

Expanding Access to Tech through Registered Apprenticeships

Speaker Biographies

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams was elected to her fourth full term representing the 12th Congressional District of North Carolina on November 3, 2020. After winning a special election in November 2014, Congresswoman Adams was sworn in immediately as the 100th woman elected to the 113th Congress. Representative Adams serves on the Committee on Financial Services; Committee on Education & Labor and the Committee on Agriculture. She holds several leadership roles; as Assistant Whip for the Democratic Caucus, Chairwoman of the Committee on Education & Labor's Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and Vice Chairwoman of the Committee on Agriculture. Representative Adams's subcommittee assignments, in addition to Workforce Protections, include Civil Rights and Human Services Committee on Education and Labor; Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations on Agriculture, and the Oversight and Investigations on Financial Services. Her signature legislative accomplishment in Congress is the enactment of H.R. 5363, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act which permanently provides funding totaling \$255 million a year for all Minority-Serving Institutions, including \$85 million for HBCUs.

Zach Boren is a senior policy program manager in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population, where he leads a variety of apprenticeship-focused projects, including youth apprenticeship, and is a technical expert on registered apprenticeship and equal employment opportunity. Before working at Urban, Boren spent 11 years with the US Department of Labor, where he was the director of registered apprenticeship and policy. Boren worked with US Coast Guard on congressional affairs and on Capitol Hill. Boren was selected by the Aspen Institute as a Marano Fellow, participating in their Sector Skills Academy. A native of Indiana, Boren received a bachelor's in public affairs from Indiana University and a master's in congressional and presidential studies from The Catholic University of America.

Devin Corrigan serves as the US Government Affairs Lead at Multiverse, an ed-tech company creating an outstanding alternative to college through professional apprenticeships. She was the US Team's third hire and has spent the previous two years laying the foundational operational and governmental-related work to support hundreds of apprentices across our seven Registered Apprenticeship programs. Prior to Multiverse, Devin spent four years at the NYC Mayor's Office working across systems to build the career readiness of over 1 million young New Yorkers. She lives in Brooklyn.

Diana Elliott is a senior fellow in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on families' financial security and economic mobility and the programs and policies that support them, including housing affordability, apprenticeships, and financial empowerment. Elliott was previously research manager of the Pew Charitable Trusts' work on financial security and economic mobility, where she was instrumental in fielding a major national survey on American family finances and published numerous reports and briefs about the state of financial well-being and economic mobility in the United States. Before joining Pew, Elliott was a family demographer in the fertility and family statistics branch in the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at the US Census Bureau. Elliott holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Rayanne Hawkins is a policy program manager in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on performance management, workforce development, upward mobility, and criminal justice. She provides training and technical assistance to employers looking to start apprenticeship programs. Hawkins received her MBA from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, where she studied alternative financing for social programs.

Jorge Marquez is the Southern California-based senior vice president for Robert Half Government specializing in the delivery of consulting and talent solutions with federal, state, and local government agency clients and government contracting partners. Jorge also is the Program Leader for Robert Half's apprenticeship and workforce innovation program. In his role, he partners with Federal and State Departments of Labor and public educational institutions to help employers address critical skills gaps while providing upskilling and career opportunities to people in underrepresented communities in the fields of cybersecurity and accounting. Jorge began his career with Robert Half as a division director for Robert Half Management Resources in La Jolla and was quickly promoted to metro market manager for the Westwood and City of Industry offices. Subsequently, he was promoted to vice president supporting enterprise/client solutions driving global collaboration projects and solutions across Robert Half and Protiviti. Jorge has been responsible for developing several notable client engagements during his tenure with Robert Half. In addition, Jorge has over 15 years of advisory experience in assurance, tax, consulting, and business development in the Southern California market, including extensive experience cultivating executive-level relationships. He earned his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of California Riverside and obtained his CPA license more than 10 years ago.

Nina Ong is an Apprenticeships Lead at Google. She oversees the U.S. offering, which consists of six tracks across four hubs. She is also responsible for global infrastructure and consistency across all programs. Prior to leading apprenticeships, she helped create and run several other learning and development programs at Google.

Wolf Reese is a former Onramp apprentice, who recently converted full-time as a Software Engineer at Twitch. He is originally from inner city East Cleveland, Ohio where he had no exposure or access to explore his interests in computer science. Wolf began self-learning with any resources he could find online, eventually completed a web development bootcamp, and was inspired to make a difference for others with backgrounds like his own. Prior to joining Twitch, he was teaching Black & Latinx high schoolers from Oakland and New York City various computer science topics like web, mobile, and game development. At Twitch, Wolf is a member of the Browser Clients team that has overall engineering responsibility for the frontend client powering [twitch.tv](https://www.twitch.tv). Outside of work, Wolf still spends his time self-learning and hobby coding (when he's not playing video games); he currently is really into both playing and building AR/VR apps.

Nikunja Swain, Chair, Professor, and Executive Director of Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity at SCSU has over 35 years of college level teaching experience. His areas of expertise are in the modeling and analysis of cyber-physical systems such as energy systems, and system modeling and simulation using Virtual Instruments. He has published several articles (70+) in peer-refereed conferences and journals in the areas of engineering and computing and procured research and development grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense (DOD), NASA, SC Department of Transportation (SC DOT), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), ODNI, and others. He has acted as an external reviewer for doctoral dissertations from abroad (10+) in Computing/cybersecurity, and assisted master's students (4) in their master's thesis as committee member. He was instrumental in the development of the Cybersecurity Degree Apprenticeship Program at South Carolina State University and acts as the director of the program. Dr. Swain enjoys teaching and mentoring young adults to inculcate the values of higher education.

Lateesha Thomas is the CEO & Co-Founder at Onramp. She has built a company that is an industry leader in technical apprenticeships with a 94% conversion rate for Top 50 companies like Twitch, Amazon and Coinbase. She is a workplace diversity & inclusion advocate, conference organizer and speaker, and occasional developer. She managed partnerships for Google's Women Techmakers initiative. Before that, she was the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Business Development at Dev Bootcamp, where she created programs and curriculum aimed at fostering a transparent, inclusive, equitable and empathetic culture in technology. She serves on the board of Write/Speak/Code, loves going to spin class and eating nachos in her free time.