

Representative Joanna McClinton

Speaker of the House

Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton was first elected in 2015 to serve communities in west and southwest Philadelphia, as well as Yeadon and Darby in Delaware County.



As a state lawmaker, she has made history three times! First in 2018 when she became the first woman and first African American to be elected as House Democratic Caucus Chair, and again in 2020, when she was the first woman elected House Democratic Leader in the institution's 244-year history. In 2023, McClinton was elected Speaker of the Pennsylvania House – the first woman to serve in that position in the nation's oldest legislature.

A lifelong resident of southwest Philadelphia and graduate of Grace Temple Christian Academy, she became active in her community while completing an internship with radio station WDAS. Later, she studied Political Science and Leadership in Global Understanding at La Salle University. After earning her degree, she enrolled at Villanova University School of Law, interning at Regional Housing Legal Services, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

She was an assistant public defender for seven years and became assistant chief of the East Zone during her last year, helping attorneys with case preparation. In 2013, Speaker McClinton combined her passion for public service and law by becoming chief counsel to state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams, where she worked behind the scenes to develop policy and legislation; organize expungement fairs and public policy forums; and assist constituents.

Speaker McClinton has earned several distinctions for her commitment to public service including City and State PA's 40 Under 40, Power of Diversity: Black 100, and Above & Beyond lists, the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia's Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year award, Fun Time Magazine's Women of Influence Award, the PRE-K for PA Champion award, the Lucien E. Blackwell Guiding Light Community award, the Black Gala Women of Excellence; and Politico Recast's Power List 2022.

Senator Sharif Street

Democratic Chair, Banking & Insurance

Senator Sharif Street, elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 2016, represents the Third Senatorial District of Philadelphia, which encompasses a population of over 240,000 people in North Philadelphia, Nicetown, Lower Germantown, Logan, Olney, Fern Rock, Crescentville, East Oak Lane, East Wyoming, East Hunting Park, Francisville, Fairmont, Lawncrest and Melrose Park Garden.

An attorney by profession, Sharif began his public career as a community activist organizing a Town Watch group while in law school. He graduated cum laude from Morehouse College with a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, where he served as president of the Penn Law Democrats. He is currently a member of the American, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and National Bar Associations, as well as a member of the Philadelphia Barristers Association, for which he served as a board member in 2002.

Before being elected Senator, Sharif worked as a staffer for the Pennsylvania Senate, serving as the Chief Legislative Advisor to the Democratic Chair of the Housing and Urban Development Committee and had the primary responsibility for overseeing legislative, housing, environmental and economic development initiatives. During this time, he facilitated the creation of Philadelphia Green Communities, the first environmental educational program of its kind implemented in a major U.S. city. Sharif helped to found and served on the Board of Directors of Urban Solutions, a non-profit corporation created to address the health needs of traditionally under-served communities.



Since being elected, Sharif has become one of the few Senators in Pennsylvania to chair two committees simultaneously, currently serving as the Democratic Chair of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee and the Senate State Government Committee. Sharif also serves as a member of the Senate Appropriations, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Local Government committees. He is a co-chair of the bipartisan and bicameral Crime Prevention Caucus, co-chair of the University of Pennsylvania caucus, member of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission and served previously as Democratic Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Election Integrity and Reform.

As Senator, Sharif has dedicated himself to issues that make the lives of Pennsylvanians better. He was instrumental in the creation of PENNIE, Pennsylvania's state-based health insurance exchange, and created the Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program in the 2019-2020 state budget. Sharif has written and introduced legislation to combat climate change, reform Pennsylvania's criminal justice system, and is the main co-sponsor of Pennsylvania's first bipartisan bill to legalize and regulate adult-use cannabis.

A known advocate of affordable housing and community development, Sharif has a depth of knowledge and experience in dealing with eminent domain acquisition, low-income housing, women and minority issues, and disadvantaged business certifications. He has served on the Council for HOPE VI, has been a featured presenter at the National Public Housing Resident Empowerment Conference, and has served as managing director of the Housing Association of Delaware Valley. Additionally, Sharif has served on the board of the North Central Philadelphia Empowerment Zone's Housing Trust Fund and was a member of the North-Central Empowerment Zone's Community Advisory Committees for Housing, Crime and Public Safety, and Economic Development. He has served as a board member of the Columbia North YMCA and is a current member of the Philadelphia's African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs Commission.

