



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 the University of Florida.



Ann Marie Woessner-Collins
Vice Chairman
Savills North America

[LinkedIn](#)

Ann Marie Woessner-Collins is a national expert and speaker in site selection and business and tax incentives negotiation and implementation. She joined Saville in 2018 as Executive Vice President and was promoted to Vice Chairman in spring of 2024. She analyzes locations for both new projects and expansions to provide the talent and lowest operating costs for client's businesses. Before joining Saville she worked for The Staubach Company and before that as Partner for KPMG. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of St Thomas.



Brady Breaux
Senior Director of Warehousing and Distribution
The Mosaic Company

[LinkedIn](#)

Brady Breaux is a proven logistics and supply chain leader. He joined Mosaic more than 10 years ago and has 25 years experience in the chemical transportation industry with an extensive background in the area of logistics and supply chain. Brady began his career as a professional bulk liquid transport driver handling, transporting, and delivering various hazardous bulk chemicals. Brady is Vice President - Port of Tampa Maritime Industry Association (PTMIA), Vice President - Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS), Vice Chairman - Tampa Port Authority Nominating Committee, Board Member - Tampa Bay Harbor Safety & Security Committee (TBHSSC) and Board Member - Tampa Cooperative Safety & Security Initiative (TCSSI). Brady holds an MBA from Texas A&M University.



Brian Nowak
President
Omni Bulk Services

[LinkedIn](#)

Brian Nowak is the President of Omni Bulk Services, sister company of Omni Transloading & Logistics, a new North American marine, rail, and truck transloading company based in Miami, FL. He oversees all aspects of the fast-growing Omni Bulk operation. Brian Nowak brings over 30 years of experience in the bulk, chemical, and food transportation industry to achieve explosive growth.



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 15 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.



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

[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. 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.



Elaine Singleton
Executive.Director
Monica Wooden Center for Supply Chain Management & Sustainability, Muma College
of Business, University of South Florida (USF)

[LinkedIn](#)

Elaine Singleton joined USF in October 2019, assuming the role of co-director of the Monica Wooden Center for Supply Chain Management & Sustainability. She joined from California where she was the officer and vice president of Technicolor Global Logistics. She was previously Vice President of North America supply chain for The Walt Disney Company and has held management positions with Williams-Sonoma and Target. Elaine's three-decade career has encompassed end-to-end supply chain operations that have included strategic design, tactical execution and team building. She holds an Masters of Science in Supply Chain Management from University of South Florida.



Emir Pineda

Director,Marketing.and.Air.Service.Development

Miami-Dade Aviation Department

[Bio](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Emir Pineda is the Director of Marketing and Air Service Development for Miami-Dade Aviation Department, overseeing airline planning, marketing, and air route development at Miami International Airport. He began his career at MIA in 1988 and returned in 2015 after 20+ years in the public and private sectors. Pineda serves as Vice Chair of TIACA's Board of Directors and holds board positions with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and World Trade Center. He is an Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduate.



Eric Lindberg

Head of Business Development Managers,Retail and Lifestyle

A.P. Moller Maersk

[LinkedIn](#)

Eric Lindberg is a visionary leader with over 20 years of experience in global supply chain, transportation, logistics, and technology. His expertise spans eCommerce logistics, customer experience delivery, and strategic design, driving high-yield results through complex problem-solving and cross-functional collaboration. Eric's passion for innovation and data-driven strategies has consistently led to outstanding sales performance and operational excellence. When he's not leading teams, Eric enjoys fly fishing, boating, and exploring the world of fine wines.



Frederick Wong
Deputy Port Director
PortMiami

[LinkedIn](#)

Frederick Wong joined PortMiami in June 2022, after leaving JAXPORT, where he served as Chief Operating Officer. Wong has more than 20 years experience in all facets of port operations and since 2014 has been responsible for all cruise, cargo and security operations as Assistant Port Director at PortMiami. Prior to that, Wong held positions of increasing responsibility at PortMiami from Seaport Harbormaster to Seaport Operations Manager. He began his career at the port as Cruise Operations Superintendent in 1997. Wong holds a double major in Management and Marketing from Florida Atlantic University.



