator for the Central Kansas Clean Cities Coalition, managing event coordination, outreach, customer relationship management, program administration, research writing, and content development.

In addition to her work at MEC, Tami has several years of facility and nonprofit management experience where she introduced sustainability measures to organization practices. She has Bachelor's degrees in Mathematics-Statistics and Geology and a Master's in Environmental Science all from Wichita State University.

A life-long Kansan, Tami lives in Wichita with her husband and their three children. She is passionate about promoting the environmental health and local economies of both urban and rural communities across Kansas.



**Jondalyn Marshall, (she/her)**  
**Destination Innovation, Root the Power**  
**Director of Administration/Root the Power Program Manager**  
[Jondalyn@DestinationInnovation.org](mailto:Jondalyn@DestinationInnovation.org)

**Jondalyn Marshall** has organized Root the Power since 2018, guiding the program through a successful expansion in size and impact.

Her experience as an entrepreneur business owner, coaching individuals and groups in pursuit of their wellness goals, has equipped her to be a skilled mentor and facilitator with the young people involved in Root the Power and a connector with other community partners.

Jondalyn has a Master's degree in Business Administration and experience working in both business and nonprofit administration, which makes her invaluable to our internal operations and sustainability as an organization.



**Sarah Dehart Faltico, (she/her)**  
**Climate + Energy Project**  
**Program Coordinator**  
[Faltico@ClimateAndEnergy.org](mailto:Faltico@ClimateAndEnergy.org)

**Sarah Dehart Faltico** is a Program Coordinator for Climate + Energy Project focused on building community power. She manages CEP's Integrated Voter Engagement work and the Kansas Environmental Leadership program. She is also forging a multi-organizational coalition to build political power on climate action in Kansas.

Prior to CEP, Sarah worked to build local food systems, both as an organic vegetable grower and as Program Manager of the Double Up Food Bucks Program, where she strengthened access to local foods in underserved communities. During this time, she began to see the intersection between food, environmental stewardship, community health, and racial and environmental justice, which drives her work today.

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## **KEEIA Briefing**



**Beth Pauley, (she/her)**  
**Climate + Energy Project**  
**Program Director**  
[Pauley@ClimateAndEnergy.org](mailto:Pauley@ClimateAndEnergy.org)

**Beth Pauley** is a Program Director for the Climate + Energy Project leading Energy Justice organizing.

In 2016, she graduated with her Master's in Public Administration and co-authored "Wanted: Women in City Management" with a professor and two fellow classmates. This article was selected through a peer-reviewed process to be presented at the 2018 American Society for Public Administration Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Climate + Energy Project engages and co-creates strategies with impacted communities to represent their perspectives in the intervention process, and will continue to work with commissioners to make this process more accessible and transparent.



**Ty Gorman, (he/him)**  
**Kansas Sierra Club**  
**Kansas Beyond Coal Campaign Representative**  
[Ty.Gorman@SierraClub.org](mailto:Ty.Gorman@SierraClub.org)

**Ty Gorman** has been the Kansas Beyond Coal Campaign Representative with the Sierra Club since 2020. He lives in Kansas City, Kansas and previously worked on clean energy policies at the U.S. House of Representatives, Department of Energy, and

Environmental Protection Agency.

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### **Legislator Panel**



**Zack Pistora, (he/him)**  
**Kansas Sierra Club**  
**State Lobbyist**  
[Zack@Kansas.SierraClub.org](mailto:Zack@Kansas.SierraClub.org)

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**Representative Rui Xu**  
**25th District**  
[Rui.Xu@house.ks.gov](mailto:Rui.Xu@house.ks.gov)

**Representative Rui Xu** (D) is the Co-Chair of the KS Future Caucus & represents the 25th district (Northeast Johnson County) in the Kansas Legislature. He is the first Chinese-American person to ever serve in the Kansas Legislature and the only naturalized citizen and only Asian-American currently serving. In his time in the legislature,

Representative Xu has served on Financial Institutions and Pensions, Education, Higher Education Budget, and the Agriculture committee. He has been proud to take a lead on environmental issues in the House, introducing bills on [addressing climate change](#), [incentivizing carbon farming](#), and [protecting pollinators at solar sites](#).



**Representative Nick Hoheisel**  
**97th District**  
[Nick.Hoheisel@house.ks.gov](mailto:Nick.Hoheisel@house.ks.gov)

**Representative [Nick Hoheisel](#)** (R) is the Co-vice-chair of the KS Future Caucus & currently serves the 97th District (Southwest Wichita) in the Kansas Legislature. Representative Hoheisel and his wife, Misti, chose to raise their two children in Southwest Wichita because it has always been their home. Nick Hoheisel believes in public service and in the spirit of community. He is a former member of the City Council District IV Advisory Board, as well as the Southwest Village Neighborhood Association Board, and is a graduate of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Citizens Police Academy.



