



J. Alex Kelly – Confirmed

Secretary

Florida Department of Commerce

Full [BIO](#)

J. Alex Kelly currently leads FloridaCommerce as Florida’s Secretary of Commerce. Prior to his appointment, Kelly held the Deputy Chief of Staff role in the Governor’s Office since April 2021. He has an extensive background and expertise in education and economic development, holding roles in the Florida House of Representatives on three occasions and in the Florida Senate. Kelly earned both a bachelor’s degree in political science from York University of Pennsylvania and a master’s in political science from the University of Florida.



Andrea Gauntlett

Senior Director of Supply Chain

Frida

[LinkedIn](#)

Full [BIO](#)

Andrea Gauntlett joined Frida in 2022 as Senior Director of Supply Chain. Before that she has held supply chain and inventory management positions at companies like YETI, Linen Holdings, KLX Aerospace Solutions and Plan4Demand, spearheading efficient and effective KPIs, process improvements, and best practices championing the organizational mission and goals. She has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from University of Florida.



Andrew Hecker

Deputy Director & CFO
PortMiami

Full [BIO](#)

Mr. Hecker was appointed as Deputy Director of PortMiami in May 2022. Mr. Hecker oversees the Capital Development, Finance, Economic Development, HR, Planning, and Strategy divisions of the world's leading cruise port and one of America's fastest-growing container ports. He joined PortMiami in 2015, heading the Performance and Strategic Management Division. Prior to joining PortMiami, Mr. Hecker worked for Moffatt & Nichol, leading their commercial division with offices in London and New York, where he focused on cargo ports and inland industrial development related to international goods movement.



Carlos Buqueras

Executive Director
Seaport Manatee

Full [BIO](#)

Mr. Buqueras is globally renowned for his visionary achievements in all facets of seaport business development and operations, including containerized, bulk and breakbulk cargos, as well as cruise and ferry industry prominence. Carlos Buqueras has been Executive Director since 2012, before that he served 22 years as director of business development at Port Everglades in South Florida's Broward County. Fluent in five languages, he is an active board member of a number of organizations. In addition, Mr. Buqueras is currently serving as the Chairman of the Florida Ports Council, covering Florida's fifteen public seaports.



Craig Lewis
Chief Revenue Officer
Veyer

[LinkedIn](#)

At Veyer, the supply-chain-as-a-service (SCaaS) company within the ODP Corporation, Craig applies his extensive background in scaling both startups and Fortune 500 companies to fuel accelerated revenue and growth. With over 30 years of leadership experience and spearheading teams that have achieved hyper-growth, including five successful exits and one IPO. He now leads Veyer - a startup in spirit but with a robust \$5B scale, offering world class fulfillment and distribution services. He builds on his previous successes and positions Veyer to redefine the playing field in the SCaaS marketplace.



Chris Sawchuk
Principal and Global Procurement Advisory Practice Leader
The Hackett Group

[LinkedIn](#)
[Full BIO](#)

Chris Sawchuk leads Hackett's global sourcing and procurement advisory practice. He has 20+ years of experience in supply management, with Global 2000 and mid-sized companies around the globe, and in a variety of industries to improve all aspects of supply management, including process redesign, technology enablement, operations strategy planning, organizational change and strategic sourcing. He is a regular contributor to business publications, a frequent presenter at industry events, and author of numerous research papers and books.



Lt. General (Ret.) David Buck
President
BRPH Mission Solutions

Full [BIO](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

Lieutenant General David Buck served in the U.S. Air Force for 40 years with a career dedicated to space, nuclear and cyberspace operations. He directed USSTRATCOM space forces in support of national security and combatant commander objectives. Leading over 19,500 men and women, Dave was responsible for protecting and defending critical U.S. and allied space capabilities. In 2018, he retired as Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC-S) and Commander, 14th Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Today, he is President of BRPH Mission Solutions where he spurs client growth endeavors spanning the national security, defense, aerospace and manufacturing industries.



David Metcalf
Director, Associate Research Professor
UCF - Mixed Emerging Technologies Integration Lab

Full [BIO 1](#)
Full [BIO 2](#)

David Metcalf, Ph.D., is a Senior Researcher and Director Mixed Emerging Technology Integration Lab (METIL), Institute for Simulation & Training. As a researcher, analyst and consultant, Dr. Metcalf has been a leader in the learning and development space for more than 15 years. He holds a B.A. in Art/Computer Graphics from the University of Texas, and an M.S. in Computer-based Learning and his Ph.D. in Information Systems from Nova Southeastern University. He is a frequent speaker, and an author.



Deb Friar
CEO
Quant Fusion

[BIO](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

Deb Friar is an Experienced Citizen Data Scientist in multiple industries. She excels at identifying when and how data science can drive opportunity visibility, scoping data projects, and storytelling through visualization. Deb Friar is literate in both business knowledge / requirements and Data requirements, vetting output and presenting findings. In the rapidly evolving digital landscape, artificial intelligence (AI) stands out as a game-changing force, reshaping industries and redefining business norms, Deb has a unique blend of experience and knowledge to help enterprises embrace and navigate this shift.



