

SPEAKER BIOS

JOE BRUSUELAS

Chief Economist | RSM US LLP
@RSMUSLLP



Joseph Brusuelas has more than 20 years of experience in finance and economics. In his current role he provides macroeconomic perspective to help clients anticipate and address the unique issues and challenges facing their businesses and the industries in which they operate. He also produces monthly economic reports for the middle market and for key industries within that market.

Prior to joining RSM in July 2014, Brusuelas spent four years as a senior economist at Bloomberg LP and the Bloomberg Briefs newsletter group. As co-founder of the award-winning *Bloomberg Economic Brief*, Brusuelas was named one of the 26 economists to follow by the *Huffington Post*. Earlier in his career, he was a director at Moody's Analytics, where he covered the U.S. and global economies for the *Dismal Scientist* website. He also served as chief economist at Merk Investments LLC and chief U.S. economist at IDEAGlobal.

Brusuelas regularly appears on Bloomberg Television and Bloomberg Radio and is frequently quoted by the financial press on the U.S. and global economies. He is the co-author of *Forex Analysis and Trading: Effective Top-Down Strategies Combining Fundamental,*

Position, and Technical Analyses and the upcoming *It's Worse Than You Think: The U.S. Economy and the Decline of the American Middle Class*, both published by Wiley.

Brusuelas received both a bachelor's and master's degree in political science from San Diego State University and a doctorate in political economy and public policy from the University of Southern California.

BRIAN FLAHERTY

Senior Vice President, Public Policy
CBIA | @BrianFlahertyCT



Brian Flaherty is senior vice president, public policy at CBIA. In leading CBIA's public policy division, Flaherty is responsible for the association's government affairs, grassroots, research, and communications operations.

Before joining CBIA in 2015, Flaherty was vice president for public policy and external affairs at Nestlé Waters North America, a division of Nestlé, Inc., where he oversaw the company's government relations, sustainability, and stakeholder engagement activities.

Prior to joining Nestlé, Flaherty was an eight-term member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, representing Watertown, Middlebury, and Woodbury.

He served five of those terms as Deputy House Minority Leader.

Flaherty received a bachelor's degree in politics with a minor in communications from Fairfield University.

CHAZ GATEWOOD

Workforce Development Specialist
Our Piece of the Pie | @ChazGatewood



With nearly 10 years' experience in youth and workforce development, Chaz Gatewood has developed a passion for changing his community by empowering people to tap into their potential. His goals include improving education and employment for urban youth.

Gatewood coordinates his job at Our Piece of the Pie with Asnuntuck Community College, managing the training, workforce development workshops, job shadows, internships, job placement, mediation, employer engagement, recruiting, and retention.

He is the founder of M.A.L.E.S., an education-based mentoring program that focuses on young males of color, ages 14 to 24. The program includes mentoring, education, and college acceptance and retention.

Gatewood serves on the boards of the African American Parade and is the co-founder of Emerging Leaders Network. He led the campaigns of State Representative Brandon McGee and Hartford City Council President TJ Clarke II.

Gatewood is a member of the NAACP Greater Hartford and HYPE Hartford. He volunteers for various agencies, including United Way Emerging Leaders, Boys and Girls Club, The Hartford Project,

The Citadel of Love, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and the Job Corps. Gatewood was designated one of the 100 Men of Color in 2016, which recognizes men of color throughout the Connecticut and the Springfield area.

Gatewood attended Howard University, where he majored in biology. He will be receiving a bachelor's degree in business management this year from Albertus Magnus College.

FRANK D. GULLUNI

Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center | Asnuntuck Community College | @AsnuntuckCC



Frank Gulluni is responsible for the development and ongoing operation of the advanced manufacturing technology center at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield. The program provides the impetus for certificate, associate degree, and baccalaureate level competencies.

In addition to providing full-time students with transferable technology skills for private sector employment, the college has established significant numbers of academic and manufacturing-related coursework for thousands of incumbent workers. Certificate and degree options complement existing programming and include clusters in machining, welding and fabrication, and electronics and electro-mechanical maintenance and repair processes. The faculty are working currently to implement new certificate and degree programs in alternative energy, quality assurance, and additive manufacturing.

The school's most exhaustive effort is with middle school students. The primary objective is seeding the future workforce

in critical industry clusters like optics and measurement, aerospace and defense, medical devices and biotechnology, precision machining, semiconductors and complex electronics, and alternative energy systems.

Within the economic development environment in western Massachusetts, Gulluni was founder and executive director of a major educational and technology program serving more than 60,000 youth and adults, regional administrator for employment and training in Hampden County, and liaison for economic development and special assistant to the mayor of Springfield and the Greater Springfield Chambers of Commerce.

WILLIAM W. LEE

President & CEO | The Lee Company



Bill Lee is president and CEO of The Lee Company. Prior to assuming this position, he served as CFO and led one of the firm's production units. Before joining the family business, Lee spent 10 years in commercial lending and five years consulting as a part-time CFO for numerous companies.

The Lee Company is a family-owned manufacturer of miniature hydraulic components for mission-critical applications. The company was founded in 1948 and now has more than 1,000 employees. Throughout the aerospace industry, Lee hydraulic inserts set the standard for quality, performance, and reliability.