**Representative Lindsay Vaughn**  
**22nd District**  
[Lindsay.Vaughn@house.ks.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Vaughn@house.ks.gov)

**Representative [Lindsay Vaughn](#)** (D) currently serves the 22nd District (Johnson County - Overland Park) in the Kansas legislature. Representative Vaughn is a nonprofit professional, young leader, and proud Kansan. She was born and raised in Overland Park where she is active in her local community. Rep Vaughn has devoted much of her time to community organizing, including as chair of the Johnson County Young Democrats. Under her leadership, the group trained and mobilized young people for advocacy and helped elect forward-thinking local candidates. In 2019, Rep Vaughn also proudly participated in the She Should Run nonpartisan leadership cohort where she connected with Democratic and Republican women to talk about the importance of female civic leadership.

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### **Kansas Youth Power Coalition Panel**



**Erin Kruse, (they/them)**  
**Climate + Energy Project**  
**Program Coordinator**  
[Kruse@ClimateAndEnergy.org](mailto:Kruse@ClimateAndEnergy.org)

**Erin Kruse** is a Program Coordinator with CEP and serves as the point-person for the newly forming Kansas Environmental Youth Network. They are a recent Sustainability and PoliSci grad from Pittsburg State University in Southeast Kansas. While at PSU, Erin worked as the Student Assistant for Sustainability.



Prior to their education at PSU, Erin earned certification in Sustainable Agriculture from Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, where they worked as an intern for the institution's Center for Sustainability.

Erin is very passionate about community organizing, environmental and social justice, and sustainable food systems.



**Lydia Nebel, (she/her)**  
**KC Farm School at Gibbs Road**  
**Farm Director**  
[Lydia@KcFarmSchool.org](mailto:Lydia@KcFarmSchool.org)

**Lydia Nebel** began as a farm apprentice in 2013 at Gibbs Road Farm of CultivateKC (now KC Farm School at Gibbs Road). After two years, she moved on to manage New York City's Harlem Grown, then moved upstate to Four Winds Farm, a certified organic, no-till diversified vegetable operation, then ran Second Wind CSA for two years. Most recently, she was Second-in-Charge at Day's Walk Farm in Melbourne, Australia. She has organized with the National Young Farmers Coalition, Hudson Valley and Kansas City Chapters.

She is intent on the need for more farmers and more farms, looking most to small-scale, traditional, and indigenous methods of food and economy production, especially in this incredible prairie ecosystem.

Lydia has been involved with KC Farm School since their beginning as founding board co-chair. In 2021, she returned to KCFS at Gibbs Road as Farm Director, eager with curiosity and a humble heart to learn from the land and community, and to produce as much food as possible in loving, regenerating ways.



**Donnavan Dillon, (he/him)**  
**Loud Light**  
[StudentPower@LoudLight.org](mailto:StudentPower@LoudLight.org)

**Donnavan Dillon** is currently one of the student power campaign coordinators with Loud Light. He has a passion for community organizing, social justice, voting rights, and youth representation. He is a current freshman at the University of Kansas studying political science and sociology. Throughout his time in advocacy and politics Donnavan has worked both within his community and around electoral organizing. Through his work he hopes to make tangible change for the communities he's a part of and improve communities for the better.



**Birdie Alt, (they/them)**  
**Loud Light**  
[StudentPower@LoudLight.org](mailto:StudentPower@LoudLight.org)

**Birdie Alt** is an organizer with the Student Power Campaign at LoudLight. They are a senior studying Political Communication at the University of Kansas. Birdie currently serves as the President of Students United for Reproductive Justice and works with the ACLU of KU, advocating for youth and student representation in the political space in Kansas. Birdie hopes to continue advocating for LGBTQ+ and voting rights, and establishing community through organizing.



**Joel Campbell, (he/him)**  
**Sunrise Movement Lawrence**  
[SunriseMvmtLawrenceKs@gmail.com](mailto:SunriseMvmtLawrenceKs@gmail.com)

**Joel Campbell** is a second-year engineering student at the University of Kansas and has been a member of the Sunrise Movement for more than a year. He also enjoys playing music and sewing in his free time.



**Alondra Lerma, (she/her)**  
**Root the Power**  
[RootThePowerKs@gmail.com](mailto:RootThePowerKs@gmail.com)

**Alondra Lerma** has been working with Root the Power (RTP), a youth led non-partisan group. She has attended meetings, organized candidate forums, and continues to register people to vote!



**Tyler Williams, (he/him)**  
**Progeny**  
[Tyler@DestinationInnovation.org](mailto:Tyler@DestinationInnovation.org)

**Tyler Williams** has been involved in Progeny as a Youth Leader since the program began in 2017, and joined the program staff in 2018. Tyler is a formerly adjudicated youth in the state of Kansas who understands first-hand how and why the juvenile justice system needs to be

changed to not only help youth grow but also to assist healing the community as a whole. He also knows how important it is to be proactive in investing in communities to build a safer and more prosperous Kansas. Tyler works on the national level as a former youth leader and now alumni of Youth First and has interned on a State level as a community organizer with Kansas Appleseed and received a governor's appointment to the Kansas Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency and plans to utilize his platform to elevate the voices of impacted youth.

# Kansas WEALTH Partners

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH



Kansas Natural Resource Council

