

Pandemic Economics: What does it mean for Rhode Island?

PANEL #3: JOBS AND SECTORAL CHANGES IN RI | June 8, 2020

SPEAKER BIOS

WELCOME, SERIES WRAP-UP, AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE



ROSS GITTELL, PH.D., Economist and Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire; Incoming President, Bryant University

Distinguished economist and economic development expert, Dr. Ross Gittell, the Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) since 2012 will succeed Ronald K. Machtley as Bryant University President in July 2020. Highly regarded in economic and policy circles for his economic analysis and forecasting, frequently served as an expert resource for government, non-profit, and business leaders regionally and nationally on such issues as economic policy, workforce development, and the business climate. He previously was the James R. Carter Professor in the Department of Management at the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire. He also has taught at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, and in the School of Education, Economics Department and Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University, an M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Chicago.

MODERATOR



JOHN KOSTRZEWA, former Business Editor, *Providence Journal*; Adjunct Professor, English and Cultural Studies, Bryant University

John Kostrzewa is an adjunct professor at Bryant University. He teaches Writing Workshop to first-year students. He is an award-winning, veteran journalist who worked for 29 years at the *Providence Journal*, including 19 years as Business Editor. Kostrzewa directed four *Providence Journal* public service series: *Reinvent Rhode Island*, about the state's economy; *eWave*, about the digital revolution; *Middle Class Squeeze*, about income inequality; and *Race in Rhode Island*. In 1991, he covered Rhode Island's credit union crisis. He has earned awards from the New England Associated Press News Executive Association; and the Society of American Business Writers and Editors. Kostrzewa is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross.

PANELISTS



SCOTT R. JENSEN, Director, Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Scott Jensen is leading Governor Gina M. Raimondo’s skills agenda, designed to give Rhode Islanders the tools to succeed in the 21st-century economy. Jensen implemented Real Jobs Rhode Island, a competitive workforce and economic development grant platform that empowers employers to customize their job training solutions. The program has served 1,300 local businesses and more than 8,500 Rhode Islanders. Jensen previously served as Deputy Secretary of the

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. Jensen holds a BA in History from Illinois State, and a Master of Arts in Liberal Education from St. John’s College in Annapolis, MD.



EDINALDO TEBALDI, PH.D.

Edinaldo Tebaldi is a professor of economics at Bryant University and member of the Council of Economic Advisers to the Governor of Rhode Island. He previously served as an Economist for the World Bank and as an Advisor for the New England Public Policy Center of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He has extensive experience in econometric methods, policy analysis, and economic impact assessment. He has published over thirty articles in refereed journals, and

co-authored several cross-countries studies and reports analyzing economic conditions across New England states. Tebaldi is a sought-after media and has provided commentary in top tier publications including, [*Financial Times*](#), [*U.S. News & World Report*](#), [*Boston Globe*](#), and [*Providence Business News*](#). He earned his Ph.D. at University of New Hampshire, U.S., and his MA at Federal University of Ceará, Brazil.



Laurie White has been President of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce

for since 2005. The Chamber is devoted to growing the state’s Innovation Economy through advanced industry formation, entrepreneurship, medical, academic and industry collaboration, technology transfer, talent recruitment and competitive tax policy. Her dedication and accomplishments have been recognized by the many organizations she supports, and most recently she was named Business Leader of the Year by Providence Business News in

2019. White previously served as Executive Counselor to the Governor and as Public Information Officer at the Department of Economic Development. She is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in 1981.



DALE VENTURINI

President and CEO, RI Hospitality Association and RI Hospitality Education Foundation

A veteran of more than 30 years in the hospitality industry, Ms. Venturini is considered by many to be the voice of the industry in the State of Rhode Island. At the helm of the largest hospitality trade organization, she has been instrumental in improving the industry’s educational and training programs in the State, as well

as enhancing the bottom line of the businesses she represents. She is a Commissioner of the RI Convention Center Authority and past Chairman of the Board of the Providence/Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau.