

2019
Honorary Awards Ceremony



PMF PRESIDENTIAL
MANAGEMENT
FELLOWS PROGRAM

U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT



2019 Honorary Awards Ceremony

September 5, 2019

Welcome

Arianne Gallagher
Director

Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program
Center for Leadership Development, U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Keynote Speaker

Jason Briefel
Executive Director
Senior Executives Association

Senior Leadership Remarks

Michael Rigas
Deputy Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Presentation of Awards

Arianne Gallagher
Director, PMF Program

Closing Remarks

Dr. Suzanne Logan
Deputy Associate Director, Center for Leadership Development
Director, Federal Executive Institute, U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Reception to Follow

Campbell Auditorium Atrium

PMF 2019 HONORARY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Agency PMF Coordinator of the Year

Winner: *Stella C. Forbes, Senior HR Specialist, Office of Employee Engagement, Training and Development Branch, U.S. Department of Labor*

The nominees for this award provided a high degree of value and service that impacted the success of the PMF Program, used creative and effective approaches to an exceptional degree for the benefit of the PMF community and effectively used the PMF Talent Management System to manage the PMF Program.

Coach/Mentor of the Year

Winner: *Lisa Rosenmerkel, Chief Modeling & Optimization Lab, Data Exploration & Testing, Research Applied Analytics & Statistics, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury*

The nominees for this award demonstrated a strong commitment to the development of PMFs, had a lasting impact on PMFs, and provided strong knowledge sharing that enhanced the PMFs own experience of working with a coach of mentor.

Presidential Management Fellows Alumni of the Year

Winner: *Michael C. Lawyer, Supervisor and Management Analyst for Field Policy and Management, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

The nominees for this award built strong coalitions beyond the PMF community, were strong advocates of the PMF Program, and mentored and supported PMFs in a way that directly impacted their success in the program.

Supervisor/Hiring Manager of the Year

Winner: *Victor Lyon, Vegetation Management Staff Officer, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*

The nominees for this award demonstrated strategic leadership, innovation and commitment to cultivating a diverse and talented workforce in the recruitment and placement of PMFs, thus impacting the success of the PMF Program.

Excellence in Leadership

Winner: Geoffrey Kenyon, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, U.S. Department of Labor*

The nominees for this award demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities, a commitment to successfully achieving organizational objectives and mission goals, and helped create an environment of high productivity and cooperation that impacted the success of the PMF Program.

CHCO of the Year

Winner: Marianna LaCanfora, *Chief Human Capital Officer, U.S. Social Security Administration*

The nominees for this award has created a culture that enables the PMF Program at the nominee's agency to fill the objectives of the PMF Program. The nominee has provided recruitment and staffing strategies to Hiring Managers.

Excellence in Service

Winner: Dr. Eugenio-Felipe U. Santillan, *Geologist, Radiation Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

The nominees for this award demonstrated exceptional dedication to the PMF Program, delivered outstanding customer service for an overall positive PMF experience, and served as a model for others to emulate.

SPEAKER BIOS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Arianne Gallagher

*Director, Presidential Management Fellows Program
U.S. Office of Personnel Management*

Arianne started with the PMF Program Office in September 2017. Prior to joining the PMF Program in September 2017, Arianne served as a Performance Manager with the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, leading a portfolio that included Federal hiring policy and other talent management initiatives. Arianne was also the co-founder and later the Deputy Director of the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program while serving as a Program Advisor in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and later at the General Services Administration during her time as a PMF from 2011-2013. Arianne served her fellowship as a Policy Analyst at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in the Director's Office, Planning and Policy Analysis Division, focusing on a variety of policy initiatives including the Federal Health Benefits Program, Privacy, Performance Improvement, and Employee Engagement. Arianne holds both a Political Science degree and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, in addition to being licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and certified as a Project Management Professional. Arianne is incredibly excited and motivated to be working on the program that inspired her to public service.

