

Business Advisory Council

Rick Alfandre, AIA, LEED AP BD+C is President of Alfandre Architecture and EcoBuilders Inc. With over 36 years in the construction industry Alfandre specializes in the design and construction of high performance, energy efficient and healthy, green buildings. Rick Alfandre is a graduate of SUNY New Paltz class of 1980 and a 2013 inductee into the Business School Hall of Fame.

Tracy Badgley, CPA, CGMA, CDFATM is a Partner with GKG CPAs. She has over 25 years of distinguished public accounting experience and has a particular focus on women-owned businesses, management transitions, financial statement preparation, representation before state and federal tax authorities, strategic tax planning for individual and businesses, divorce advisory services (Certified Divorce Financial Analyst) employee benefit plans, not-for-profit organizations and corporate tax structuring. Tracy is a past president & executive board member of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the New York State Society of CPAs. Tracy is licensed in New York as a CPA, is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Irene Berner, CFP®, CDFATM is the founder of Berner Financial Services, a New Paltz based company providing wealth management and life planning. Irene is passionate about educating women on financial matters in order to empower them to take control of their financial life. She has worked in the financial industry since 1986, formed her company in 1996, and is affiliated with LPL Financial, the largest independent broker/dealer in the country. She holds a B.S. in Finance from SUNY New Paltz. Irene has run 2 marathons, 6 half marathons and hiked in the Grand Canyon as a way to raise money for charities.

Melinda Beuf is the Director of Human Resources for John Bean Technologies Corporation, Wolf-tec product line. Prior to her current position she served for six years as an economic developer for the Ulster County Development Corporation and Ulster County. In 2007 she received her MBA from SUNY New Paltz after leaving her 14 year career on Wall Street. She has a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ed Burke has been providing financial advice to his clients since 1997. He has a B.S. degree in Finance from SUNY New Paltz (1990). Prior to joining the financial services industry, Ed owned several businesses in which he was actively involved in all facets of day to day management and operation. By combining his experience together with the resources Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, Ed looks to deliver customized client solutions to help them achieve their financial goals. Ed has lived in the Hudson Valley for the past 28 years and currently resides in New Paltz with his wife Jill and 3 boys. Interests include triathlons, coaching, and soccer.

Jason Dahl is a senior portfolio manager with NewBridge Asset Management, a Victory Capital Investment Franchise, and a member of the Large Cap Growth and Global Growth portfolio management teams. Jason joined Victory Capital in 1999 after working nine years at US Trust Company in various investment roles. Jason holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from SUNY New Paltz ('90) and a Master of Business Administration from Pace University ('95) and he is also a CFA charter holder ('00).

David Freer Jr. of Freer Associates, Inc in Highland, NY is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of Empire State Bank of Newburgh, New Paltz, Brooklyn and Staten Island, NY. He has had a long career in banking encompassed positions as President, CEO and Chairman. David is also an entrepreneur with vast business and investment holdings.

Clarissa Goins is Vice President and Compliance/BSA Officer at Bank of Millbrook in Millbrook, NY. She holds an AS in Business from Dutchess Community College, a BS in Business from SUNY New Paltz, and a MBA in Management from Mount Saint Mary College. Clarissa is completing her doctoral study from Walden University.

Scott Hutchins, Vice President, Fixed Operations, Ruge's Automotive, Inc. is currently the Fixed Operations Manager at Ruge's Automotive, Inc. Previously, he had a 30 year career in Electronic Global Manufacturing owning and managing business operations in North America, Europe, and Asia. He is an accomplished senior executive with demonstrated career success developing and executing business development and operational strategies to promote organizational growth and optimize operational efficiencies.

Akram S. Ibrahim is the founder and managing director at Hudson Valley CPA's PLLC providing professional accounting, audit, tax and consulting services. His prior experience includes financial analysis and internal audit with Ingersoll Rand; internal audit at Schroder & Co.; and investment banking at Salomon Smith Barney with emphasis on European mergers and acquisitions. He is a Certified Public Accountant, has a BBA in Finance and Investments from CUNY Baruch College and a Master of Science degree in Taxation from SUNY Albany.

Edward Lane, is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERTM and Principal of Lane Asset Management, a sole proprietorship providing investment management, insurance and annuity analysis, tax and financial planning services on a fee-only basis to individuals and small businesses. Ed has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Actuarial Science from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently enrolled in the full-time MBA program at SUNY Albany. Ed is a member of the New York Society of Securities Analysts and a past member of the Society of Actuaries, the Conference of Actuaries in Public Practice and the American Academy of Actuaries.

Lauren Lawlor is an alumni of the SUNY New Paltz School of Business. She graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree with a double major in marketing and management and in 2009 with an MBA. She is currently the Director of Compensation, Benefits, and Employment in the Human Resources department at Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation.

Michael C. Maiale is the President and CEO of JCA Healthcare Associates, a healthcare consulting firm he formed in 2015. Mike spent nearly 15 years as a hospital executive in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, most recently serving as a Vice President at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey. He is a 2002 graduate of the SUNY New Paltz School of Business and lives in New Paltz with his wife and three children. He is the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the New Paltz Rescue Squad and coaches several youth sports teams in New Paltz.

Gene Moncrief, Managing Director of Moncrief & Associates, Inc., has worked in international executive development for 35 years. Her practice includes executive training, the facilitation of teams for more effective decision making, and coaching for happier and more engaged employees. Her company has worked with a wide variety of corporations from Fortune 500 to not-for-profit, and she enjoys her home in the Hudson Valley when she's not traveling.

Arnaldo Sehwerert, Ph.D. is currently the Regional Director of the Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center. He is also the 2009 Alumnus of the Year and was inducted in the SoB Hall of Fame. Previously he was president of DMS-Rapp Collins in Venezuela and has a long career in marketing and advertising.

Tom Smiley is Vice President and Director of Properties for Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, NY. He holds a BS in Industrial Engineering from Montana State University and an MBA from the State University of New York in New Paltz.

Ann Smith is principal of Ann Barber Consulting that specializes in financial consulting, business strategy preparation and economic development projects. Prior to starting her consulting firm, Ms. Smith was President of the Orange County Partnership after spending 15 years in banking providing credit services to businesses.

Michael A. Smith, CCO, CCE's background includes being a business partner and Co-CEO of a defense contractor manufacturer; President of an adult care facility; President of a Chamber of Commerce in Ulster County; Chief Compliance Officer and Foundation Chair of a large regional Hudson Valley long term care nursing home. Mike is currently the Corporate Compliance Officer of EverCare, Inc., a managed long term care organization in Orange County and also is Vice President of Community Relations of Nevele Resort/ProSports Campus.