

Speaker Biographies – Regional Showcase Panel: Northwest



Moderator: Sokwoo Rhee

Associate Director for CPS Innovation

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Sokwoo Rhee is Associate Director for Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Innovation at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce. He is leading smart city and Internet of Things (IoT) innovation programs at NIST, including the Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC) and the Smart Cities and Communities Framework (SCCF) program. He previously served as a Presidential Innovation Fellow on CPS, a program by the White House. His work and achievements have been recognized through multiple awards including MIT Technology Review's Top Innovators under 35. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.



Isaac Landerburg

Chief Executive Officer

Launch Alaska

Isaac is the CEO of Launch Alaska and the fund manager for Launch Alaska Fund II — a \$3m fund that invests directly in the accelerators' cohort companies. Isaac has worked with hundreds of early stage companies and entrepreneurs responding to Alaska's food, water, transportation and energy challenges. His previous roles include State Director at the Alaska Small Business Development Center and Operations Director for Chispa Group (now Afina Holdings) an import-export firm in Philadelphia that specializes in trade between the Delaware Valley and Chile. He completed the Energy Executive Leadership Program at the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in Golden, CO as well the Energy Innovation and Emerging Technologies program at Stanford. Vanderburg sits on the Board of Commonwealth North, Greenstand.org, SXSW Pitch, and led the Energy & Energy Efficiency subcommittee and the Carbon Pricing subcommittee of Alaska's Climate Action Leadership Team under Governor Walker. In 2019 Isaac offered testimony on the role of Energy Innovation to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He played four years of NCAA Division I soccer and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador ('02).





Chris Walker

Telecommunications Director

Northwest Open Access Network

Chris has been with NoaNet since 2001 and has acted as department head for many of NoaNet's critical functions, including Network Operations and Engineering, Outside Plant Construction, Network Operations Center, Professional Services, and Community Outreach. Currently as the Telecommunications Director, he delivers on network growth and expansion, strategic planning, capital development of the outside plant, and broadband planning for emerging public benefit networks. He was the executive director of the NoaNet BTOP construction build-out and sets the architectural direction of the network facilities throughout

	<p>the state. Prior to NoaNet, Chris served 12 years in the armed forces in various management and leadership roles.</p>
	<p>Danae Wilson <i>Manager</i> Nez Perce Tribe Department of Telecommunications Services</p> <p>Danae Wilson has been in the technology field working to bring technology services to regions and communities where service does not exist or is extremely limited. She lives and works on the Nez Perce Reservation in Northern Idaho. She is currently the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Telecom & Technology Co-Chair, the FCC Native Nations Communication Task Force Committee Co-Chair and she sits on the FCC Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, and she’s also on the Native Public Media Advisory Board. Danae serves as the National Congress of American Indians representative to the FirstNet Authority, Tribal Working group and SAFECOM. Danae sits on the State of Idaho Broadband Task Force.</p>
	<p>Jonathan Fink <i>Director</i> Portland State University Digital City Testbed Center</p> <p>Jonathan Fink is Professor of Geology at Portland State University and Visiting Professor of Urban Analytics at University of British Columbia. He is Director of the Digital City Testbed Center, a PSU-based program that uses a network of five campuses in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver to evaluate smart city innovations. At UBC he helps run collaborative programs intended to strengthen the Cascadia Innovation Corridor megaregion, including leading a working group on Wildfire and Urban Smoke. He previously served as Vice President for Research for 6 years at PSU and ten years at Arizona State University.</p>