

## 2017–18 NACUBO Fellows Program

### Participant Biographies



**G. Scott Bitner** joined the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) as Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance in August of 2012. As Associate Vice President, Bitner has direct oversight and responsibility for a full range of financial and accounting functions including budget and financial analysis, financial services, financial systems, management advisory service and central administration support services. Bitner assumed the position of

acting chief financial officer while UMB conducted its search for the chief business and financial officer from December 2015 – July 2016. In his current role, Bitner ensures the fiscal stability of the University by overseeing its \$1.1B budget. He works closely with the senior leadership of the schools and the executive team to develop budget plans and long-range financial plans that will support UMB’s operational and capital planning endeavors. Prior to UMB, Scott served as Vice President of Finance/CFO for a European owned electronics company for four years. He also worked for fifteen years at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) where he was group supervisor of Accounting and Finance. Prior to APL, Scott spent two years working in public accounting with KPMG Peat Marwick. Scott is a Certified Public Accountant and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Loyola College of Maryland.



**Mary Ellen Borchers** serves as Assistant Vice President for Finance and Budget Director at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Borchers worked at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio from 2010 to 2017, most recently as Assistant Vice President for Business and Finance. Her accomplishments include the development of a multi-year planning tool and the redesign of the university’s budget process to better support Capital’s strategic plan.

Borchers has played a key role in renegotiating auxiliary contracts to bring in nearly \$4.4M in student life investments and helped to oversee the completion of nearly \$30M in capital projects. She is passionate about creating a sustainable campus and lends a distinct perspective to her work in higher education with a background in architecture and planning. Borchers spent the first six years of her career at BHDP Architecture managing design and construction for higher education institutions, including The Ohio State University, Columbus State Community College, Otterbein University, and the University of Toledo. While there, she was appointed BHDP’s Sustainability Leader and successfully led a company-wide training effort to integrate sustainable design standards into project work. Borchers holds a Master of Business Administration from Capital University and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from The Ohio State University.



**Dr. Jonica Burke** serves as Director of Enterprise Resource Planning and Financial Services at Shawnee State University in southern Ohio. She oversees the budget and payroll teams, and is currently leading the campus-wide implementation of a cloud-based ERP system, including customer relationship management, financial, procurement, budgeting, human resources, payroll, and time and labor applications. Dr. Burke's previous experience at

Shawnee State includes seven years as university budget director, and three as university registrar, as well as direction of the university's property and casualty insurance program and the office of institutional research. Her higher education experience also includes instructional, research, academic advising, transfer admissions, and extension educator roles at other institutions. Dr. Burke earned a Ph.D. in public administration from the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Kentucky, M.S. in natural resources and M.A. in public administration from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State University, and B.A. in Spanish from the Honors College at the University of Houston. A northern California native, Dr. Burke enjoys outdoor adventure and recreational participation in endurance sports. She is chair of the board of governors for the Scioto Foundation, a community foundation with the mission to improve the quality of life for residents of Appalachian Scioto County, Ohio and the surrounding area.



**Dennis Butler** is a certified public accountant and MBA with more than 25 years of not-for-profit financial experience. His career began in healthcare and for the most recent 18 years, he has worked in higher education at Marquette University—the last ten years serving as comptroller. In his current role, Butler provides leadership and management oversight for the operations of Marquette University's general accounting, financial reporting, grants

accounting, payroll, accounts payable, endowment accounting, fixed assets, and taxation departments.



**Jean Cibuzar**, the Executive Director of Finance at Gallaudet University, has over twenty years of experience improving the financial state of organizations by streamlining and strengthening financial operations and systems. Cibuzar joined Gallaudet in 2003 after serving both for-profit and non-profit clients by collaboratively reviewing and implementing improvements to existing financial processes, internal controls, systems, and reporting. She currently oversees

Gallaudet's budget, general accounting services, audit, tax, financial analysis and reporting, investments, financial systems, and the bursar's office.

Cibuzar has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the State of Minnesota.



**Dr. Terence Finley**, a native of New York, completed his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, with an emphasis in Higher Education, at Prairie View A&M University's Whitlowe R. Green College of Education. He received his M.B.A. in Marketing and Logistics from the Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor of Science, with concentrations in Marketing and Economics, from the State University of New York at Brockport. His research interests include the access, adequacy, and equity of educational

resources for underrepresented populations. Leveraging 15+ years as a finance, sales, marketing, and development executive at two Fortune 500 companies, Dr. Finley was recognized for his exceptional contributions to the corporate arena via receipt of an 'Award for Vision' that states, "Terence is a talented visionary and business leader who originates new concepts, innovative strategies, creates opportunities, and applies highly developed sales, marketing, and business management skills to overcome daunting challenges." He now brings those talents to bear on "The Hill" working for the Chief Financial Officer at Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Finley leads with a commitment to a shared vision of excellence. He inspires the belief that all students can and will excel. He **Cares** more than others think is wise; **Risks** more than others think is safe, **Encourages** more than others think is plausible; **Expects** more than others think is possible; and **Dreams** more than others think is practical. He leads through a *CREED of Excellence*.



