Rutgers Business School
Newark and New Brunswick

2025 RUTGERS GOVERNMENTAL
ACCOUNTING & AUDITING UPDATE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
December 4, 2025

Conference Bios

Tariq Shabazz, Director, NJ Office of Management and Budget

Tariq Shabazz graduated from The College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and from Rutgers University with a master's degree in public administration for budgeting and financial management. He joined the New Jersey Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 2011 as a budget analyst and subsequently advanced to a management position. In 2018, he joined the New Jersey Transit Corporation as its Senior Director of Budgets.

Tariq served in that role with New Jersey Transit for two years until returning to OMB as an Assistant Budget Director in 2020. He was then appointed by the State Treasurer as OMB's Deputy Director in December 2020 and appointed by the Governor as OMB's Director in May 2023, a role he has served in ever since.

Josh Winfrey, Executive Director, National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT)

Josh Winfrey is the Executive Director for the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT). Josh is responsible for NASACT business operations, events, and advocating for the interests of the membership at the national level. NASACT is a professional organization dedicated to supporting state financial leaders in enhancing and promoting the effective and efficient management of governmental resources.

Prior to his current position, Josh served as the Director of the National State Auditor's Association, where he led initiatives such as the NSAA External Peer Review Program, multiple annual events, and the NSAA Technical Services Program, which provided resources to member organizations. Josh also advocated for NSAA member offices at the national level. Prior to joining NASACT in 2021, Josh spent 11 years with the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts office, where he performed financial audits and special examinations of state agencies and local governments, including the Commonwealth's ACFR and Single Audit. Josh has a BS degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky, an MBA from Kentucky State University, and is a CPA. He enjoys

spending time with his wife and 11-year-old son, playing disc golf, board games, or whatever his son happens to be into that week.

Michael F. Rogers, Director, NJ Division of Local Government Services

Michael Rogers is the Director of the Division of Local Government Services at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and serves as Chairperson of the Local Finance Board. He also serves as a state representative on the New Jersey State Health Benefits Plan Design Committee. In this statewide leadership role, he oversees fiscal policy, budget compliance, and operational integrity across all 564 municipalities, 21 counties, and numerous authorities and special districts in New Jersey.

With over 20 years of executive municipal experience—including prior roles as City Administrator for Summit and Business Administrator for Morristown—Michael is recognized for advancing impactful public-private partnerships, stabilizing municipal finances, and delivering award-winning innovations in local government. A recipient of the Innovation in Governance Award from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and League of Municipalities, and New Jersey Municipal Management Association's Outstanding Manager Award, he is a frequent conference speaker, board member, and thought leader on intergovernmental collaboration, redevelopment, fiscal management, shared services, and innovation in municipal service delivery.

Michael holds a Master of Public Administration from NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and a Bachelor of Science in Management Systems from Arizona State University. He has completed extensive certification through Rutgers University, including credentials as a Certified Municipal Finance Officer and Qualified Purchasing Agent.

At every stage of his career, Michael Rogers has demonstrated what thoughtful, responsive government can achieve when leadership is grounded in integrity, driven by data, and inspired by the people it serves.

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Marc Pfeiffer, Associate Director, Bloustein Local, Rutgers University

Marc has spent over 50 years in government service, including 20 years in New Jersey municipal and state government. He is now 13 years into his third career. He spent the first 10 years as a New Jersey municipal administrator, then 26 years with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services, 14 of which he spent as Deputy, and occasionally as Acting Director. Since 2012, he has been at Rutgers as Associate Director of Bloustein Local, a unit of the Bloustein School's Center for Urban Policy Research.

He continues to support local government officials and the public through professional education and in-service training of local officials, as well as conducting studies on state and local government policies, technology management, and policy research. This includes addressing public procurement issues, public records, energy policy, and supporting local government professional organizations, among other related public administration activities.

Joseph Monzo, CMFO, former DLGS Acting Director and retired CFO/Deputy Manager, South Brunswick Township

Joe Monzo has been a public finance expert for 45 years. Joe has held the CMFO designation since 1989 and retired from active municipal service in July 2019. Over the last 15 years of his 40-year career in public service, Joe served as the full-time CFO and Deputy Manager in South Brunswick, as well as a part-time CFO in Rocky Hill Borough and Mansfield Township.

