

Bios of Global Professional Participants

Panelists

David Crookham

Major, United States Marine Corps Reserve

Dave hails from the west side of Cincinnati. He is an alumnus of Elder High School and graduated in 2003 from Miami University with a B.S., Business Administration. He was commissioned a United States Marine Corps officer and served on active duty. A helicopter pilot during 12 years active duty, he twice deployed in support of global campaigns to include anti-piracy operations and spent one tour stationed in North Carolina commanding special search and rescue missions. With a return to Cincinnati in 2015, he took a Reserve assignment collaborating between Headquarters Marine Corps and U.S. Marines within the Ohio and Kentucky regions. Dave has flown 1675 hours with hundreds of missions; including 20 lives saved. In the interval time, he taught more than 40 national defense courses to class sizes of up to 300+ people. In addition to his officer responsibilities, Dave is also a sales executive at FaST Machine Tools and has valuable insight regarding the civilian workplace. A Marine for Life Representative, Dave mentors veterans in transition and hosts networking events where veterans meet and network with veteran resources in the Cincinnati, Northern KY, and surrounding areas.

Meagan Hawkins

Communications Director, The Chertoff Group

Meagan Hawkins is currently the Communications Director at The Chertoff Group, a global advisory services firm focused on security and risk management located in Washington, DC. In this capacity she manages the firm's media and public relations, marketing, social media, website, event planning and strategic communications initiatives. She also researches sector specific issues, policy developments, and media coverage of targeted topics of interest to The Chertoff Group and its clients. Before serving in this capacity she was Office Administrator, overseeing office operations and providing executive support to the firm's Principals.

Prior to joining The Chertoff Group, Ms. Hawkins spent 10 years in the non-profit and education sectors. Most recently she was the Associate Director of Development at Commonwealth Academy, an independent day school in Alexandria, VA. In this role she oversaw fundraising campaigns, alumni activities, served as the school's liaison to the parents' association and coordinated a variety of small and large scale events as well as student activities.

Before joining Commonwealth Academy, Ms. Hawkins was a Development Associate at The International Campaign for Tibet (ICT). She served as the primary point of contact for the organization's membership base and managed the acquisition of new members to the monthly giving program. She also actively participated in the writing and editing of fundraising appeals. This position enabled Ms. Hawkins to actively participate in events within the Tibetan community in Washington, DC including several events attended by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. She also traveled to Dharamsala, India with ICT's board members for meetings with the Tibetan Government in Exile and had an audience with His Holiness.

Ms. Hawkins holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Auburn University. She earned her Master of Arts in International Service from Roehampton University in London. During her Master's program she also completed coursework at the University of Technology in Kingston, Jamaica. She also spent time living and volunteering in Tanzania and Brazil.

Thomas Schultz

Data and Program Manager, Green Umbrella

Tom is a proud Cincinnati native thrilled to be pursuing his diverse sustainability interests, including energy, reporting and entrepreneurship, in his hometown. He earned a BA in Environmental Studies and East Asian Studies from Denison University, a Masters of Public Affairs with concentrations in sustainability and sustainable development, and a business certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from Indiana University. Before joining Green Umbrella, Tom worked as an Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Consultant in DC supporting several federal contracts, including the EPA's ENERGY STAR labeled products program. Tom served as an environmental education and conservation Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay from 2011-2013 and is an alumnus of the Environmental Defense Fund Climate Corps Fellowship program, having worked with City of Cincinnati officials to implement various energy efficiency initiatives detailed in the City's Green Cincinnati Plan.

Lindley Winchester

Senior Language Engineer, Amazon

Lindley is currently a Senior Language Engineer at Amazon where her work focuses on putting Alexa technology into cars. She lives in Seattle, WA but relocated from Washington, D.C. two years ago, where she received her PhD from Georgetown University in Linguistics. She's originally from Florence, KY and went to Ryle High School then on to the University of Kentucky for her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in

Linguistics. Her main motivator for pursuing higher education is her love of traveling and has been able to visit a variety of countries through research and study abroad opportunities, including the UK, Egypt, Germany, and Malta, and presented at conferences across the US at universities, such as Princeton University, UMass Amherst, NYU, and UT Austin.

Moderator

Deborah E. Schultz

Former President and Founder, Trans-Borders Solutions

Advisory Board Member, World Affairs Council of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky

Deborah Schultz was the President and Founder of Trans-Borders Solutions (TBS) a consulting firm for global non-profits and businesses, principally in the areas of new project development, strategic planning, international trade investment opportunities and fundraising. TBS specialized in never-done-before projects and new-markets trading. She has a lifelong association with the World Affairs Council and serves currently on the Advisory Board.

Ms. Schultz is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Miami University, has an M.A. from The George Washington University's Elliot School for International Relations and an M.P.A. from the Stene School of Public Administration at the University of Kansas. She was awarded the Richard Bjornson Prize for public contributions to the humanities in Ohio in 2008, and in 2010 accepted a Governor's E-Award for support of trade and investment in Ohio through her Middfest International work.

Ms. Schultz is also principal founder of the award-winning Middfest International, (1980--2020) while she was an Assistant City Manager in Middletown, Ohio. (pop. 50,000) and afterwards as a consultant. This educational foundation over 40 years, brought thousands of foreign diplomats, top business officials, scholars, international performing and foreign visual artists, artisans, journalists, and authors for a celebration to tell in depth the good and difficult stories of a different country each year. Featured countries included Egypt, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Botswana, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, South Korea, South Africa, New Zealand, Brazil, Scotland, Norway etc. Each year's events were tailored to the featured country, but typically included such activities as an Ambassador's lunch, trade conference, special country specific projects, teachers handbooks, and exhibits such as art, culture, science, history, and buildings among others.. Home stay visits for our many overseas participants, as many as 457 during retrospective years, provided an exchange component. Scholarly discussions, crowd pleasing performances of every kind, such as sports and cooking activities, and as well as programs for teachers, students, and the general public were the norm. U.S. and foreign embassies participated, universities here and abroad, local immigrant groups, and major U.S. institutions such as the National Geographic, Society, Japan Society, Asia Society and Smithsonian. At its peak Middfest International attracted 125,000

people to a wide range of activities all year long, culminating in a week-long celebration in October. Run by a small paid staff, there were over 1,000 volunteers each year who ran numerous committees. Ms. Schultz is currently writing a history of Middfest International.

She is also a Senior Advisor and a Founder of All We Are/Solarize Uganda Now (AWA/SUN). At the end of 2021, AWA will celebrate the installation of solar LED lighting in schools and refrigeration and lighting in clinics for a total of 51 installations in rural Uganda.