Hydi Webb
Port Director & CEO
Port Miami

[Full BIO](#)

Hydi Webb is director and CEO of PortMiami, appointed by the mayor of Miami-Dade County in March 2022. A maritime industry expert with a 30-year career at PortMiami, she oversees the growth and development of the Cruise Capital of the World and Global Gateway of the Americas. PortMiami is the U.S. container port closest to the Panama Canal, providing shippers fast access to Florida's thriving consumer base and the entire U.S. market. It generates more than 340,000 jobs and has an economic impact of \$61 billion.



Jared Perdue - Invited

Secretary

Florida Department of Transportation

Full [BIO](#)

Jared W. Perdue, P.E. was named Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) April 2022. As Secretary, Perdue oversees the lead agency in state government with the statutory responsibility to coordinate the planning and development of a safe, viable, and balanced transportation system serving all regions of the state. Secretary Perdue has devoted his entire career to the FDOT since entering public service through the Professional Engineer Training Program. Perdue has played integral roles in both operations and development where he has held several positions. Secretary Perdue received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina.



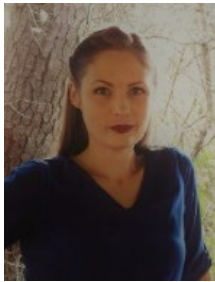
Jay Lau

Staff Product Manager, Product Integration

Aurora Software

Full [BIO](#)

Jay Lau is a Manager in the Business Development team at Aurora and his core role is supporting the logistics partnerships through onboarding and technical integration. Before Aurora, Jay held various positions in Vehicle Automation, Supply Chain Management, Logistics and Fleet Management with TuSimple Inc., Medtronic, Covidien, Tyco Healthcare, Quality Logistics Systems and JB Hunt Transport. Jay also holds six US patents in autonomous vehicles operations and cargo management systems. Jay also holds a BS in Finance and MIS, an MS In Supply Chain Analytics.



Jessica Jones

CMO

Gigantor

[LinkedIn](#)

Full [BIO](#)

Jessica Jones is a seasoned technology technical writer with a decade of experience in the field. Over the past ten years, she has honed her skills in translating complex tech concepts into clear, engaging content that resonates with a broad audience. Jessica's work spans across various sectors of technology, showcasing her versatility and adaptability. Her attention to detail and ability to stay ahead of technology trends make her a valuable stakeholder in the ever-evolving tech landscape. Passionate about all things tech, Jessica bridges the gap between tech innovation and audience understanding.



Jessica Gomez – KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Founder and CEO

[LinkedIn](#)

Full [BIO](#)

Jessica Gomez is passionate about the microelectronics industry: its products, people, and the countless ways that microelectronic devices improve our daily lives. For the first decade of her career, Jessica honed her skills and industry expertise in semiconductor processing and product management. Since 2003, when she founded Rogue Valley Microdevices, she has helped technologists realize their vision through MEMS device fabrication. As founder and CEO, Jessica determines strategy and long-term planning.

Jessica is deeply engaged in the global microelectronics industry. She's developed relationships with visionary companies in automotive, biomedical, agriculture, military/aerospace, and industrial markets. She is a member of the [SEMI Board of Industry](#)

[Leaders](#), and is a much sought-after speaker who presents at conferences throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia.



Joseph Morris
Chief Executive and Port Director
Port Everglades

Full [BIO](#)

Joseph Morris was appointed Port Director of Broward County's Port Everglades Department in June 2024. He was previously Port Director for the Massachusetts Port Authority where he has worked for four years. At the Massachusetts Port Authority, Morris managed cargo and cruise operations, multiple real estate properties, five public parks, and public access properties. Morris has worked with government authorities representing multiple countries, and led teams responsible for planning vessel, rail, gate and yard operations for the largest container terminal in the US, APM Terminals in Los Angeles. Morris has a bachelor's degree in Business Management from University of Phoenix.



Kevin Carr
Executive Director
FloridaMakes

[BIO](#)

Kevin Carr has dedicated most of his career to enhancing the nation's manufacturing sector with a focus on improving the competitiveness and profitability of small and medium-size manufacturers. He led the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership prior to joining FloridaMakes. Kevin Carr studied electronics engineering at Widener University and technology management at the University of Maryland.



Laura DiBella
Government Affairs Advisor
Adams and Reese LLP

[LinkedIn](#)
[BIO](#)

Prior to joining Adams and Reese, Laura DiBella was the former President of Business Development at FloridaCommerce and Secretary of Commerce at Enterprise Florida, gaining extensive knowledge of the overall state economy as well as startup ecosystem; Executive Director of Florida Harbor Pilots Association; Port Director of Port of Fernandina Ocean Highway and Port Authority; and Executive Director of Nassau County Economic Development Board. Laura is the immediate past chair of the four state Aerospace Alliance and a co-founder of the LATAM Family Office Society, an exclusive organization based in Miami that works to bring Latin American family offices together by introducing LATAM family offices to the U.S. ecosystem and creating a collaborative environment with investors, family offices, and financial institutions.