Joe also served as the CFO in Lawrence, Millstone, and Ewing Townships during his career. At the state level, Joe served as the Deputy Director and Acting Director of the NJ State Division of Local Government Services in 2003. Throughout his working career, Joe has also been an adjunct professor at Rutgers University, teaching in both the Finance Officer and Master of Public Administration programs.

Since retiring, Joe has started a consulting company that helps local governments with financial matters, conducts professional searches, and hosts webinars on topics and issues relevant to the local government community. Additionally, since his retirement, Joe has been working with Phoenix Advisors, assisting local government clients with financial issues.

Gerald Seneski, CMFO, Former Group Leader, DLGS FMIP program, former CFO, Cumberland County and Camden City

Gerald "Gerry" Seneski joined Camden Community Partnership in April 2025 as the Chief Financial Officer, overseeing the nonprofit's financial health and operations. Mr. Seneski holds multiple professional licenses, including Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Registered Municipal Accountant (RMA), and Licensed Public-School Accountant (PSA). He is also a Certified County Finance Officer and Certified Municipal Finance Officer. Prior to joining CCP, Gerry served as the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Camden, where he is credited with preparing, introducing, and managing an annual municipal operating budget of $210 million, which supports various public services, including fire, police, public works, and other city departments.

Due to his strong fiscal management practices and internal controls, Camden was positioned for an investment bond credit rating upgrade from an A- to an A in 2024, which sends a signal to investors regarding the city's stable outlook. Throughout his career, Gerry has served as CFO and Administrator for several cities, towns, and governmental units, including North Brunswick, Cinnaminson, Cumberland County, and Rowan College of South Jersey, as well as the former Assistant Director at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Governmental Services.

Among his notable accomplishments, Gerry has served as the President of the NJ Government Finance Officers Association and is active in the Government Accounting & Auditing Interest Group of the NJ Society of CPAs. He previously held a position on the Executive Board of the NJ Association of Counties (CFO Affiliates). He was a member of the Legislative Advisory Board for the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Without a doubt, Gerry Seneski brings a wealth of financial experience and business acumen to the position of CFO for Camden Community Partnership, with over 35 years of service in both the public and private sectors. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Accounting and a Master of Public Administration from Widener University, Chester, Pennsylvania.

Lori Russo, CMFO, President, GFOA NJ, CFO, Marlboro Township

Lori Russo holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from The College of New Jersey and became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 1992. In June 2005, she earned the Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) designation. Currently employed as Finance Director of Marlboro Township, Ms. Russo has extensive experience and expertise in public finance and accounting. She also serves as President of the Government Finance Officers Association of New Jersey, where she advocates for best practices in municipal financial management and supports the professional development of finance officers across the state.

John Swisher, Partner, Suplee Cooney & Company

Mr. Swisher has been with the firm for over thirty-five years. His experience involves auditing and consulting work for counties, municipalities, and school districts in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Swisher earned his degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Registered Municipal Accountant, Licensed Public-School Accountant, and Certified Municipal Finance Officer. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Registered Municipal Accountants Association.

He also serves as a discussion leader and speaker for various continuing professional education courses in the areas of municipal accounting, auditing, and single audit. He has been a leader in the NJCPA's GAAIG.

Kevin Walsh, New Jersey State Comptroller

Nominated by Governor Murphy in 2020, Acting State Comptroller Kevin D. Walsh leads the independent watchdog agency, promoting accountability and transparency across government while advocating for taxpayers. Through audits, investigations, and reviews, the Office of the State Comptroller detects fraud, waste, and abuse at all levels of government in New Jersey and offers recommendations for reform. OSC also examines the legality of large public contracts and recovers improperly spent Medicaid funds. Before joining the Office of the State Comptroller, Walsh spent twenty years as a civil rights attorney, serving as Executive Director of an organization that advocated for affordable housing and represented the interests of lower-income households affected by disasters, among other issues. He graduated from Catholic University of America and earned his law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Camden.

Dr. Hussein Issa, Associate Professor of Accounting & Information Systems

Hussein Issa is an Associate Professor of Accounting Information Systems at Rutgers Business School. He received his PhD in Accounting Information Systems from Rutgers University in 2013. He led numerous research projects with banks, large multinational consumer products companies, a telecommunications company, and the internal audit departments of one of the Big Ten universities, among others. His research focuses on the applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning in Auditing and Accounting. He developed different methodologies to identify and prioritize exceptions (which was the topic of his dissertation "Exceptional Exceptions"). In these projects, Hussein proposed various statistical and machine learning models to address business problems, such as fraud detection, outlier identification, pattern recognition, operational efficiency, customer profiling, and continuous control monitoring of procurement systems, among others. Hussein has also recently taken an interest in Robotic Process Automation (RPA), generative AI, and the application of AI methodologies to government reporting. Hussein also serves on the dissertation committees of several doctoral students.

