

**Business Commerce and Tourism Committee  
Requestor: Senator Paul Rosino**

**Interim Studies**

**IS-2020-27 Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
and  
IS-2020-28 Oklahoma Air Service Development Grant Program  
Speaker Bio Information In Order of Appearance**

**James Grimsley**

James Grimsley, Executive Director of Advanced Technology Initiatives for the Choctaw Nation; District 2 Commissioner – Oklahoma Transportation Commission; Governor’s UAS Advisory Council (2011-2015); FAA Drone Advisory Committee-Subcommittee

Mr. Grimsley is a nationally recognized expert on policy and technology related to drones and autonomous systems. He has appeared in numerous press outlets since 2007 speaking about technology policy issues and is a recognized speaker on the topic at international conferences and events. Mr. Grimsley will testify on several legal issues (which government has jurisdiction/federalism, etc.), the need for regulatory certainty as much as possible, and policy that encourages drones rather than the opposite.

**Basil Yap**

Basil Yap, North Carolina Department of Transportation

Basil Yap serves as program manager for the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division of Aviation’s Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program. In this role, he leads, envisions and directs efforts that position North Carolina as a global leader in UAS (drone) safety, government integration, commercial and economic development, and knowledge creation. That includes ensuring North Carolina maintains the nation’s best drone safety record; maximizes state and local agency use of UAS technology to improve public services and operations; builds a world-leading UAS economy; pursues research and innovations that promote drone safety, government integration and commercial development; and designs and advocates for supportive public policies on the local, state and federal level. He also serves as UAS subject matter expert and advisor for North Carolina industries and state government.

Among Mr. Yap’s accomplishments are working with the North Carolina legislature to establish UAS-specific laws addressing safety and privacy, establishing the NCDOT UAS Program Office, creating and managing the N.C. UAS knowledge test and permitting system, proposing and leading the state’s Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP), leading NCDOT’s Hurricane Florence UAS response, and creating and managing the state’s unmanned traffic management (UTM) system.

## **Dr. Amber L. Wilson**

Dr. Amber L. Wilson, IACE, ASC, Manager of Aviation Technology, Virginia Department of Aviation

Dr. Amber L. Wilson is the Manager of Aviation Technology for the Virginia Department of Aviation. In that capacity, Dr. Wilson works closely with agency leaders to guide the Commonwealth's growth and oversight of unmanned aerial systems and the UAS industry. This is accomplished through developing and recommending rules and regulations to ensure the safe operation and integration of UAS and other emerging technologies with manned aircraft, and educating the public on UAS benefits and safe operations. She serves on the Unmanned Systems Advisory Board for the Virginia Unmanned Systems Center at the Center for Innovation, served on the Advisory Board for Untrafficked, manages the Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council and SB307 DOAV UAS Work Group, supports legislative liaison efforts for the Virginia General Assembly, leads the HB742 DOAV Work Group and manages the Virginia Flight Information Exchange.

Dr. Wilson completed her Ph.D. in International Development from The University of Southern Mississippi. Her research focused on aviation's role in human trafficking and through that research, she developed human trafficking training for the aviation industry. She completed her Master's of Science degree in Aerospace, specifically Aviation Safety and Security Management and her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Airport Management from Middle Tennessee State University. She is an anti-human trafficking and aviation expert, has extensive human trafficking training, earned the International Aerodrome Certified Employee distinction and the Airport Security Coordinator certification. Her current research focuses on Unmanned Aircraft Systems, aviation role in human trafficking and aviation safety. Dr. Wilson is a McNair Scholar, is the recipient of a number of national awards, has numerous publications, has received over a dozen grants, has collected primary data in the field domestically and internationally, received appointments to several boards and organizations and is a member of various professional organizations.

## **Dr. James Leiman**

Dr. James Leiman, Director, North Dakota Economic Development and Finance, ND Department of Commerce; Interim Director, Workforce Division

Dr. James Leiman is the Director of the University of Minnesota Veden Center for Rural Economic Development and as the Director of Economic Development and Finance for the North Dakota Department of Commerce. Prior to joining Commerce in May 2018, James was a City Administrator in Minnesota. Before arriving in the Midwest, James managed a significant transformation portfolio at the Department of Veteran's Affairs in Washington, DC resulting in a 30% reduction in the national claims backlog. As the lead for Integration and Synchronization, James oversaw a \$140 million per year program and hundreds of employees which revamped the business process for thousands of employees.