In 2018, Sharif was elected Vice-Chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party where he helped oversee the Democratic victories in the 2018 midterms and the election of President Biden in 2020. In 2022, Sharif made history when he was elected the first Black chairperson of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party during Juneteenth weekend.

Sharif is a father of five children and lives in North Philadelphia with his wife, April.

Angela Callie

Principal

Clear Direction Consulting



Angela Callie lives in a rural township near Nazareth PA, with her husband, Henry. She recently retired from the Federal Government after 40+ years of service.

She has recently started her own consulting firm, **Clear Direction Consulting**, which has as its mission to help customers search for and discover answers that will lead to breakthrough transformational business results, improved organizational culture, leadership development, and team growth. She works with clients to help

them discover their full capacity and potential. Clients improve organizational communications, collaboration skills, and engagement methods in order to enhance and expand business capacity and delivery. The objective is to have staff discover and create strategies that will improve their competencies to work both internally and externally. **Clear Direction Consulting** guides its customers to examine organizational issues by asking tough questions, leading crucial conversations, and searching for answers by blending experts with staff through guided conversations. Ultimately, Angela guides her clients to discover solutions with concrete create strategies for implementation, which she provides guided planning and execution.

Angela has over 30 years of experience in strategic planning, facilitation, and leadership development. Before her retirement, Angela worked for the Federal Government by starting with the Department of Defense as a Contract Specialist, buying Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and nonperishable food for the Armed forces. She transferred to the USDA in 1988 and became involved in community development activities in the early 1990s. She worked in loan activities, community planning, and civil rights.

She served as the Northeast Regional Coordinator for USDA Rural Development (RD) and provided technical assistance and guidance to the 13-northeastern state region. She applied principles of partnering, collaborating, leveraging, strategic planning, and community convening to assist rural America.

One of her main responsibilities was to support the northeast region as they work in the delivery of community capacity building, wealth building, and poverty reduction in the communities USDA-RD assisted across those states; and to fulfill the USDA-RD mission of creating economic opportunity and improving the quality of life for rural Americans.

She has her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Millersville University – and received a master's level Certification in Community and Economic Development through Penn State University's World Campus. She also received a certification in Fundamentals of Instruction and Effective Teaching Techniques.

She has served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Pennsylvania Rural Leadership Program (RULE) and continues to provide support to that program by providing various presentations. She has also served as a member of the Management Team as a Facilitator for RULE and is excited to continue to support RULE as an alternate facilitator for this current class.

Evelyn Wald

Licensed Professional Counselor

Evelyn Wald was a licensed professional counselor in Centre County for 28 years. She specialized in grief and loss. She is also an ordained Lutheran minister.

Evelyn is the founder of House of Care, a home for low income persons who are at the end stages of their lives. She is "semi-reitred," but still works as the Program Director for TIDES, a program for grieving children and those who love them and facilitates a Suicide Survivor



group. She has been an active change agent of the Centre County Out of the Darkness walks for suicide awareness and prevention.

She believes, like Readers Digest, that, "laughter is the best medicine," and incorporates humor into her work and life. She likes to ride her bicycle, too!

Evelyn has been a frequent guest lecturer for RULE and is a graduate of RULE XII. She's happy to be presenting to RULE again.

Hilary Hauck

Writer & Translator

An alumna of the Shining RULE XVI, Hilary Hauck is the author of *From Ashes to Song*, and *Wrong Kind of Magic*. Dubbed 'an extraordinary novel' by The Midwest Book Review, *From Ashes to Song* was inspired by the true story of three Italians who immigrated to the US ninety years before she did. In her Christmas story, *Wrong Kind of Magic*, Marley discovers that true magic lies within.



Hilary's writing has also appeared in anthologies in the *Mindful Writers Retreat Series*, *Like Sunshine After Rain*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *Balloons Lit Journal*, *Writer Writer Pants on Fire*, *Centered*, and *State College Magazine*. She has appeared on *Indiana in the morning*, *Brown Posey Press Show*, and *The Backpack Show*.

