

2024 NATIONAL PROPANE EDUCATION & TRAINING CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 21 – 22, 2024

SPEAKERS

Bridget Kidd, *Chief Operating Officer, PERC*



In her role as COO, Bridget leads coordination across PERC teams to ensure all activities align with strategic priorities and expected outcomes. She works with PERC's executive leadership team, state associations, and other related groups to support the development and execution of the organization's business strategy, as well as all PERC development initiatives, policies, rules and procedures. and propane-industry-facing initiatives. Bridget also oversees and leads the grant management and funding processes for national and state grants, advisory committee oversight, workforce outreach, industry engagement and outreach, and plans industry events and programs to include non-safety industry training. These roles carry over from Bridget's time as senior vice president of industry relations from 2017-2023.

A graduate of Villanova University in Philadelphia with a bachelor's degree in communications, Bridget also has a master's degree in organizational development and leadership from Saint Joseph's University, also located in Philadelphia.

Eric Kuster, *Senior Vice-president of Safety, Education & Compliance, PERC*

Eric Kuster joined the Propane Education and Research Council as the Vice President of Safety, Education and Compliance in August of 2019. In this role Eric has overall responsibility for PERC's safety, training and compliance programs including the Certified Employee Training Program (CETP) and works with industry stakeholders on programs and delivery options for a variety of industry related educational programs.



Eric Kuster started his career in the propane industry in 1990 working in almost every aspect of wholesale and retail propane operations including Director of Safety and Training for a multistate propane and petroleum marketer. He then expanded his safety career as the National Director of Risk Engineering for an insurance underwriting company providing safety and compliance guidance, incident investigation and subject matter expertise for industries including propane, natural gas, and explosives. Most recently Eric held the position of Director

of Safety and Certification for the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) before his move to PERC as the Vice President of Safety, Education and Compliance in August of 2019.

Carl Bisson, *Senior Consultant, Risk Engineering, Crum and Forster*



Carl has 32 years of experience in the propane and fuel oil industry serving in a variety of positions from delivery, service, and maintenance; along with safety management and training. For the past five years, Carl has served as a safety consultant with Crum and Forster Insurance providing risk management service for propane and petroleum marketers. Carl lives in Maine.

Jim Bunsey, *Senior Manager of Safety and Compliance, PERC*

Jim Bunsey is the Senior Manager of Safety and Compliance for the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC). He is responsible for PERC's safety and regulatory programs. He has been involved in the design and installation of numerous propane and natural gas liquid fuel terminals and over 600 propane autogas infrastructure installations. Bunsey is a member of the National Propane Gas Association's Technology, Standards and Safety Committee, the National Fuel Gas Code Technical Committee (NFPA 54) and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code Technical Committee (NFPA 58).



John Hansen, Partner, McCoy Leavitt Laskey, LLC

John Hansen is a partner with the McCoy Leavitt Laskey LLC law firm. John, who is based in Kansas City, has spent the past 25 years defending the very largest to the very smallest propane marketers as well as propane wholesalers, pipelines, refineries and transporters. John has defended propane related lawsuits in more than 40 states and has successfully tried numerous catastrophic cases. John also serves as national counsel for PERC and has provided legal advice on consumer warnings, CETP training and the GAS Check program among his various assignments. John also represents the National Propane Gas Association and several state associations. John is a frequent lecturer on propane safety issues having presented to more than 75 different groups.



Christopher Hanson, Director, Learning Center Operations & Educational Projects, PERC



Christopher's primary focus is the overall management, maintenance, and administration of the Propane Industry's Learning Management System (LMS) application and environment. He is the primary contact for vendor support, maintenance, notifications, releases, and updates.

Margaret Hiatt, Educational Content Manager, PERC

Margaret is the Educational Content Manager and is responsible for managing the design of content for PERC's educational, training and compliance programs. She joined PERC in the Fall of 2020. Margaret did her undergraduate work at The Pennsylvania State University and her graduate work at Boise State University.



