



## OREGON CERTIFIED ECONOMIC DEVELOPER TRAINING PROGRAM

*"Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ecosystems"*

March 9th & 10th, 2023

### OCED Trainer BIOS



**Marta Tarantsey, Regional Development Officer, Business Oregon**  
*Professional Development Committee Chair*

Marta Tarantsey supports Southern Oregon communities and businesses as the Regional Development Officer with Business Oregon. The Rogue Valley's diverse blend of infrastructure and business development projects has kept her busy since day one in the region in early 2017.

Marta's work shifted heavily towards economic recovery and response in March of 2019, and more so after the 2020 fire season. She continues to support start-up and existing business support ecosystem efforts and is always ready to have a conversation about championing and building out the Oregon entrepreneurial ecosystem.



**Tory Stinnett, Economic Development Director, Grant County**  
*Professional Development Committee Leader*

Tory Stinnett connects and leverages resources for businesses in frontier Grant County. She supports the 9 incorporated surrounding cities and is the local Enterprise Zone Manager. Tory created and leads the Grant County Community Action Team. Strategy and collaboration are the driving forces behind her work.

She completed the Certified Economic Developer Program in 2022.



**Tory Banford, Project Manager, City of Salem**  
*Professional Development Committee Leader*

Tory Banford manages urban renewal projects in southeast Salem and West Salem for the City of Salem where he has worked since 2009. His role also includes coordinating with regional economic development partners to leverage resources to grow businesses. Prior to working in a public agency capacity, Tory was a regional representative for large manufacturing corporations.

He completed the Certified Economic Developer program in 2018 and he has been helping OEDA with the trainings since 2019.



**AJ Foscoli, City Manager, Falls City**  
*Professional Development Committee Leader*

AJ was appointed by the City Council in November 9, 2020. AJ was most recently employed by the City of Dallas as Director of Economic Development and previously worked as a Business Retention and Expansion Manager for SEDCOR.

AJ has been an active member of OEDA for many years and is a valued member of the Professional Development Committee in charge of producing the OCED Training Program.



**Caitlyn Q., Executive Director, Oregon Economic Development Association**

Caitlyn Q. has more than a decade of community engagement and leadership experience in Oregon and has led key projects that provided Tualatin-area businesses with critical support during the pandemic.

In her previous role as the Tualatin Chamber's interim CEO, she identified grant and tax credit opportunities, including Washington County's Business Recovery Center Grant, and built strong relationships with community partners and public officials at the local, county, and state levels.

Caitlyn was appointed as OEDA's Executive Director in April of 2022.



**Didgette McCracken, Faculty, OSU Grant County**  
**Open Campus & Agriculture and CyberMill**

Didgette McCracken is the OSU Extension Grant County Open Campus and Ag Faculty in John Day Oregon. She has worked for OSU since 2018.

Previously Didgette was a math teacher (for real). She and her husband have two kids and operate a family ranching operation.



**Kat Rutledge, Director, SBDC Klamath Falls**

For the last decade, Kat Rutledge has held two positions in support of small business owners, entrepreneurs and those who want to be. She is the Director of the Small Business Development Center at Klamath Community College where she leads a team in providing advice and training to the small business communities of Klamath and Lake County. She also acts as the Director of Klamath IDEA, a community initiative focused on developing a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Klamath County.

Kat holds a degree in Business/Economics. She has worked in HR and financial management in both the for-profit and non-profit worlds. Following her departure from corporate America, she ventured into owning her own HR and conflict management consulting business. She has taught at both the high-school and community college level. Kat is an Oregon Certified Economic Developer and serves as a member of the South-Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee. She has been a judge for InventOR, a collegiate competition for Oregon student innovators; she serves on the Craft3 CDE Advisory Board and is proud to be a life-long rural Oregonian.



**Caroline Cummings, CEO, RAIN Catalysts**

Caroline Cummings has been the Founder and CEO of two technology startups. She's raised \$1M in capital for her own startups and over \$10M for non-profits she's passionate about. She's helped catalyze several seed-stage investment funds and entrepreneurial programs. She's currently an angel investor and has invested in 22 startups, most of which are led by women and BIPOC founders. She's a firm believer that when more women invest, more women founders get funded.

Caroline serves as the CEO of RAIN Catalysts where she helps communities build inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems and innovation-based economies, which is based on an "investigative/not prescriptive" model. RAIN Catalysts has been invited to serve 52 cities in Oregon & Washington and 3 cities in Pakistan. RAIN Catalysts has served over 2200 (mostly underrepresented) entrepreneurs, who have raised \$28M in capital, and have created nearly 800 jobs, Caroline is regularly invited to guest lecture and serve as a judge at business, marketing, and entrepreneurship classes and events at several universities and accelerator programs around the globe, including Egypt, Pakistan, and for her alma mater, Drexel University in Philadelphia.



**Amy Hause, Director of Economic Vitality Services, RDI Inc.**

Amy has over 20 years of management and leadership experience in the nonprofit and private sectors. Since 2004, she has focused on community development both internationally and locally. Amy's first work with communities was in West Africa, and since then she has worked with communities and programs in West Africa, Haiti, Guatemala, Kosovo, the Middle East, East Asia, and finally in the Pacific Northwest. Economic development has been a significant focus of her work, including management of a social enterprise in The Gambia that linked smallholder farmers with markets to improve livelihoods. Amy's work has also included community infrastructure, girls' and women's rights, and building community resilience.

Amy is particularly passionate about working with communities to expand economic opportunities, and she's delighted to work with communities in the Pacific Northwest.