Jason Briefel

Executive Director, Senior Executives Association

Jason Briefel is the Executive Director of the Senior Executives Association (SEA), overseeing day-to-day operations of the Association and leading execution of the priorities and policies of the Board of Directors, a role held since September 2016. He also leads strategic engagement efforts with members of SEA's Corporate Advisory Council and other organizations. Mr. Briefel served as SEA Interim President from February-September 2016. Additionally, Mr. Briefel serves as SEA's Legislative Director, representing SEA and its members on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. He represents SEA with the Federal-Postal Coalition and the Government Managers Coalition, and is a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) Public Policy Committee. Mr. Briefel is a Director on the Board of the Federal Employees Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA), currently serving as Treasurer. Mr. Briefel joined Shaw Bransford & Roth, P.C. (SB&R) in 2012 to work in the firm's government affairs department, providing legislative and organizational representation to clients of the firm's government affairs practice. In addition, Mr. Briefel is a regular host of FEDtalk on Federal News Network and Editor of the FEDmanager and FEDagent e-report newsletters. Prior to joining SB&R, Mr. Briefel worked in Congress for a member of the North Carolina delegation and interned with the DC-based think tank Third Way. He also served as a research assistant and project manager for the FireChasers, a collaborative research endeavor between the U.S. Forest Service and North Carolina State University. Mr. Briefel holds a B.A. from the University of Richmond and an M.S. from North Carolina State University.

Michael Rigas

Deputy Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Michael Rigas became the Deputy Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management on March 9, 2018. Rigas has over 20 years of professional experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors, with a record of improving organizational performance and streamlining operations. Prior to his current role, he served twice as an appointee at the General Services Administration (GSA), most recently as Senior Advisor and previously as Associate Administrator where he worked to increase Federal Government contracting with woman-owned, veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and improved his department's scorecard from "red" to "green." Rigas also served as Chief of Staff at The Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services where he worked to reduce the amount of time it took to process veterans benefits, and at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. where he advanced free-market and limited government public policy solutions. Mr. Rigas spent more than a decade in the private sector, including Mellon Financial Corporation and Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. He holds an M.A. in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and B.A. and M.A. in economics from Boston University.

Dr. Suzanne Logan

*Deputy Associate Director, Center for Leadership Development
Director, Federal Executive Institute
U.S. Office of Personnel Management*

Dr. Suzanne Logan heads the U.S. government's development program for senior leaders as the Deputy Associate Director of the Center for Leadership Development and as the Director of the Federal Executive Institute (FEI). Before joining FEI, she served as the Chief Academic Officer for the Spaatz Center for Officer Education and the Chief Academic Officer, Air War College at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Prior to joining Air University, Logan, was Vice President of Academic Affairs for class.com, a private company formed by the University of Nebraska, where she led curriculum development for a completely Internet-based worldwide academic program. A seventeen-year academic administrator at Texas Tech University, Logan was the guiding force behind several groundbreaking academic initiatives, including the first virtual public school district in Texas, the university's first online Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and the largest kindergarten through Master's degree e-learning program in the country. She led the Texas Tech to international prominence as a pacesetter in e-learning. Logan has consulted with organizations ranging from NASA to George Washington University to the government of Columbia. She has written and presented extensively to national and international audiences on the topics of e-learning and lifelong learning, and is a member of a number of professional associations including the Association for the Advancement of International Education, the International Council for Distance Education, and the Association for Psychological Type. Logan is a recipient of the Texas Tech University Distinguished Service Award.

PMF PROGRAM OFFICE STAFF

John Gill, *Deputy Director, Center for Leadership Development, U.S. Office of Personnel Management*

John W. Gill is the Deputy Director at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Center for Leadership Development and leading the strategy and execution of the Federal Human Resources Capability Improvement initiative, with specific design and implementation responsibility for the HR curriculum. John began with the Federal Government in 2013 as the Chief Human Capital Officer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Before moving to OPM, John served in the Office of Management and Budget supporting the presidential administration transition. John was a member of the White House Senior Executive Service Reform Advisory Group. The Group provided thought leadership that helped shape the previous administration's 2015 Executive Order on Strengthening the Senior Executive Service. John is an adjunct professor with the Georgetown University Master's program in Human Resources and appointed Chair of Advisory Board for the Georgetown Master's in HR program. He earned his B.A. at Columbia University and his M.B.A. at Florida Technical University.