Raised in the UK, Hilary later moved to Italy, where she mastered the language, learned how to cook the food she can no longer eat, and won a national karate championship. After meeting her husband, she settled in the US, where she studied the craft of writing and the art of leadership and at last came to grips with her imposter syndrome.

Hilary has served as area representative and president of the statewide writers' organization, Pennwriters, and was thrilled to be awarded the Pennwriters

Meritorious Service Award in 2021. She is the co-founder and current Chair of the Festival of Books in the Alleghenies, which supports authors, community, and literacy.

She studied translation at City, University of London, and holds the Chartered Institute of Linguists Diploma in Translation. She is delighted to join the Management Team of Pennsylvania's Rural and Urban Leadership Program. Hilary and her husband, Darryl, live on a small patch of woods in rural Pennsylvania. They have three adult children, three grandorables, and a cat with a penchant for laundry.

Stephanie Shirk

Client Relations Manager

Penn State Extension

Stephanie Shirk is the Penn State Extension Client Relationship Manager (CRM) for Area 9, which includes Lancaster, Lebanon, Schuylkill, Berks, Chester and Delaware counties. Recent PA RULE (Rural-Urban Leadership) program scholar with RULE XVIII's class, this summer Stephanie will complete a Strategic Management and Executive Leadership Master's Degree with a focus in Corporate Innovation and



Entrepreneurship along with a graduate certificate in Diversity & Inclusion as Strategy from Penn State's SMEAL College of Business. She has worked for over 25 years as a communications consultant, stakeholder relations and non-profit organization manager for a diverse range of organizations, including New Holland Agriculture, Fritz & Associates and The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation. Prior to joining Penn State Extension, she also worked as a Development Specialist at Penn State Harrisburg for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Nebraska and graduating from Millersville University with a degree in Speech Communication, Stephanie's varied background in agriculture, communications, stakeholder and public relations, organizational management, and development provides a solid foundation for elevating Penn State Extension's efforts in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Stephanie and her husband, Jim, love encouraging their three young adult children to spread their wings. They recently purchased the Shirk family's Bicentennial Family Farm in eastern Lancaster County and added movie location for "Brave The Dark" to the farm's accolades. Stephanie also enjoys outdoor recreation, volleyball and home renovation projects.

Brandon Wiley

Founder and CEO, OpenedEyes

Brandon is a Licensed Mental Health Therapist in the state of Pennsylvania. He works at the Department of Veteran Affairs as the Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator in Suicide Prevention. Brandon is originally from Sharon, PA and is a graduate of Gannon University, with his Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Brandon founded his organization OpenedEyes because of his personal battles as a biracial man growing up with a black father and white mother. Brandon is a motivational speaker, consultant, and diversity trainer. He and his OpenedEyes team conduct various workshops, retreats and trainings to schools, businesses and organizations nationally. Additionally, Brandon is the-Co-Chair and Co-Founder of Erie PA's "Black and Brown Communities on Mental Health and Wellness Coalition" As well as the VP of Programming of Erie's 100 Black Men Chapter.



Board service:

Brandon serves as a Board Member on UPMC Hamot's Board of Corporators, WQLN's Community Advisory Board, The Nonprofit Partnership of Erie, and The Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO). Awards/Acknowledgements:

- Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership "Community Spirit Award" recipient
- Excellence in Government Gold Award by the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board in Diversity & Inclusion
- Erie Reader Magazine 40 under 40
- National Keynote Speaker

Writings:

Journal of Prevention and Health Promotion. Co-Author. "Addressing Black Youth Suicide: The importance of Participatory Research and Coordinated Responses.

Jefferson Educational Society. Co-Author. "Truth in Love: How to Conduct Culturally Conscious Conversations"

Harry Crissy

Extension Educator, Penn State Extension

Harry Crissy is a regional Penn State University Economic Resource Development Extension Agent in Northcentral Pennsylvania. 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 Neighborhood Development, 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.



His academic research concentration (two MS degrees) at Penn State University focused on economic sustainability and consumer's willingness to pay in tourism and service-related industries. In addition, he holds a Professional Master Certification from Villanova University in Applied Project Management that has provided the necessary skills to actualize concepts. 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 small business and public leaders.