**Scott Frew** oversees the treasury function at Dartmouth College as Assistant Vice President of Finance and Treasury Management. His key areas of responsibility include oversight of the College's \$1.2 billion debt portfolio and the internal capital lending program; operating cash management; oversight of liquidity and working capital; financial planning for capital projects; and the forecasting of endowment distribution.

As a senior member of Dartmouth's finance team, Frew works directly with the Board of Trustees Finance Committee and is the Executive Administrator for the institution's Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility. In addition, Frew is a member of the investment and finance committees of a reciprocal insurer, Pinnacle Consortium of Higher Education. Prior to his current role, which was created in 2011, Frew joined Dartmouth College in 2005 as the Director of Endowment Administration. In that position he led a group which was responsible for the administration, forecasting, accounting, and reporting for Dartmouth's endowment, life income trusts, and other investments, as well as security gifts. Before coming to Dartmouth, Frew worked at Fidelity Investments in its Financial Leadership Program, a competitive 2-year finance leadership rotation program consisting of four six-month rotations throughout Fidelity's different business units. Frew received his M.B.A., with a concentration in finance, from Babson College, and his undergraduate business degree from the University of Calgary. Outside of work, when Scott is not spending time with his wife and two children, he can be found at a local ice rink attempting not to embarrass himself in the game of hockey.



**Eileen Gerenz** has focused her career in support of higher education institutions that help individuals find passion and path to their life's work. After graduating with a B.S. in Accounting in 1999 from the University of Southern Maine, Gerenz joined PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and was promoted to Senior Associate. She focused primarily on higher education, not-for-profit, and social impact sector clients. After receiving the designation of Certified Public Accountant in

2003, Gerenz accepted a position at Wellesley College, and was soon promoted to Associate Controller, a new position for the college. Under her leadership, Wellesley College benefited from many significant business operations and reporting improvements. In 2008, Gerenz became an entrepreneur and launched Gerenz & Associates, an accounting consultant and bookkeeping firm focusing on small and not-for-profit businesses. Her team assisted many clients to improve business process procedures, migrate to a more powerful accounting platform, resolve tax/compliance issues, and implement strategic initiatives. During this time, she also engaged in software implementation and accounting consulting for United Solutions, LLC. Gerenz returned to higher education management in 2014 as Controller at Massachusetts Bay Community College. She is now Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, leading teams in the areas of finance, budget, and student account services.



**Stephen Hietsch** is Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services and Budget Management at Dickinson College, where he oversees the college's budget, dining services, bookstore, convenience store, mail center, and children's center. Hietsch started at Dickinson in 2012 after serving as manager of the Borough of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He previously served as Executive Director of the Shumaker Public Safety Training Center at Harrisburg Area Community College.

An active member of the Carlisle community, Hietsch is a member of the Carlisle Borough Water Authority. He was formerly an officer with Cumberland Goodwill Fire, Rescue and EMS Company, and has served on the boards for the Bosler Memorial Library, Carlisle Area United Way, and Hope Station Neighborhood Council. Hietsch received a bachelor's and master's degree from The Pennsylvania State University and an M.B.A. from Shippensburg University. He and his wife, Becky, have two children, Ellen, who recently graduated from Dickinson College with a degree in sociology, and Ben, a junior chemical engineering major at Penn State.



**Lisa Imbragulio** earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Oklahoma and her law degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She is a licensed attorney and a CPA. Imbragulio joined Samford University in 2002 as Director of Investments. Her administrative responsibilities have expanded over the last 15 years and she now serves as the Senior Associate Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs at Samford University. Prior to joining Samford, Imbragulio

practiced corporate, tax, and securities law with firms in Dallas and Birmingham.



**C. Aaron LeMay** currently serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and System Controller at the University of North Texas System. Previously, he served as the Senior Associate Controller at the University of North Texas System and the Controller for the University of North Texas. Prior to transitioning to the University of North Texas System, LeMay worked as the Associate Vice President for Financial Services and Controller at Sam

Houston State University. He was promoted to this position in 2014 after working as the Controller and Associate Controller of Financial Reporting. LeMay obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Ouachita Baptist University with majors in Biblical Studies Language and Accounting; Master of Science in Education with an emphasis on Student Affairs Administration from Baylor University; and Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law. He is a Certified Public Accountant in Texas and is admitted to the State Bar of Texas. LeMay has almost 15 years of higher education experience with positions previously held at Rice and Baylor Universities.



