

Presenter Biographies

Leah Arter

Leah Arter is a Regional Performance Specialist and Federal Project Officer (FPO) in the Division of Financial Management and Administrative Services in the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Philadelphia Regional Office. As a Performance Specialist, Leah works with the Region's team to conduct review and analysis of grantee performance to ensure compliance and support performance through the development and provision of targeted technical assistance.

Like all Regional Performance Specialists, she supports quarterly and annual reporting activities, data validation operations, grantee performance negotiations, and evaluation of grantee performance. Through this work, she provides compliance assistance, conducts oversight and review of grant performance, and delivers or arranges technical assistance to assist grantees in reaching grant outcomes and goals.

Prior to joining ETA, Leah's passion for workforce development began during her 12 years as an owner/operator of a screen printing and promotional products company in Southern New Jersey. She later served as the Director of Strategic Partnerships for the American College Consortium developing and managing the organization's relationships with public and private colleges and universities across the United States to deliver training and education on behalf of our corporate partners.

She also was the Director of Business Engagement for Rowan College at Burlington County's Workforce Development Institute. In her role at the Institute, she worked to ensure the education and training provided was highly valued in the marketplace. To do so, she analyzed and responded to business and industry needs by building partnerships and programs that met the needs of individuals, businesses, and the community.

Chanel Castañeda

Originally hired under the ARRA Act of 2009, Chanel Castaneda has worked for USDOL-ETA for the past 14 years in the Regional Offices and as a member of the Office of Grants Management in ETA's National Office. During her time in the Division of Compliance Assistance and Policy, Chanel has been part of Uniform Guidance/ SMART training (training over 5,000 people); WIOA Convenings (training on One-Stop Operator Competition; MOU and

Infrastructure, and Conflict of Interests and Firewalls); developed an updated Core Monitoring Guide, MOU and Infrastructure Sample Toolkit, E-SMART, and is currently assisting in developing various program supplements; the writing and editing of various guidance, handbooks, and desk-aids; and providing technical assistance on the financial and administrative aspects of grant management. Her work on the SMART training and the Core Monitoring Guide has been recognized with a Secretary's Award.

Her previous roles and responsibilities in the Regional Office included: fiscal contact for the states of Missouri, Kansas, and Indiana; point of contact for Single Audit resolutions; trade benefits; and numerous monitoring reviews. Before joining the USDOL-ETA, Chanel was a public auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers as a senior associate in the Consumer and Industrial Products and Services sector.

Chanel is a licensed CPA in the state of Illinois. She is a proud graduate from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in accounting with a minor in Spanish. Chanel currently lives in Chicago with her husband and her little puppy. She is also an avid reader, loves to travel, and enjoys playing 16" softball in Grant Park.

Angela Dayton

Angela Dayton brings 23 years of executive level leadership, workforce development expertise, and grant creation and execution experience to the table. She has a comprehensive knowledge of US DOL ETA programs and applicable statutes, regulations, policies, and ETA standard operating procedures and is able to strategically implement this knowledge to enhance the workforce investment system and the associated grantees. Angela has developed and provided trainings, technical assistance materials, and national policy communications for the US DOL ETA. She has multiple certifications for administration and oversight of Federal grants and cooperative agreements and has mastered the code of Federal Regulations including 2 CFR 200; FAR 31; and Title 29. Angela has presented 100+ workshops, keynote speeches, podcasts, and panel discussions to audiences of 10-30K on topics ranging from being a value-driven leader to succeeding as an entrepreneur in the gig economy.

Christelle Domercant

Christelle started her position at the Office of Grants Management in September 2016, working within the policy unit of the Division of Policy, Review, and Resolution before it became the Division of Compliance Assistance and Policy. As a Senior Grants Management Specialist, she provides technical guidance to program officials, grants applicants, and recipients on the interpretation, application, and implementation of applicable laws and regulations, policies, and procedures. Typically, her work includes developing technical assistance desk aids, editing white papers, providing trainings as well as developing handbooks. She is also the point of contact for managing the content on the internet and intranet pages, producing surveys for the unit as well as managing the unit's contracts.

Before starting at DOL-ETA, Christelle was a Peace Corps volunteer and served 27 months in Costa Rica in 2013-2015 as a Community Project Manager and Educational advisor and facilitator. While living in Costa Rica, she managed funding and assets worth over \$20,000 USD and raised an additional \$2,000 USD to build a Learning Center and staffed it with supporting personnel.

Christelle earned her Master of Arts degree in Sustainable Policy and International Development and Management Monitoring and Evaluation. She is now a DC resident. She enjoys travelling, painting, and going to museums.

