

Moderator Bios

These were the moderators from the 2014 East Kentucky Leadership Conference in Somerset, Kentucky.



Jason Belcher

Jason Belcher is the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Appalachian Institute for Research and Development. Prior to becoming CEO of CAIRD he worked as a Senior Global Intelligence Analyst for Target. Jason also worked for Science Applications International Corporation as a civilian intelligence analyst. He holds a Master of Science degree from Troy State University in International Relations and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Kentucky.



Peter Hille

Peter Hille became the Executive Vice President at MACED (Mountain Association for Community Economic Development) in 2012. He will be working directly with MACED's programs in energy, forestry and enterprise development. A 1977 graduate of Swarthmore College, he lives with his wife in a passive solar home they designed and built in the midst of fifty acres of forest near Berea, Kentucky.



Lonnie Lawson

Lonnie Lawson began his tenure with The Center for Rural Development in 1997 as Director of Business & Finance and assumed the duties of General Manager in 1998. He became President and CEO of The Center in 2002 where he serves today. Lonnie is a member of various organizations including Vice President on the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber board, a member of Kiwanis International, and served as Commissioner of the Kentucky Appalachian Commission.



Brad Parke

Brad Parke is from Hindman, Ky. He is a board member of the Central Appalachian Institute for Research & Development (CAIRD) and the Young Professionals of East Kentucky (YPEK). Brad is in his final year of studies at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, VA.



Jason Bailey

Jason Bailey serves as MACED's Research and Policy Director and is Director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. Since 1998 he has worked as a researcher and advocate addressing economic development and economic security issues in Kentucky. Jason serves on the Kentucky Commission on Small Business Advocacy. He has a



Jeff Spradling

Jeff Spradling became the director of the Robinson Scholars Program in December 2009. At UK, he has also served as research administrative coordinator at the Center for Poverty Research and the assistant director of the Appalachian Center. He is in his 10th year at UK.



Ron Daley

Ron Daley, the Senior Director of Institutional Advancement at Hazard Community and Technical College, has been active in P-16 Council work on the local and state level. He is the former publisher and editor of the Troublesome Creek Times in Knott County and the founding director of the University Center of the Mountains.

master's in public administration with a specialization in public finance from New York University and a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College.

Spradling has also worked at Union College, Morehead State University, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.



Lois Combs Weinberg, M.Ed.

Lois Weinberg is Director of the non-profit IDEA (Institute for Dyslexia Education in Appalachia): Center of Excellence. She was instrumental in the bi-partisan passage in the 2012 Legislature of House Bill 69, which for the first time recognizes dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and aphasia in Kentucky statutes. She is founder of the James Still Learning Center, the dyslexia program at the Hindman Settlement School in Hindman, Kentucky. She received her M.Ed. from Harvard University in 1997.