Arianne Gallagher, *Director, Presidential Management Fellows Program, U.S. Office of Personnel Management*

(See Speaker Bios)

Rob Timmins, *Deputy Director*

Rob first started his Federal career at the U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command and a year later transferred to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). During his 25+ year history with OPM, Rob worked on government-wide programs such as the National Security Education Program (NSEP), Scholarship for Service (SFS), USAJOBS,

USASTaffing, NATO's 50th Anniversary, and the Presidential Management Intern (PMI) Program, which is now the PMF Program. He has been a member of the PMF Program Office for almost 20 years and serves as the Deputy Director. In addition, Rob was a Search and Rescue Officer with the Civil Air Patrol and a Police Officer with the Fairfax County Police Department in the Commonwealth of Virginia for 5 years. Rob is the oldest of 6, is married to his husband, Jeff, lives in the Georgetown area of Washington, DC, a long-standing member of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, and spends his free time traveling overseas and co-managing several properties with his husband.

Ida Dalessandro-Felix, *Director of Training & Leadership Development*

Ida specializes in Organizational Development and Employee Growth. Prior to her employment with OPM, Ida was an accomplished private sector business leader with 25 years' experience. She held management positions in two highly acclaimed international companies for 15 years prior to starting two business ventures. Her expertise prompted her to work in staff development and training on an international level. For the past seven years, Ida served in the role of Human Resource Development and career counselor for the Federal Government. Ida leads the leadership development segment for the PMF Program. Ida holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources and an Executive Masters in Organization Development. Ida is a certified Executive Coach and obtains multiple certifications in the field of Human Resource Development.

Marilyn Wiley, *Agency Liaison*

Marilyn started with the PMF Program Office in August 2017. During her 25+ years with OPM, she worked on several projects for OPM's Retirement Services. These opportunities allowed Marilyn to work with employees at all levels within the organization to streamline business processes and to resolve inquiries from annuitants and their survivors on pending claims matters. Through many administrative changes, she worked with the agency on a proposed restructuring effort. Her passion for inclusion has been instrumental in performing her work with the agency's initiative. Marilyn holds a BA degree in Human Resources Management from the University of Maryland University College, and a MA degree in Organization Development from American University. She has two sons and one daughter.

Cynthia Gloster, *Events Management*

Cynthia entered into Federal Service 28 years ago, she started her career at the U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, and in 2000 Cynthia joined OPM as a Program Assistant in OPM's Office of Employee Relations and for the past 17 years she has worked in the Human Capital Leadership and Merit System Accountability Division (HCLMSA), Small Agencies Office. Cynthia reassigned to the PMF Program Office in August 2017. Cynthia has 4 children, 3 adorable grandchildren, and a Silky Terrier named Max.

Brandon Jacobsen, *Communications & Outreach*

Brandon comes to the PMF Program Office as a Class of 2017 PMF himself, taking on a role in communications and outreach. Before embarking on a career in Federal service, he spent nearly a decade in the education field, teaching high school Spanish and serving as the Education Director of a skateboarding non-profit in his hometown of Tacoma, WA. He brings a passion for strengthening programs that empower others.

Brandon holds a BA in International Relations from the University of Washington, and an MA in Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs from American University. He currently resides in Arlington, VA, with his girlfriend Kelsey and their dog, Bodi.

Rebecca “Becca” Wadness, *Recruitment & Placement*

Becca is serving as a Class of 2018 PMF, focused on recruitment and placement of Finalists in the PMF Program. Previously, Becca worked in the non-profit sector on international education and human rights, managing programs across the Middle East and North Africa. Becca holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan and an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University. Originally from Boston, Becca first moved to Washington, DC, in 2012. She loves to travel often and has spent extended time abroad in Paris and Algiers.

**“Any definition of a
successful life must
include service to others.”**

≈ President George H.W. Bush ≈

**Special thanks to the
PMF 2019 Honorary Awards
Selection Committee**

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