James Lambert

James has been with the USDOL Employment and Training Administration for seven years. He has worked as an analyst with the Office of Foreign Labor Certification and as a Federal Project Officer on the workforce development side of ETA, out of the Chicago region. After a stint with the ETA national Office of Grants Management fiscal policy unit, James became the Division Chief for the Division of Workforce Investment in the Chicago regional office in 2021. James received his BS from the University of Wisconsin, JD from Rutgers University, and a master's degree in Bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Brad Sickles

Mr. Sickles started his work with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Grants Management, in 2020. He serves as a supervisory Grant Officer for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) under a shared services agreement. Prior to 2020, he was a senior program analyst with the Veterans' Employment and Training Services' (VETS) Office of National Programs starting in 2015. In this role, Mr. Sickles focused on grants management policy and procedural issues. He came from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development where he spent the last two years leading an initiative to transform the reporting and performance management approach used by over 11,000 competitive grants. He has significant experience with employment and training programs. Prior to joining HUD, He worked for the regional office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, in Atlanta, as the Chief of the Division of Workforce Investment in the Office of State Systems. The division was responsible for managing and tracking the performance of 130 formula-funded grants to states in the southeast. He has 28 years of experience in administering and evaluating grants and related programs at the local, state, and federal levels. Prior to coming to the Atlanta regional office, Mr. Sickles worked for ETA's National office in Washington, DC, and worked as a contractor with the KRA Corporation in Silver Spring, MD. Mr. Sickles also worked for the Georgia Department of Labor as a performance specialist and for two local areas in Georgia prior to working with the KRA Corporation. Mr. Sickles obtained his undergraduate degree from Ball State University and his M.P.A. degree from the University of South Florida.

Debbie Strama

Debbie currently works in the Office of Grants Management at the USDOL-ETA as the Division Chief for the Division of Compliance Assistance and Policy (DCAP). Debbie has assisted in the development of regulatory language and technical assistance products related to the Department's implementation of the Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 2900 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act including the One-Stop Operations provisions on Infrastructure Costs contained in the Joint Final Rule. She also was involved in the development of the revised ETA-9130 forms (2014), revamped Core Monitoring Guide, SMART Uniform Guidance training (see link below), and the Sample MOU and Infrastructure Costs Toolkit (see link below).

Previously, Debbie worked as an accountant in the Chicago Regional Office and performed numerous financial compliance reviews of ETA programs including the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Unemployment Insurance (UI), American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and many other special initiatives.

Debbie holds a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and resides in a suburb just outside of Chicago, Illinois with her three children. She also enjoys and appreciates another ETA – Elvis Tribute Artists!

Sample MOU and Infrastructure Costs Toolkit *available at*

[https://ion.workforcegps.org/resources/2017/03/23/13/30/Sample MOU Infrastructure Costs Toolkit](https://ion.workforcegps.org/resources/2017/03/23/13/30/Sample%20MOU%20Infrastructure%20Costs%20Toolkit)

SMART Uniform Guidance and grants management training, *please turn to:*

<https://grantsapplicationandmanagement.workforcegps.org/>

Glarion (GW) Webb, CWDP, CGMS

GW has been with the USDOL Employment and Training Administration for 18 years. He has worked as a Management Program Analyst with the Division of Financial Management and Administrative Services (DFMAS) the entire time. He began his federal service with INS Immigration Naturalization Service which later became DHS, Department of Homeland Security of which GW was a Founding Member in 2003. He later joined DOL/ETA in 2005. GW is also a proud Veteran of the United States Navy where he served for over 20 years of service before retiring. He is known throughout the entire workforce system as an astute Financial/Grant Management Specialist providing training and technical assistance to both formula and discretionary grantees including oversight, management, and monitoring of federal awards.

Tazeen Zehra

Tazeen Zehra is a Grants Management Specialist for the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Washington, DC. She is responsible for the administration of grant/cooperative agreements, resolving administrative findings and questioned costs through the

auditing process, serves as the liaison with grantees, Department of Labor senior staff and the Office of Inspector General.

Tazeen has over six years of project and grants management experience with both the public and private sector. She has experience with pre-award and post-award monitoring of grants and cooperative agreements with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Department of Health and Human Services. She managed \$5.7 mil federal grant for home-based childcare program. She provided technical assistance to 23 grantees across the USA and conducted monitoring and evaluation of the programs funded through the grant. She has also worked with international development organizations in South Asia and Africa.

Prior to joining ETA, Tazeen worked with the Department of Commerce where she was responsible for community outreach and developing community partnerships with South Asian communities, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, South Asian entertainment industry (theater arts, local show organizers, television, and radio shows), small businesses, Urdu-language newspapers, and grassroots entities.

She holds a B.A. in International Relations from San Francisco State University, CA, and a Masters in International Development from California State University, East Bay, CA