

## Speaker Biographies – Smart Agriculture and Rural Prosperity



### **Moderator: Mo Shakouri**

*Director, Community Broadband Initiative*  
Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Dr. Mo Shakouri, a Stanford Ph.D., is a Silicon Valley investor, entrepreneur, and international executive with over 25 years of experience in communications and electronics industry. He is well versed in formulating global partnerships and introducing broadband network initiatives to emerging markets, leveraging his vast business network rooted in San Francisco Bay Area and the entire US market. As an Internet connectivity evangelist, he has been working and/or liaising with multibillion dollar internet and tech companies. Mo's key areas of interest are: bridging Silicon Valley ecosystem to innovation communities, promoting affordable broadband internet technologies, the industrial Internet of Things (IoT), millimeter wave technologies for FTTx networks, and neutral host Shared communications infrastructure. Mo serves as Chairman of the WiMAX Forum, Director of community Broadband in Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Founder, co-chair NIST Ag Rural GCTC Supercluster and CEO of Microsanj.



### **Erik O'Brien**

*Program Manager*  
Denali Commission

Erik O'Brien joined the Denali Commission in November 2019 as program manager developing projects related to health facilities, housing, broadband, and economic & workforce development. Prior to coming to the Denali Commission, O'Brien was an economic developer for the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference. O'Brien has already stood up a statewide economic development partnership with the state and regional economic development organizations and is now positioning the agency to support statewide broadband efforts by collaborating with stakeholders at federal, state, and local levels. O'Brien has degrees in global logistics management and management information systems from UAA.



### **Andrew Nelson**

*Farmer & Software Engineer*  
Nelson Farms & Silver Creek Farms, Inc.

Andrew Nelson is a 5th generation Farmer in the Palouse Region of Eastern Washington. Before moving back to the family farm, Andrew was a software consultant in the Seattle Area and led software teams in developing solutions for multiple Fortune 100 companies. Since he has moved back to the farm, he has increased the size of his operation by 50%. He continues to do software consulting for clients around the U.S. as well as manage his farm. His approach to technology on his farm is to make his operation run more efficiently, reduce costs, increase yield, or improve the ground for future generations. His farm has hosted numerous members of the U.S. Congress as well as International trade delegations. Andrew holds a dual degree from the University of Washington, a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.A. in Business Administration. He lives on the farm with his wife and two sons.



**Josh Seidemann**

*Vice President of Policy*

NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association

Josh Seidemann focuses on federal regulatory issues as well as technology and market trends affecting the rural telecom industry at NTCA. He supports research initiatives and programming for Smart Rural Communities<sup>SM</sup>, a network of rural communities leveraging broadband-enabled applications to support broadband-enabled agriculture, education, health care, transportation and other industries. Seidemann is the staff liaison for the Innovation and Business Opportunity Committee.



**Jack Stucky**

*Vice President, Engineering*

Wabash Heartland Innovation Network

For more than 20 years, Jack Stucky has taken numerous performance-critical products from requirements analysis to optimized solutions, working primarily within startups in roles ranging from Software Architect to VP of Engineering. He holds a BS degree in Computer Science with emphasis on Operating System and Language design, and a BS degree in Mathematics, both from Purdue University. Jack's earlier work included high speed image processing of satellite imagery, leading a team in the development of several components of a commercially successful version of Unix, and creating the operating systems for parallel digital signal processing systems used by NASA JPL in their Deep Space Network. Jack's tech start up experience includes Spensa, as well as prior businesses where he developed Windows accessibility products for disabled users and next generation cellular telephone infrastructure based on an open source platform, among many other products. He is a highly skilled and experienced innovator and inventor.



**William Aderholt**

*Program Manager of Grand Farm*

Emerging Prairies

William Aderholdt is a lifelong learner looking to take on challenges and engage with the community. As the Grand Farm Program Manager, he works to establish relationships with government and institutions of higher education, assists with the development of the Grand Farm Initiative, and identifies and applies for grant funding opportunities. He holds a Doctorate of Philosophy from Montana State University, having studied and researched education, rural community, civil rights policy, and human out-migration in rural communities. Prior to his current role, William established diversity and inclusion programs and investigated civil rights discrimination. He enjoys spending time talking about the future of our communities and how technology will change the world.



**Harry Crissy**

*Extension Agent, Penn State Extension*  
Pennsylvania State University

Harry Crissy is a Penn State Extension Educator in Warren County. His academic research concentration (two MS degrees) at Penn State University focused on economic sustainability and consumer’s willingness to pay in tourism related industries. In addition, he holds a Professional Master Certification from Villanova University in Applied Project Management. He has been working as a regional extension agent for the past 14 years with three different land grant universities and a broad variety of agriculture operations. Harry works with communities, individuals, and government bodies to identify and implement strategies conducive to both economic growth and environmental health. Harry is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professional (LEED for Homes, LEED Building Design and Construction) and has worked domestically and internationally on development projects aimed at improving the circumstances of populations from all economic strata.



**Shawn Irvine**

*Economic Development Director*  
City of Independence, OR

Shawn Irvine has worked for the City of Independence since 2005 filling a variety of community and economic development roles. In addition to his role as the primary point of contact for businesses looking to grow or locate in Independence, Shawn led the City’s 2009 Vision 2020 action plan, and the 2013 Broadband Adoption and Utilization plan. He has coordinated several workforce development and entrepreneurship programs for the city, and created the City’s Test Drive Independence campaign, aiming to establish the community as a hub for testing and developing broadband-dependent technologies. This effort has led to a variety of successful partnerships with Intel, Oregon State University, and others. In 2017, Independence won an international smart city competition and partnered with an Italian company to deploy a virtual situation room. Prior to his time in Independence Shawn spent four years as a Municipal Services Development Specialist with the Peace Corps implementing transparency and citizen involvement projects in Paraguay, South America.



**Sam Musa**

*Chief Information Officer*  
U.S. Government Publishing Office

As Chief Information Officer, Sam Musa is responsible for managing IT policies and standards relating to the acquisition, implementation, and operation of Network Infrastructure, Telecommunications, Remote Access systems, Data Centers, IT Help Desk, and Server operations. He is also responsible for developing and maintaining IT operations budgets consistent with program plans and established financial guidelines, and for monitoring activities and costs related to the overall utilization of information resources required to meet program operations requirements. In this position, Musa is responsible for managing IT Customer

Services, Infrastructure Services, Network and Telecommunication, Enterprise Architecture, Applications Development, Cybersecurity, and Acquisitions and Budget Services Branches. These branches support day-to-day IT operations for GPO and its regional offices. Musa brings two decades of Federal Government IT and cybersecurity experience to GPO. Prior to coming to GPO in 2018, Musa served as Chief of IT Services for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Before EEOC, he was Information Systems Security Manager at the National Weather Service (NWS) where he led risks assessment and management, audit, governance, disaster recovery, and policy agency-wide. He also served as Information Systems Manager at the FBI and Network Operation Center Manager at the National Guard Bureau (Pentagon) where he began his IT career as a Helpdesk Manager. Musa also currently teaches network/cybersecurity courses at the University of Maryland G.C. He is a Certified Microsoft Artificial Intelligence Engineer, Certified Public Manager (CPM), Certified Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), and holds 15 certifications total. Musa holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, a Master's degree in Telecommunications, a Master's degree in Public Service, and a Doctor of Business Administration.