Gary Goldfarb
Chief.Strategy.Officer
Interport Logistics, LLC

[Bio](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Gary Goldfarb is Chief Strategy Officer of Interport Group of Companies, a leading Supply Chain Management firm providing Foreign Trade Zones & Customs bonded warehousing, inventory control, transportation, distribution services and fulfillment and duty drawback expertise. Goldfarb helped grow The Miami Free Zone, with over 96% occupancy, reaching almost \$ 1 billion in trade in 2006. Prior to the Miami Free Zone, Goldfarb developed and obtained patents for software solutions for international logistics. He has more than 44 years in International Trade and Supply Chain

Management. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Board, BoardWorld Trade Center Miami and as Past Chair-Miami Dade Beacon Council.



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.



Jason Tenenbaum
SVP.Market.Officer?South.Florida
Prologis

[Bio](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

Jason Tenenbaum joined Prologis in 2015 as Leasing Manager, and was promoted to Senior Vice President, Market Officer – South Florida in November 2022. He has also served as VP Leasing Officer in NJ/NY and moved to Florida in May 2020. Before joining Prologis he worked at Cushman Wakefield in NJ. Tenenbaum holds a B.A. in Arts/Architecture from Clemson University. He has served on the Board of Directors for MHA (Morris Health Association of Morris County), for more than 10 years.



Jason Lau
Staff Product Manager, Product Integration
Aurora

[LinkedIn](#)

Jason 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 U.S. patents in autonomous vehicles operations and cargo management systems. Jay also holds a BS in Finance and MIS, an MS In Supply Chain Analytics.

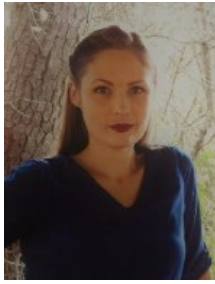


Jessica Gomez – KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Founder and CEO

[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.



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.



John Paul "JP" Brigneti
CEO / Founder
JPB Global Trade Solutions LLC

[LinkedIn](#)

John Paul Brigneti founded JPB Global Trade Solutions LLC in 2019 to help MSMEs improve working capital and free up "cash on hold" in their supply chains. With over 35 years of experience in logistics and procurement in the marine and cruise industries, he also played a key role for the US Navy, contributing to the MHC-51 Minehunter class and LSD-41 builds. His career began with Carnival Cruise Lines as an engineer onboard the TSS Mardi Gras. In 2005, John Paul secured the first supply chain finance contract for a Miami F&B distributor, enabling cruise ship provisioning in the EU through reverse factoring solutions. He also achieved the first-ever approval from the USG Bureau of Industry & Security to ship cargo containers from Port Everglades to Havana Cuba Cruise Terminal.

John is a strong advocate for solutions in the cruise and marine industries that drive cost reduction and operational innovation.



Joseph Morris
Chief Executive and Port Director
Port Everglades

Full [BIO](#)

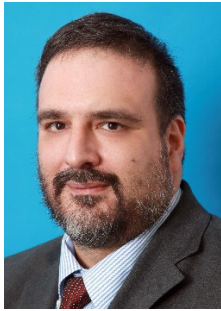
Joseph Morris was appointed Port Director of Broward County’s Port Everglades Department in June 2024. He was previously Port Director for the Massachusetts Port Authority where he had worked four years. At the Massachusetts Port Authority, Morris managed cargo and cruise operations, multiple real estate 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
CEO
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.



Lalo (Eduardo) Steinmann
Data Cloud Solution Manager, High Tech
Microsoft

[LinkedIn](#)

Lalo Steinmann is a seasoned business and technical speaker with over 20 years at Microsoft. As a cloud architect manager in Microsoft U.S., he brings unique insights from his work with large organizations, tech companies, and startups. Lalo has played a key role in the evolution of cloud technology, witnessing market transformations over the last 15 years. His experience includes serving as an architect in Microsoft Latin America and leading significant projects in the private sector, such as developing a ticketing application for Argentina’s top soccer teams. Lalo is passionate about mentoring and inspiring architects and business leaders, especially in Latin America.



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 ecosystems; 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.



Laura Pullins
Senior Director, Logistics
Princess Cruises | Holland America Line | Seabourn

[Bio](#)

Laura Pullins is head of Cargo, The Americas. Before that Pullins was director of the digital supply chain at Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based HULFT, a data integration services firm in the logistics space. She has held a series of logistics management positions at Ocean Insights (now part of project 44), Wholesome Sweeteners and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. She has had a career in logistics, sales and supply chain with companies like Whirlpool, Royal Caribbean Group and Ocean Insights.