Before joining VA, James managed several National Security programs at the Departments of Homeland Security, State and Agriculture where counter terrorism efforts were the focus; James also served in the Army and is a proud veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom where he was recognized for achievement overseas by serving as an Intelligence Analyst and interpreter. After over a decade of fighting terrorism, James sought to use his skills to solve domestic issues.

James has taught undergraduate and graduate courses for the University of Texas at El Paso since 2008, Tulane University since 2011 and Georgian Court University since 2010. In addition, James has taught and lectured at institutions such as Marymount University, New Mexico State University and Kent State. James has been retained since 2011 by the State of New Jersey university system to provide specialized management training and mentorship to Homeland Security, law enforcement and military professionals. Dr. Leiman holds a PhD from the North Dakota State University, James also is the owner of The Maso Group, LLC, a real estate investment firm in North Dakota as well as Enzo's Mango, a private equity investment firm. James is a proud husband and father and lives in Fargo, ND.

## **Gregory McNeal**

Gregory McNeal, JD/Ph.D., Professor of Law and Public Policy, Pepperdine University; co-founder of AirMAP

Professor Gregory S. McNeal, JD/PhD, is an expert on technology law and policy and teaches courses related to surveillance and crime. He has served on the Federal Aviation Administration's Micro Unmanned Aircraft Systems Aviation Rulemaking Committee, the Federal Aviation Administration's UAS Registration Task Force, Aviation Rulemaking Committee, and the FAA's Remote Identification and Tracking Aviation Rulemaking Committee. He has testified before Congress and state legislatures about the legal and policy issues associated with emerging technologies and has advised venture capital firms and other investors, start-ups, NGOs, law enforcement, consulting firms, insurance companies, and Fortune 500 companies about the legal and regulatory issues associated with emerging technologies. He is also an IAPP Certified Information Privacy Manager.

## **Dr. Jamey Jacobs**

Dr. Jamey Jacob, Director of Oklahoma State University's Unmanned Systems Research Institute

Jamey Jacob is the Director of the OSU Unmanned Systems Research Institute John Hendrix Chair and Professor of Aerospace Engineering in the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Oklahoma State University. His current efforts are focused on observation and measurement applications of unmanned aircraft and their enhanced operation in the national airspace for commercial and industrial applications. He is currently lead on a \$5+ million NASA project to use drones to aid in future weather prediction and reporting for advanced aerial mobility, including drones and urban air taxis. He received his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1990 and his M.S and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1992 and 1995, respectively. He was a National Research Council Summer Faculty Fellow in the Air Force Research Laboratory and received the SAE Ralph Teetor Award, the Lockheed Martin Teaching Award, and the OSU Regents Distinguished Teaching Award, among other teaching and mentoring awards. He is a native Oklahoman and dedicates much of his efforts to K-12 education and STEM workforce development and outreach, particularly to the tribal population.

### **William (Bill) Swelbar**

William “Bill” Swelbar, Chief Industry Strategist for Delta Airport Consultants and Research Engineer at MIT’s International Center for Air Transportation

Mr. Swelbar has over 25 years consulting experience with a focus on airline labor cost restructuring, regulatory issues governing air transport, communication strategy and support, and air service development on behalf of airports and communities. He is one of the authors of the MIT Small Community Air Service White Paper series and is nationally recognized on air service development issues. He has assisted both the states of Wyoming and Indiana in establishing and administering their respective programs in this regard. Mr. Swelbar has also served on the Board of Directors for Hawaiian Airlines since 2005.

### **Nickolas (Nick) Wangler**

Nickolas (Nick) Wangler, Owner; Forecast, Inc.

Mr. Wangler holds a degree in Aviation Management, Economics, Planning, and Business Management, and has over 20 years of experience in the aviation industry. In 2005, he founded Forecast, Inc, a consulting group headquartered in Colorado that specializes in air service development and commercial aviation planning for airports, airlines, and government agencies. He was instrumental in assisting the State of Wyoming in the creation of their Air Service Development program.