David Latourell, Director of Regulatory Compliance, Safety & Training, Paraco Gas



David is currently the Director of Regulatory Compliance, Safety and Training at Paraco Gas, the largest privately held Propane Marketer based in the Northeast. In this role, he directs policy and procedures, training curriculum and all DOT/OSHA/AHJ compliance for the company, as well as serving as the primary Insurance Claim Loss Investigator and handler for the organization. He also has been an Emergency Responder for various Fire Departments for the past 25+ years and leads Paraco's Emergency Response team and Propane Emergencies Response Training outreach.

Andrea Pavon, Senior Manager for ACE Services, National Propane Gas Association

Andrea Pavon, Senior Manager for ACE Services, has worked with NPGA since 2021. Her initial role within the association was in the Membership Department until she began managing the ACE Services Program from its inception in February of 2022. Since then, the program has seen 3,000 enrollments. Andrea's role now focuses on promoting ACE while still maintaining oversight of the program.



Lyndon Rickards, Director of Safety & Compliance, PERC



Lyndon Rickards is the Director of Safety and Compliance with the Propane Education and Research Council. He has over 35 years of experience in the propane industry serving various job functions that range from a service technician, delivery driver, trainer, to safety, compliance, and risk management.

Alex Smith, *Director of Codes and Standards, National Propane Gas Association*



Alex Smith is Director of Codes and Standards for the National Propane Gas Association. Alex has a degree in renewable energy engineering from the Oregon Institute of Technology as was previously at NAHB as Program Manager for Green Codes and Standards. Alex has had experience in high and low-voltage power distribution, residential and commercial solar installation, and building energy certification prior to his work in codes and standards. Alex is committed to helping the propane industry find a productive path towards carbon reduction.

Daniel Stein, *Director of Client Solutions, Next Wave Safety Solutions*

Daniel Stein is the Director of Client Solutions at Next Wave Safety Solutions. He works with subject matter experts and a team of artists and developers to design, create, support, and promote virtual reality safety training. Daniel has worked in the VR industry for the past 8 years and holds several certifications in the industries he creates training for (including construction safety, industrial powered vehicles, active shooter instruction, and defensive driving). Daniel holds a bachelor's degree in history from Skidmore College.



Eric Taylor, Director of Safety, Palmetto Propane Fuels & Ice



Eric Taylor has served the propane industry for over 20 years. Eric is employed by Palmetto Propane Fuels & Ice in Batesburg, South Carolina, as Director of Safety and serves on the Executive Board of the Southeast Propane Alliance. Over his career Eric has held numerous roles within South Carolina's propane industry including Chair of the Safety, Education and Training Committee for the South Carolina Propane Gas Association and Southeast Propane Alliance for over 10 years, member of the South Carolina Investigative Review Board for the SC LP Gas Board, and various committees pertaining to the adoption of multiple cycles of code adoption in South Carolina. Eric works with Innovative Captive Strategies and their captive Insurance group Progressive Energy Group on reviewing, managing, and collaborating on various loss generators for the Workers comp other general losses.

Scott Weatherford, Director, Safety and Compliance, Blossman Gas & Appliance, Inc.

Scott Weatherford has worked in the propane industry for Blossman Gas since 2003. During this time, he has served Blossman by actively developing, planning, and implementing safety awareness programs and training courses across the company's twelve state footprint. As the Director of Safety and Compliance, Scott is also responsible for initiating audit processes to evaluate regulatory assurance at all levels of government.



Scott earned his Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Resource Management from Troy University. Outside of his work at Blossman, Scott serves as a Security Forces Operations Superintendent in the United States Air Force Reserve. Scott enjoys spending time with his wife Debra, daughters Rachel and Rebecca, grandson Joseph, as well as enjoying all the gifts the Mississippi Gulf Coast provides including fishing, boating, and golfing.