She holds a B.A. of Arts from Siena Heights University and studied her MBA course work at Indiana University.



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 has worked in all aspects of the freight forwarding and logistics industry. Before joining Hellmann she worked at UPS Supply Chain Solutions, formerly Menlo.



Maricelis Montiel
President & CEO
Gemcap Logistics

[LinkedIn](#)

As the CEO of GEMCAP Trucking and GEMCAP Logistics Maricelis has led a South Florida based trucking and logistics company specializing in servicing the food industry, particularly critical cruise logistics, ship new build, and dry dock management. She has more than 25 years of experience in logistics and transportation and has successfully established and grown GEMCAP as a trusted and reliable partner for clients across the globe.

She holds an MBA in International Business from Nova Southeastern University.



Megan Orth
Senior Director Commercial Connectivity
C.H. Robinson

[LinkedIn](#)

Megan Orth joined C.H. Robinson in 2019 and was promoted to Senior Director Commercial Connectivity in 2021, based in Kansas. She joined C.H. Robinson from Freightview where she worked as Director from 2014-2019, and Freightquote from 2011-14. Megan holds an MBA and a bachelor's degree from Drake University.



Mario Lopez-Baratas
Chief Innovation Officer
Bravent

[LinkedIn](#)

Mario López Baratas is a Computer Engineer with more than 10 years' experience in projects using Microsoft technologies. Mario works as Chief Innovation Officer in Bravent where he leads projects using the latest technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, IoT, mixed reality, etc.

Mario is a lover of new, cutting-edge technologies and his hobby is to test and apply these technologies in different ways to develop new solutions. Mario has a degree in Computer Engineering from Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid.



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.



Matt Chestnut
VP Business and Economic Development
Space Florida

[LinkedIn](#)

Matt Chestnut joined Space Florida in 2018 and became VP Business and Economic Development in February 2022. He spent almost five years at Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation, part of that as VP of Business Intelligence & Operations, before that he was Economic Development Director for the City of Titusville, FL. Matt holds a master's degree in Public Administration from University of Nebraska at Omaha and is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD).



Nicholas Primrose
Chief Regulatory & Compliance
JAXPORT

[BIO](#)

Nicholas Primrose oversees JAXPORT'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 B.A. degrees in political science and communications from Lake Forest College.



Pamela Fuertes Berti

Dean

Miguel B. Fernandez Family School of Global Business, Trade & Transportation, Miami Dade College

[BIO](#)

Leading the Miguel B. Fernandez School of Global, Business, Trade & Transportation and the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program at Miami Dade College is Pamela Fuertes. In this capacity, Pamela serves as primary liaison between Miami Dade College and the business community in an effort to help support and drive impact that leads to student success, academic partnerships and community engagement. She serves on the Arts & Business Council, the Organization of Women in International Trade, the Miami Scientific Italian Community, the World Trade Center - Miami and the Alliance Française. She has received awards including the National Order of Merit with the rank of "Chevalier " by the Republic of France. Pamela received her Associate in Arts from The Honors College at Miami-Dade College and a B.A. and MBA in International Business from the University of Miami.



Paul Eason, Ph.D., P.E.

Vice President of Strategy and Innovation
University of North Florida

[Bio](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Paul Eason, Ph.D., P.E. is the first Vice President of strategy and innovation at the University of North Florida (UNF), and Director of the Materials Science and Engineering Research Facility (MSERF). Eason oversees the execution of the UNF Strategic Plan, which was updated this summer with an emphasis on key performance-based funding metrics, elevating UNF's rankings in U.S. News & World Report, and strategic growth to meet the talent demands of the region and beyond. He began his career at UNF in 2005 as an adjunct professor in the School of Engineering. Eason attended the University of Florida where he received his Bachelor of Science and Doctorate in Materials Science and Engineering.



Raul Alfonso
Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer
Port Tampa Bay

[LinkedIn](#)

Full [BIO](#)

Raul Alfonso is the Executive Vice President and 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 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 Hardware Corporation

[LinkedIn](#)

[BIO](#)

Rick DiMaio joined Ace Hardware Corporation 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 Senior Vice President 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 U.S. 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 B.A. in Political Science from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in Government from The John Hopkins University.