Maria Nieves
Regional Sales Director, Cruise Logistics (North America)
Hellmann

[LinkedIn](#)

In her current role at Hellmann Worldwide Logistics, Maria Nieves is responsible for regional sales for Cruise Logistics in North America. She is also working on Marine Solutions while developing the company's Hotel & Hospitality sector. She joined the industry in 1999 and have worked in all aspects of the freight forwarding and logistics industry. Before joining Hellmann she worked at UPS Supply Chain Solutions, formerly Menlo.



Mark Baxa

President & CEO

Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals Int'l (CSCMP)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Full BIO](#)

Mark Baxa's supply chain industry career spans more than 37 years. He is President and CEO of the CSCMP and serves as co-lead for the St. Louis University Center of Supply Chain Excellence Global Supply Chain Certificate Program where he is an adjunct professional instructor. Mark has facilitated supply chain policy development at the U.S. federal level and has specific experience in logistics, distribution, global trade, procurement, sustainability, supplier diversity, training, and supply chain strategy leadership. He holds a B.S. in Agronomy and Crop Science from University of Illinois.



Nicholas Primrose

Chief Regulatory & Compliance

JAXPORT

[BIO](#)

Nicholas Primrose oversees the Jacksonville port's regulatory compliance in the areas of maritime law, environmental policy, emergency preparedness and risk management. Nick is an experienced public policy professional and licensed attorney. In addition to his work at JAXPORT, Nick serves on the Inaugural SelectFlorida Board of Directors and as Chair of the Florida Freight Advisory Committee. He previously was Deputy General Counsel for Florida Governors Rick Scott and Ron DeSantis, and General Counsel for the Division of Emergency Management. Primrose is a member of the Florida Bar and holds a Juris Doctor from Barry University, a Master of Public Administration from DePaul University, and Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and communications from Lake Forest College.



Raul Alfonso

Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer
Port Tampa Bay

[LinkedIn](#)

Full [BIO](#)

Raul Alfonso is the Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer of Port Tampa Bay. Since joining the port in 2013 as Chief Commercial Officer, Raul has led the port's commercial activities, with responsibilities for the areas in Real Estate, Planning, Marketing, Business Development, Communications, Operations, Facilities, Security and Branding. Raul has 35+ years of Port industry experience in Florida, Bahamas and Panama, and was recently recognized for his leadership and was honored with the Tampa Bay Business and Wealth Magazine's Apogee Award in the category of Chief Business Development Officer. He is a proud graduate of Florida International University, in Miami, FL and fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese.



Rick DiMaio

Executive Vice President, Supply Chain
Ace

[LinkedIn](#)

[BIO](#)

Rick DiMaio joined Ace in October 2022 as Senior Vice President, Supply Chain, to lead Ace's distribution, RSC traffic, and Corporate engineering operations. Prior to joining Ace, Rick served as SVP of Supply Chain Operations at The ODP Corporation (formerly Office Depot), where he had worked since 2012 in various leadership positions. Earlier in his career, Rick served as Vice President of Logistics Operations and President of Sears Logistics Services at Sears Holdings. Rick holds a bachelor's degree in Management and an MBA from Roosevelt University.



Royal Kastens

Director

Public Policy and Advocacy, SEMI

[LinkedIn](#)

Royal Kastens started his career as Special Assistant to Senator Edward M Kennedy. He worked as Legislative Assistant for the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. He has also worked as a consultant and Director of companies like Van Scoyoc Associates, Crowdpc and joined SEMI in 2022 as Director of Policy and Advocacy.

Royal holds a BA in Political Science from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and an MA in Government from The John Hopkins University.



Sophia Lopez

President

Kaleido.io

[BIO](#)

Sophia Lopez is a founder and COO of Kaleido. Sophia began working with blockchain in 2015 helping shape the community and developing new commercial approaches for the enterprise market. Prior to Kaleido, Sophia led the IBM Blockchain Platform product portfolio developing high-value offerings to help clients achieve better business outcomes. Sophia has held various leadership positions in IBM. She has an engineering degree from Harvard and an MBA from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She recently completed the Impact Center Women's Executive Leadership Fellow Program.



Susie Bobillo
Senior Director
Cruise Logistics, Kuehne + Nagel

[LinkedIn](#)

Susie Bobillo joined Kuehne + Nagel in 2011 as Cruise Logistics Manager where she handled 1000+ TEUs. In 2018 she was promoted to Seafreight Manager and in 2019 to Director Cruise Logistics. She was appointed to her current position in 2022. In 2014 and 2018 she received Supplier of the Year Award from Royal Caribbean Cruises. Susie is bilingual (English/Spanish).