**David Moore** is a financial leader with more than 15 years of higher education experience. Moore currently serves as Assistant Vice President and Chief Budget Officer at George Mason University, a large public research university serving approximately 35,000 students with over 5,000 faculty and staff and operating with over \$1.0 billion dollar budget. In his role, Moore supports the university's long range financial planning and strategic initiatives

through policy development; working closely with students, faculty and staff on budget matters; representing the university when meeting with the State officials and representatives; and maintaining the university's annual operating and capital budgets. David leads his team in preparing and providing data-driven analytics as well as strategizing and advancing the university priorities through financial presentations while working with individuals, governing boards, and external entities. Along with his duties at the university, David is actively involved as a board member for the Hylton Performing Arts Center and the INTO Mason Joint Venture program. David joined George Mason University in the spring of 2009. Prior to joining the university, David lived in California and worked in the University of California system. David has worked at three University of California campus locations with his last position as the Assistant Budget Director for the University of California, Merced. In addition to his tenure with the University of California system, David served as a budget analyst in California's Department of Finance where he supported the higher education section of the Governor's budget. As a budget analyst, David was responsible in presenting and defending complex budget initiatives through public testimony to the California State Legislature. David is passionate about higher education and the opportunities it brings to so many individuals.



**Matt Skinner** serves as the Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration at Washington State University providing executive leadership for Financial and Business Services. Since joining WSU as a Budget Officer in 2003, Skinner has been recognized with increasing leadership responsibilities, later serving as the Assistant Vice Provost for Budget and Resource Planning, followed by service as the Budget Director overseeing the University's

operating budget of approximately \$880 million per year. Skinner's leadership style and positive approach in guiding teams to solve complex issues has enabled him to serve the University in several high priority initiatives over the last few years, many of which have given him experience beyond the skillset of a traditional financial professional. After a troubled launch of a new student information system, Skinner was asked to serve as the Associate Vice President for Enterprise Systems, reporting directly to the President. During this two-year assignment, his team smoothed the post implementation path, regained the trust of the University community, and created an effective system to meet user needs. Most recently, he continued expanded leadership service for the University as the Interim Vice President for Information Technology, while also fulfilling his current responsibilities in Finance and Administration. Prior to joining WSU, Skinner served as a senior consultant at Deloitte where he led financial assurance and advisory services provided to private and public sector clients. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting with a minor in Spanish and a master of business administration degree, both with highest honors. He maintains a current license as a certified public accountant. Skinner is actively interested in the areas of strategic planning, financial management, strategic budgeting, team building, leadership, and organizational dynamics.



**Joseph "Joe" Sobieralski** is a business professional with diverse experience in the financial and administrative aspects of higher education. He currently serves at the Budget Director for his alma mater, the flagship campus of the University of South Carolina system in Columbia, SC. In his role, Sobieralski assists executive leadership with the development, implementation and management of the \$1 billion budget and has

direct involvement in the institution's exploration of a new budget model. Prior to taking his current role, Sobieralski served as Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at the University of South Carolina's Aiken campus where he acted as chief financial officer as well as oversaw auxiliary operations and risk management processes. He also held roles in budget, auxiliary enterprises, and university life (student affairs) at George Mason University, and began his career working in intercollegiate athletics at the University of South Carolina's Gamecock Athletics Department. Sobieralski holds bachelor's degrees in sports and entertainment management and business administration (accounting), as well as a Master of Accountancy from the University of South Carolina. He is a Certified Management Accountant, Certified Financial Manager Certified Internal Auditor, and Certified Auxiliary Services Professional.



**Sara Thorndike** is from Wilmington, North Carolina. She has a B.S. in Accounting from Franklin University, M.B.A. from The Ohio State University and is enrolled in the Ed.D. program at The University of North Carolina Wilmington with a focus on higher education leadership. Thorndike is Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs and CFO at The University of North Carolina Wilmington where she leads a team of approximately 65 employees in

accounting, procurement, student accounts, budget, financial analytics, and financial systems. She is a Certified Public Accountant. She loves to exercise, cook, bake, bicycle, and walk outdoors and is excited to be part of the NACUBO Fellows Program.



**Linda H. Thornton** joined Carleton College as its Comptroller in 2005. Prior to joining Carleton, Thornton served as the Controller for the YMCA of Greater St. Paul and Assistant Treasurer at St. Olaf College, which followed an early career in public accounting with Ernst & Young. Her responsibilities at Carleton include management of the financial accounting systems and internal controls; financial, tax, debt and grant reporting and compliance; risk management; purchasing; accounts payable;

payroll; and accounts receivable. Thornton is active in her community having served as board treasurer for the Northfield Area YMCA during its capital campaign and facility construction and currently serving as board president for Project Friendship and on the finance committee of the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative. Thornton earned a B.B.A. in accounting from the University of Wisconsin Madison and an M.B.A. from the University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business. She is a CPA in inactive status.