The business has diversified and is now roughly 40% aerospace, 20% medical, 15% automotive, and the balance a mix of oil tool, medical, Formula 1, and other niche

markets. All manufacturing is done in Connecticut, which is also where the firm has more than 900,000 sq. ft. of buildings and where most of the employees reside. The company has multiple domestic sales offices and five wholly-owned European sales subsidiaries and services the Pacific Rim countries through representatives and distributors.

PEDRO SOTO

CFO | Space-Craft Manufacturing, Inc.
@pedro_soto



Pedro Soto is a 1999 graduate of Amherst College where he majored in political science.

One of the first employees of the *Daily Jolt*, an Internet startup founded in an Amherst dorm room, Soto joined the family business, Space-Craft Manufacturing, a precision aerospace machining company, in 2007.

In 2011, he became chief operating officer of Space-Craft, which achieved double-digit growth as he transitioned the company to producing parts for the next generation of military and commercial jet engines. As a result of this growth, in early 2016 Space-Craft was acquired by DRT Manufacturing Company, a diversified global manufacturing company. Soto now leads Space-Craft as a division of DRT.

Active in the community, Soto serves on several boards and community foundations. He is the chair of the city of New Haven Economic Development Commission, vice president of the board of the New Haven Preservation Trust, and a board member of the Gateway Community College Foundation and the Aerospace Component Manufacturers of Connecticut.

KELLI-MARIE VALLIERES, Ph.D.

President & CEO | Sound Manufacturing, Inc. and Monster Power Equipment, Inc.



Kelli-Marie Vallieres is the president and CEO of Sound Manufacturing, a precision sheet metal contract manufacturer, and Monster Power Equipment, a landscape equipment manufacturer.

Vallieres earned her degree in educational leadership and adult learning from the University of Connecticut in 2007. She is involved in many workforce development initiatives and serves as president of the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance and director of the New England Board of Higher Education Problem-Based Resource Center. She is also on the boards of CBIA and EWIB.

Vallieres is passionately engaged in developing workforce skills to benefit her team members and the local workforce pipeline.

JEFF WHITE

Partner | Robinson+Cole
@ManufactureLaw



Jeff White is a partner who provides counseling and dispute resolution advice for manufacturers and distributors. He is chair of the firm's Manufacturing Industry Group and regularly represents clients throughout the U.S. and globally. In 2013, he created and launched the widely read *Manufacturing Law Blog*, which was one of the first blogs in the country to address legal issues facing manufacturers and distributors.

White has represented several Fortune 50 manufacturers in the global aerospace, chemicals, and consumer product markets. His experience includes product-related class actions, product liability prevention and litigation, supply chain disputes (including with long-term agreements that range from hundreds of thousands of dollars to several billion dollars), intellectual property disputes, and environmental matters. White routinely uses his litigation and business experience to counsel companies that wish to assess and/or resolve business-to-business disputes with suppliers, vendors, and other business partners without resorting to litigation.

In addition to representing large global companies, White also serves as outside general counsel for several mid-sized, privately held companies (many are family-owned), including several manufacturers and distributors that have business operations throughout the world. His experience is wide-ranging, as he has provided business advice on issues such as product development, product recall, workplace safety/OSHA, contracting/terms and conditions, supply chain issues, and conflict minerals' compliance.

KAREN WOSCZYNA-BIRCH, Ph.D.

State Director | Connecticut College of Technology

Executive Director | Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing



Karen Wosczyzna-Birch has been a champion of engineering and technology education for the past 32 years. Since 1995, she has been the state director of the Connecticut College of Technology, where her leadership

has been instrumental in creating a nationally recognized, seamless pathway in engineering and technology programs among all 12 public community colleges in Connecticut and with eight universities and high schools. She is also the executive director of the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence, and she is a professor of sciences at Tunxis Community College.

In 2012 Wosczyzna-Birch received the New England Board of Higher Education Excellence Award for the State of Connecticut for her leadership in creating and implementing the statewide pathways for the College of Technology. She has received numerous other awards and grants and has been recognized for her accomplishments as a professor and for her passion for increasing the diversity of the engineering and technology population.

Since 2004, Wosczyzna-Birch has received more than \$9 million in funding from an NSF ATE grant to create and expand the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing. She serves on numerous boards, including those for the International Honor Society EPT, the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers, and Hartford High's Academy of Engineering and Green Technology.

SEVERINE VALDANT ZYGMONT

President, Biomedical | Oxford
Performance Materials, Inc.



Severine Zygmont is the co-founder of Oxford Performance Materials, Inc., a Connecticut business that specializes in additive manufacturing

and innovative material technologies for the biomedical and aerospace industries, and the president of OPM's biomedical business. Zygmont has more than 15 years of experience in the field of high performance thermoplastics and more than 12 years of leadership experience in operations management, advanced manufacturing, business planning, and raising capital.

Zygmont has led OPM through its transformation into an additive manufacturing and advanced materials company, becoming in February 2013 and June 2014 the first and only medical device manufacturer to receive 510(k) clearances for 3D-printed, patient-specific polymeric implants. She has held several positions at OPM, including applications engineer, vice president of operations and finance, and chief operating officer.

A member of OPM's board of directors, she was recently named one of the 7 Top Women in Manufacturing by CNNMoney. She has also been recognized by her peers as a 2014 Woman of Innovation by the Connecticut Technology Council.

Zygmont holds a master's degree in chemical engineering from French engineering school École Nationale Supérieure des Industries Chimiques and a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from French engineering school École Nationale Supérieure en Génie des Systèmes Industriels.