### **Shawn Burke**

Shawn Burke, Air Service Development Program Manager and Analyst for Wyoming Department of Transportation

Mr. Burke has over 10 years work experience in the aviation industry and over five years with the Wyoming DOT specifically working in air service development, where he developed and implemented Wyoming’s first state-administered multi-community, long-term agreement for commercial air service and secured state support for the program. He is responsible for oversight and evaluation of Minimum Revenue Guarantee (MRG) project grants within the Wyoming Air Service Enhancement Program (ASEP) and for providing information and analysis of the program, and before that, worked with Frontier Airlines looking at potential routes and their respective markets.

### **Mark Wasky**

Mark Wasky, VP of Innovation & Strategic Initiatives, Indiana Economic Development Corporation

Mr. Wasky has worked for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) since late 2014, and, as part of his current role, works in air service development to increase nonstop connectivity within Indiana’s airport system. He previously served as the IEDC VP and Counsel for the Government and Community Affairs Division and as Policy Director and Counsel, and early in his career, worked for the Indiana Senate as a Legislative Assistant.

## **Alexis Higgins**

Alexis Higgins, Tulsa Airport Authority

Alexis Higgins was named chief executive officer of Tulsa Airports Improvement Trust, the operating entity for Tulsa International Airport and R.L. Jones, Jr. Airport in March 2019. She oversees the administration, operation, and development of both airports and their combined 5200+ acre campuses.

Previously, Alexis served as chief operating officer and director of marketing and air service. Her twenty-year career with TAIT has focused on building relationships with airport employees, customers, tenants, and the community in support of developing campaigns and strategies that drive airport activity. In April 2019, the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association named Alexis as the Outstanding Woman in Aviation and Aerospace award recipient.

Alexis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Tulsa where she was named Outstanding Marketing Graduate, with a degree in marketing and double minors in management and Russian language. In June 2010, she achieved the designation of Accredited Airport Executive through the American Association of Airport Executives.

In addition to her work at the airport, she serves on the advisory boards of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Tulsa Community College's aviation program. She also actively supports Challenge Air for Kids and serves on their Tulsa Fly Day event committee.

## **~~Barbara McNally – Had to cancel due to family emergency~~**

~~Barbara McNally, Lawton Fort Sill Regional Airport~~

## **Paul Priegel**

Paul Priegel, Stillwater Regional Airport

Paul Priegel is the Director of Stillwater Regional Airport. Paul joined the airport team in 2017 as Assistant Airport Director and took over as Airport Director in 2018. Paul holds a MS in Aviation and Space and a Certified Member designation through the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). Paul is also very active in the AAAE organization, serving as member of the US Contract Tower Association Policy Board, the chair of the South Central AAAE Chapter's Academic Relations Committee and the Vice Chair of the National Academic Relations Committee. Paul also is the Vice President of the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association (OAOA), having previously served as Secretary and Regional Director.

Paul has spent the last 10 years serving as an adjunct professor for the Oklahoma State University's School of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Aviation, teaching in a variety of Aviation Management and Security classes. Paul is also an active member of the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Board of Directors and also as a member of the Chamber's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committees.

## **Mark Kranenburg**

Mark Kranenburg, Oklahoma City Airport Authority

Mr. Kranenburg began his civilian career in aviation in 1993 as an Airport Operations Officer at Will Rogers World Airport. In 1994 he became the General Aviation Manager of Wiley Post and Clarence E. Page Airports, a position he held until 2001. He then served as the Assistant Director of San Bernardino County's six general aviation airports and later as the Director of Riverside Airport in Southern California. Mark returned to Oklahoma City in 2005 to accept the position of Airports Director.

Mr. Kranenburg holds a degree in Aviation Management and is an Accredited Member of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). He has served on AAAE's Board of Directors and Policy Review Committee and is a past President and Legislative Chairman for the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association. Prior to his civilian aviation career, Mr. Kranenburg also served as an air traffic controller both in the United States Air Force and with the Federal Aviation Administration.