Hussein teaches/taught Data Mining and Business Intelligence (Doctorate of Business Administration), Advanced Design and Development of Information System (Masters in Accountancy in Governmental Accounting), Design and Development of Information System (Masters in Accountancy in Governmental Accounting), Information Technology in the Digital Era (Professional Accounting MBA), Audit Analytics (Undergraduate), and Introduction to Financial Accounting (Undergraduate). He also co-teaches a PhD-level course discussing current topics in AIS Research.

Dr. Huaxia Li, Assistant Professor of Accounting, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Huaxia Li, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Accounting in the Department of Accounting and Finance at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He earned his Ph.D. in Accounting Information Systems from Rutgers University. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Li served as a researcher at the Rutgers Accounting Research Center and the Continuous Auditing and Reporting Lab. In addition to his departmental role, he serves as a faculty member of the University of Michigan's Center for Global Health Equity. He is an affiliate of the Graham Sustainability Institute. His research interests span accounting information systems, data accessibility, and the application of emerging technologies in auditing. He also examines governmental financial accounting, the municipal bond market, and corporate social responsibility. Dr. Li serves on the editorial board of Accounting Open, and his work has been published in the Journal of Information Systems, the Journal of Emerging Technologies in Accounting, the Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal, and the International Journal of Disclosure and Governance.

Dr. Shaoyu (Shawn), Assistant Professor of Accounting, Indiana University South Bend

Dr. Shaoyu (Shawn) Liu is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at the Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics, Indiana University South Bend, where he has served since August 2025. He earned his Ph.D. in Accounting Information Systems from Rutgers Business School in May 2025 and is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Dr. Liu's research lies at the intersection of accounting and emerging technologies. His work examines strategic corporate disclosures through the lens of advanced analytical methods and artificial intelligence, aiming to enhance transparency and inform decision-making in financial reporting. He is passionate about exploring the evolving landscape of the accounting profession by integrating technology and data-driven analytics.

Melissa A. Dardani, CPA, CFE, Ph.D. candidate in Accounting Information Systems

Melissa A. Dardani, CPA, CFE, MAcc, is a Ph.D. candidate in Accounting Information Systems at Rutgers University, Newark. Her work focuses on AI-supported audit and analytics, combining data extraction, machine learning, and intelligent process automation to improve predictive analytics, anomaly detection, and continuous monitoring. She leads practitioner-oriented research initiatives in continuous AI-based auditing and monitoring, agentic systems design, and data lineage and translation for these systems. With more than a decade of experience in forensic accounting, financial advisory services, and operational consulting, she combines her practical knowledge of business operations, internal controls, and financial investigations to deliver projects for accounting firms, regulators, and other stakeholders.

Alan Skelton, Director of Research and Technical Activities, GASB

Alan Skelton was named director of research and technical activities of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), effective April 1, 2021. In his role as GASB director, he leads the staff and serves as the principal advisor to the chair and Board.

Immediately prior to joining the GASB, Mr. Skelton was the state accounting officer for the state of Georgia, a position he was initially appointed to by the governor in 2012. He was reappointed to the role in 2019. As the state accounting officer, Mr. Skelton provided accounting leadership for the state of Georgia, overseeing statewide financial reporting, issuing accounting policies and interpreting Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and implementing business process improvements. He served as Deputy State Accounting Officer from 2009 to 2012. Previously, Mr. Skelton had more than a decade of experience in public accounting, primarily with Ernst & Young.

Mr. Skelton served on the GASB's advisory council—the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council—from 2015 to 2021, including as its vice chair since 2018. He is a graduate of Florida State University and a certified public accountant.

Marc Pfeiffer, Moderator, Bloustein Local, Rutgers University

Marc has spent over 50 years in government service, including 20 years in New Jersey municipal and state government. He is now 13 years into his third career. He spent the first 10 years as a New Jersey municipal administrator, then 26 years with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services, 14 of which he spent as Deputy, and occasionally as Acting Director. Since 2012, he has been at Rutgers as Associate Director of Bloustein Local, a unit of the Bloustein School's Center for Urban Policy Research.