**Thomas Schnell, Business Finance Officer, Business Oregon**

Tom is a graduate of Oregon State University where he studied Finance and General Behavioral Science. He also obtained an international business degree from the Aarhus School of Business in Denmark. Tom received his graduate degree from Pacific Coast Banking School in 2013. He has over 30 years in finance, 25 of which were in commercial banking. He has been involved in both debt and equity financing. His experience ranges from serving small start-up companies to large corporations. He has experience in agricultural, real estate, asset based, equipment, line of credit and royalty-based financing.

Tom transitioned from the private finance sector to the public sector when he joined Business Oregon as a Business Finance Officer. In this position he works to develop economic vitality for Oregon businesses by helping to create, retain, expand, and attract businesses that provide sustainable, living-wage jobs through public-private partnerships and leveraged funding opportunities for companies and entrepreneurs.

Tom has served on numerous boards and committees during his career. He currently serves on the St. Charles Hospital Authority Board and is a board member on the Risk Management Association (RMA) for Central Oregon, a member organization for the finance industry.



**Deanne Buck, Venture Catalyst Director, EDCO**

As the Venture Catalyst Director for Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), Deanne holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and a Juris Doctor, with a focus on Business Entrepreneurship from the University of Colorado-Boulder, School of Law. She brings 15 years' experience of supporting entrepreneurs, mentoring leaders, and executive coaching and a history of success in creating sustainable ecosystems for start-ups to grow and thrive in.

Deanne has an entrepreneurial mindset herself, the formal education to add value and knowledge to founders, and the track record of fundraising, stakeholder outreach, and community engagement that is vital to a successful entrepreneurial community.



**Brenda Brown, Bilingual Senior Program Manager, RDI Inc.**

Brenda moved to Oregon in 2010 and since then has worked and volunteered for nonprofit organizations. As a Bilingual Senior Program Manager, RDI has given Brenda the opportunity to serve the Latino community, supporting and motivating them to start and grow their businesses.

Brenda is originally from Mexico where she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Sinaloa. Outside of work, she loves watching movies and cooking with family and friends.



**Abigail Schilling, Founder & CEO, Medford Cowork Collective**

Abigail Schilling is the founder of Medford Cowork Collective and a Certified Coworking Space Operator from Jamie Russo's Coworking Startup School.

A former product manager and community manager at a coworking space in Downtown Los Angeles, Abigail's career spans two decades of business, marketing, and management experience. She currently works as a business development coach and digital marketing strategist for entrepreneurs and specializes in helping small business owners scale their products and services.



**Sydelle N. Harrison, MPH, Ipn'amawaax - Cayuse, Walla Walla, Yakama & CEO, Kanaine**

Sydelle Harrison is a native entrepreneur whose story and designs have been featured in Cowboys & Indians, Native Max, and Cowgirl Magazines, and by news outlets Huffington Post, Underscore News, and The Oregonian. She holds three degrees in Anthropology and Public Health Management and Policy from Oregon State University where she is currently a PhD candidate in Health Promotion and Health Behavior. Harrison's professional expertise is in bridging stakeholders and customers alike through sharing her story to build engagement and trust. Her handmade apparel and accessory business, Kanaine ([kanaine.com](http://kanaine.com)) has become a beloved brand with over 25K followers worldwide on Instagram. When not working on academic research or sewing her originally-designed buckaroo cowls, she can be found on a field or court cheering and coaching her three young daughters.

Sydelle has presented her research on cultural competency, culturally-tailored social media for health, and violent deaths among American Indian and Alaska Native communities regionally and nationally, receiving multiple awards. Her designs have been featured on the runways for the Raw Artist Showcase, Northwest Tribal Fashion Show and the Oregon Native American Chamber Fall Fashion Gala with plans to expand after completing her doctoral degree this spring (2023).

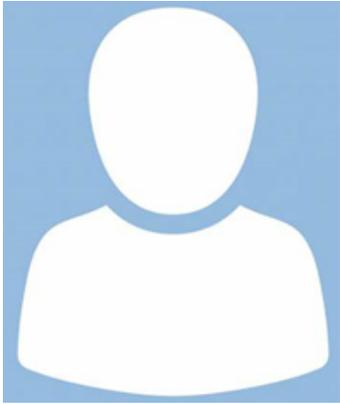


**Maureen Nikaido, Owner/Operator, Moku Chocolate**

Maureen's chocolate journey began with the sponsorship of a child in Nicaragua in 2006 and a subsequent visit to the country years later. While there, she learned about cacao, where it comes from (a tree!) and the hard-working farmers who grow and harvest the beans. That experience inspired the founding of Moku Chocolate in the bucolic town of Philomath, Oregon in 2020.

Dedicated to spotlighting cacao farmers around the world, Moku handcrafts high-quality, bean-to-bar, single-origin chocolate from raw, direct trade cacao beans. Moku's direct trade beans are sourced from farmers in Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, and Colombia. Direct trade ensures socially-responsible compensation to the cacao farmers and fosters prosperity among the farming communities with a focus on integrity, quality, and environmental sustainability.

Moku strives to share the stories of the communities where the cacao beans are grown to help connect consumers to land and people of the chocolates' origins.



**Jordana Barclay**, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Manager, Business Oregon

Jordana Barclay is an Innovation Strategist at Business Oregon where she manages a variety of innovation-focused programs to support science and technology companies.

Prior to Business Oregon, she created and supported local and statewide industry-led partnerships focused on workforce development.