His recent geoanalytic work includes efforts aimed at improving broadband access to unserved and underserved communities. By reducing the asymmetry of information between industry and consumers, this work intends to reduce marketplace friction and create a more inclusive understanding of investment and partnership opportunities involving public resources. By working directly with industry and partnering with public bodies at the local, state, and national level, Penn State Extension has been able to create an evolving educational instrument to enable industry actors and public leaders to clarify barriers to service delivery and to develop projects addressing these.

Dr. Katherine Cason

*Interim Associate Dean College of Agricultural Sciences
and Director, Penn State Extension*

As interim Director of Penn State Extension, Cason provides strategic leadership for the development, delivery, and evaluation of extension education programs statewide; develops and administers the extension education program planning process and related reporting activities; creates and fosters collaborative, coordinated programming relationships among faculty and extension staff across all units within the College of Agricultural Sciences; and builds programmatic relationships between Penn State Extension and other colleges and partner outreach enterprises at the University. Cason administers the Extension budget, program, and personnel matters in accordance with federal, state, local, and University policies and secures new federal, state, and local government funding; private funding; and extramural grant and contract funding to support Extension programming.



A registered and licensed dietitian, she holds a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics from Penn State University, an MS in Nutrition from the Texas Woman's University, and a PhD in Nutrition from Virginia Tech. A registered and licensed dietitian, Dr. Cason holds a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics from Penn State University, an MS from the Texas Woman's University, and a Ph.D. in Nutrition from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Cason has extensive experience in community education and outreach, resident instruction, and research. Her research is in the areas of socioeconomic, cultural, and ecological factors on food choices, nutrient intake, food purchasing and preparation practices, and level of food security among limited resource audiences and the impact of nutrition education on dietary adequacy, food and nutrition practices of children, youth and adult audiences.

Madra Clay

Central Regional Director

Department of Community and Economic Development

Madra is a Central Regional Director at the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development. In that role, she helps to connect for-profit, nonprofit, and local government entities with financial resources, training, and technical assistance. Previously, she served as a Local Government Policy Manager with the Governor's Center for Local Government Services. She worked with local municipalities to regionalize their police and fire services, assess their internal effectiveness, and assist EMS agencies in providing effective and efficient services to their communities. Madra has worked in a variety of roles at DCED, including overseeing a federal entitlement program, to address the needs of low-income families, managing a multimillion-dollar statewide homelessness program designed to get individuals and families rapidly housed or to prevent them from becoming homeless, and a statewide training program for municipal officials. Prior to her 21 years of public service, Madra worked at for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

Madra holds a Master's in Business Administration with a specialization in Leadership from Capella University and a BA in Psychology from Millersville University.

Madra grew up in the City of Philadelphia and learned many lessons in life by playing basketball on the local playgrounds. She turned that skill into a scholarship and played basketball in college. The love of sports helped Madra gain a competitive spirit, which she has used to challenge herself in all aspects of life.

Madra enjoys traveling, food, billiards, and hanging out with friends. She considers herself a foodie and has traveled to Argentina, just to enjoy food at a restaurant owned by a famous chef. Madra is a professional boxing official with the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission. She currently lives in Lancaster and has one son and two German Shepherd dogs.



Terrace Mountain Alpacas

Alpaca Farm & Store

Terrace Mountain Alpacas is a family owned Agri-tourism Alpaca farm; Bob and his son, Daryl are partners, located in Trough Creek Valley near Calvin, PA next to Raystown Lake. Our bloodlines include: Snowmass Matrix, Dorian, Hemingway, Snowmass Drambuie, 4PLegacy, Legacy Gold, Don Julio (Alianza), Accoyo Caligula, Macusani, Jolimont Peruvian Pauco, WRA Peruvian Sancho.



Come visit us at the farm, "Get Up Close & Personal" with our

alpacas. Pull out a chair and stay for a while, we love talking about alpacas. We are now "PA Preferred" and "HomeGrown By Heroes" on our own yarn, rugs, woven scarves, dryer balls, rug yarn, shawls, socks, insoles, and hats.

