



Together for ALICE Speaker Bios & Photos

Dr. Jarrett Brunny

United Way of Pierce County Vice President of Community Impact



As United Way of Pierce County's Vice President of Community Impact, Brunny plays an integral role in helping the organization bring people together to break the cycle of poverty with a coalition of advocacy and human service partners, including the Center for Strong Families, South Sound 211, Growing Resilience in Tacoma (GRIT), and an expansive network of public and private partners serving with a common purpose.

Brunny brings a wide variety of skills and depth of knowledge to this role, including more than 20 years as a volunteer with United Ways across the country, executive experience in nonprofits, and 12 years of professional accomplishments in public health informatics, program development and evaluation.

Sebrena Chambers

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Strengthening Families Division Director United Way of Pierce County Board of Directors Vice Chair



Sebrena is the Strengthening Families Division Director and leads the Racism and Resilience Action Response Team for the Tacoma - Pierce County Health Department. Sebrena has been with the health department for almost twenty years.

She was raised in Tacoma and has always been active in her community. She has served on many community boards and has been on the Board of Directors for United Way of Pierce County for over eight years and is currently the vice chair.

Sebrena graduated from the University of Washington and has a Master of Business Administration and Public Administration from City University.

As the Racism and Resilience Action Response team lead, Sebrena works collaboratively with staff, leadership, and community partners.

Markiss A. Cooper **Co-Owner iHAUL**



Markiss is a longtime resident with deep roots in Tacoma. His earlier career centered on youth mentorship in addition to sports coaching and leadership development. He provided youth services to large organizations, including Metro Parks, YMCA, and The Boys and Girls Club of the South Puget Sound. He is also one of the founding Peer Support Counselors at SOAR Academy (Tacoma's first Public Charter School).

When Markiss and Ashley met in college, they knew they'd met their match. Each has a passion for their community and for uplifting those in need. As their family and careers grew, they began building a plan for their own business in an effort to do more. By the start of 2018, Markiss and Ashley established iHAUL in Tacoma. Since its start, iHAUL has grown quickly from small residential contracts to streamlined commercial accounts.

Markiss studied business management at The Evergreen State College. In addition to his education, he has used his network and relationships in the community to help grow iHAUL into a local business that employs local workers.

Markiss and Ashley live in Tacoma with their four daughters, Aja, Tyra, Avree, and Skylar.

Jim Cooper **United Ways of the Pacific Northwest President & CEO**



Jim Cooper has served as President and CEO of United Ways of the Pacific Northwest, the trade association for local United Way organizations in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, since 2013. He also serves on the Olympia City Council since 2011, where he is currently chair of the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency Board. Jim also serves on the governor's Poverty Reduction Work Group & the Secretary of State's Combined Fund Drive Advisory Council.

Jim has nearly 30 years of nonprofit, corporate and government leadership experience working to achieve positive outcomes for people and the environment. His experience includes community organizing, finance, non-profit leadership, construction management and public policy.

As an Army veteran and Eagle Scout, Jim stands up for issues that affect health and safety, while working to make Olympia the best place in America to grow up and live. He is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Thurston County and made the Business Examiner's 40 under 40 list in 2013.

Jim loves the outdoors and lives in Olympia's Carlyon/North Neighborhood with his wife Thomasina, daughter Maggie and dog Rusty.

Tamorro Farrell

Washington Hospitality Association, Pierce County Territory Manager



Tamorro Farrell is the Pierce County Territory Manager for the Washington Hospitality Association. The Association supports hospitality business owners such as restaurant and hotel owners with cost-saving programs, resources to save time and legislative advocacy.

Tamorro has served Pierce County in her role for 9 years, educating business owners about the benefits of being an association member then connecting them to the resources, making sure they're aware of industry changes and regulations, getting them access to money saving programs, and being their go-to person for assistance when questions and challenges arise.

Dona Ponepinto

United Way of Pierce County President & CEO



Dona has been the President and CEO for United Way of Pierce County since 2014 and has been with the United Way movement for more than 30 years. Locally she led a groundbreaking tri state research project on the financial stability of families, launched eight Center for Strong Families sites based on proven, national model and served on the Governor's Poverty Work Group.

Dona has consistently been very engaged in her community and has demonstrated strong leadership through service and board membership. She is President Elect of The Association of Junior Leagues International and she is a member of the Junior League Tacoma. In addition, she serves on boards of the Pierce County Aids Foundation (PCAF), Tacoma Art Museum, Wellfound Behavioral Health Hospital and the Workforce Development Council. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve as a Board of Trustee for Tacoma Community College.

Dona holds a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Counseling with an emphasis in children and families from Creighton University.

Chris Serface

Tacoma Little Theatre Managing Artistic Director

Silas High School Drama Director



Chris Serface is the Managing Artistic Director, Tacoma Little Theatre, and Silas High School's Drama Director. He is President 2020-2022, American Association of Community Theatre.

Chris was raised in the Pacific Northwest (Olympia), where he discovered the theatre at an early age and became involved with the local community scene. During his educational and professional career, he has traveled throughout the West, working closely with many theatres as an actor, technician, director, musician, volunteer, or board member (sometimes all of them at the same time). In his previous professional experiences he served as; a District Manager for Hollywood Video (Utah, Arizona, California, and Washington), managing 18 retail locations; Company Manager

for Capital Playhouse, and Education Director for Tacoma Musical Playhouse. For the last eight years he has served as the Managing Artistic Director of Tacoma Little Theatre. He currently sits on the board of the Washington State Community Theatre Association, the American Association of Community Theatre, and The Rotary Club of Tacoma #8.

J'nai Starks

South Sound 211 Workforce Navigator



My name is J'nai Starks, and I am the Workforce Navigator at South Sound 211.

I am super passionate about being able to help those in my community who are in crisis find solutions to their problems. I am given that opportunity by working at South Sound 211 every day. I can be that empathetic voice on the other end of the line to help people push through their issues.

I believe that laughter is the best medicine, so I am there to provide a laugh or two whenever given a chance. I enjoy life living in Tacoma with my husband and two teenage boys. I am an unpublished author of children's books, as I have written a few books over the years to read to my children.

I look forward to spending time with my mother every week. According to her, I am a pretty good daughter mom, stern but fair.

I have worked with 211 for nearly four years, and I am excited to see what the next four years bring.