We are breeding for the future, healthy & fiber superior quality alpacas with each new generation. Check out Smoke, Sundown, Misty, Polar, Hershey,

Jade, awesome alpacas: and now the next generation. Smoke'n Turbo, Keystone Galaxy, Matrix Juniata Moon, Matrix Otto to the Max, Sunset Fields Stratus (Orlando son) and the list goes on. Over 30 alpacas live here.



JD Dunbar

*Director, Pennsylvania Rural-Urban Leadership Program
Penn State Extension Senior Educator*

JD is a wordsmith by profession and a speaker/educator by trade. She claims that she's been trying her whole life to prove that her parents didn't pin her with a misnomer— "Joy." Her background is an eclectic blend that incorporates time served in industry, in Communication for the General Electric Company; time served in community service, as the Director of the Clarion Chamber of Commerce; and a stint in private business, as an Advertising Manager for Paul Weaver Jewelers. She is currently the Program Director of RULE, the Pennsylvania Rural-Urban Leadership Program, based at Penn State, and has held that position for 34 years. Her Penn State title is Senior Extension Educator where she is engaged in leadership development delivery, leadership diversity support, as well as search committees, proposal design, and professional writing. Her robust purview of responsibilities comes with a barometer to ensure each day looks vibrantly different. She is an international public speaker on leadership & communication. A 13 year member of the *National Speakers Association*, she has been featured in keynotes in eight countries and 20 states. A trustee of the PA State System of Higher Education for 14 years, JD started her sixth term as Chairwoman for Clarion University Council of Trustees during the State System transition to an integrated university. She has been active in the PA Council of Trustees (PACT) on the state level, formerly as Governance Chair, developing trustee position description, accountability forms and Council of Trustee evaluations. She is on a quest to elevate Student Trustee visibility. She was recently nominated by the Governor Wolf as an inaugural trustee due to founding of PennWest, an integrated University, comprised of the campuses of Clarion, Edinboro and CalU. JD serves the Penn West Council Of Trustees on the Executive Committee, as Secretary and as Co-Chair of Student Affairs.



JD Dunbar

Educated at Clarion University (BA & MS) and Penn State (ABD), JD completed a Kellogg fellowship in leadership development at the National Center for Food and

Agricultural Policy in Washington, D.C. She taught Speech Communication classes at Penn State. She is an alumna of the Pennsylvania's RULE Leadership Program, Class II.

She sums up her job and advocacy roles by saying that she is a, “*leadership grower.*”

JD has been presented with several distinctions:

- Gubernatorial appointment by Governor Tom Wolf to PennWest Council of Trustees- 9-2022.
- Elected Chair of Clarion University Council of Trustees—2017-2022.
- Named by former Governor Ed Rendell to Clarion University Council of Trustees; reappointed by former Governor Tom Corbett & Governor Tom Wolf—2009-2022.
- Named to Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, Clarion Chapter for her efforts in Community Leadership— 2017.
- Leadership In Action Award on behalf of RULE, Penn State Ag Council—2015.
- Outstanding International Leadership Director Award, International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership—IAPAL—2000.
- Member of the Governor's Rural Advisory Council—2004-2011.
- DeBoer Distinguished Teaching Award from Penn State-1989.

JD was honored to launch RULE Class XIX in the Fall of 2022 with targeted curriculum cogs. JD was entrepreneurial to the last RULE Class XVIII (2017 – 2022) remote pivot to webinar series on contemporary leadership issues. She has brokered common currency with other leadership directors from around the world as speakers and guideposts. She meets her international and state leadership director colleagues regularly and was inaugural team member of launching, “*Global Zoom Converges Quint Programs: What Makes A Good Leader?*” with four countries and five programs over three time zones. She also developed novel Safety Protocols for hybrid settings including deployment of, “*Screen Shepherds,*” to engage remote and in-person attendees.

A once avid distance runner, JD has completed twenty half marathons and six full marathons. She is currently cross training by boxing and weightlifting. She is a fitness advocate, proud that she has been directed by a personal trainer for 30 years. She lives in an Amish built home called the Happy Valley Villa with her forever new husband, Hank, and Whiskey River (canine, not libation).