He continues to support local government officials and the public through professional education and in-service training of local officials, as well as conducting studies on state and local government policies, technology management, and policy research. This includes addressing public procurement issues, public records, energy policy, and supporting local government professional organizations, among other related public administration activities.

Mark Magyar, Rowan University, Director, Multi-Year Budget Workshop

A veteran public policy analyst, journalist, and academic, Mark Magyar served as deputy executive director of the New Jersey Senate Majority Office before taking on the role of interim director of the Sweeney Center for Public Policy at Rowan University in 2022. He was a senior policy adviser to Democratic Senate President Steve Sweeney, Republican Governor Christine Todd Whitman, and the independent gubernatorial candidate Chris Daggett.

For four years, the bipartisan Multi-Year Budget Workgroup, which Magyar convened at Rowan, has brought together public policy experts, economists, and academics to provide four-year spending and revenue projections to the Governor and Legislature. He teaches graduate courses in State and Local Government and Public Finance in Rowan's Master of Public Policy program and previously taught Labor Studies at Rutgers University for 12 years.

Steve Oroho, former State Senator (R-24)

Senator Steve Oroho served five terms in the New Jersey State Senate, representing the twenty-fourth legislative district in the northwestern part of the state. Before entering public office, Senator Oroho gained extensive professional experience in the finance departments of top New York City firms, including Price Waterhouse, W.R. Grace & Company, and Young & Rubicam, where he served as a Senior Vice President of Finance and a member of the partnership board. He is currently a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and a Certified Public Accountant. Currently, Senator Oroho serves as the President of SRO Financial Services, LLC, and is affiliated with Nisivoccia Wealth Advisors and Porzio Governmental Affairs. He was also a founding member of Noble Community Bank ("Noble"), serving on its board of directors, as well as on the board of Highlands State Bank ("Highlands") after the merger of Noble and Highlands.

Senator Oroho first ran for public office in 2001, winning a seat on the Franklin Borough Council. He was elected to the Sussex County Freeholder Board in 2005, serving one term before winning election to the State Senate in 2007. During his time in the State Senate, he served on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, the Senate Higher Education Committee, the Senate Economic Growth Committee, and the Senate Environment Committee. He was also a founding member of the Legislative Manufacturing Caucus and the Red Tape Review Commission. Additionally, he served as the Senate Republican Leader. In the State Legislature, Senator Oroho focused on budget and economic development issues. He played a key role in crafting every major tax reform

enacted in New Jersey during his tenure in the Senate. His work in this area earned him numerous awards and citations from the business community and other organizations. Senator Oroho is married to his wife, Rita, and they have five children and twelve grandchildren. Steve and Rita reside in Franklin Borough, Sussex County.

David Rousseau, Former State Treasurer, and gubernatorial budget advisor

David Rousseau served as state treasurer during Governor Jon Corzine's administration, concluding a 28-year career in New Jersey state government. He began his career with a five-year tenure at the Election Law Enforcement Commission before becoming the Director of Budget and Fiscal Analysis for the New Jersey Senate in 1987. After 15 years in the legislative branch, Rousseau transitioned to the executive branch in 2002, serving as Deputy State Treasurer under Governors Jim McGreevey and Richard Codey. He returned to the Senate in 2006, working for eight months as a Senior Policy Advisor to Senate President Richard Codey, before rejoining the Treasury as Senior Budget and Fiscal Policy Advisor to Governor Corzine. He was appointed Treasurer about a year and a half later, a position he held until the end of the administration in January 2010.

Throughout his career in state government, Rousseau worked closely with seven New Jersey governors: Tom Kean, Jim Florio, Christine Todd Whitman, Don DiFrancesco, Jim McGreevey, Richard Codey, and Jon Corzine. Since leaving public service, David has been a budget and finance consultant for the City of Trenton and a budget and tax analyst for New Jersey Policy Perspective. He has served as Vice President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey, representing the state's thirteen non-profit independent colleges and universities, since August 2014. A lifelong resident of Mercer County, David has lived in Hamilton Township since 1987. He earned his BA from Temple University in May 1982 and his MBA from Rider University in December 1993. David has also worked on transitions for Governor Jim McGreevey, Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora, Hamilton Mayor Jeff Martin, and Mercer County Executive Brian M. Benson.

Charles Steindel, Former New Jersey State Economist

Charles Steindel has been the editor of Business Economics, the journal of the National Association for Business Economics, since 2016, and he also contributes to the Garden State Initiative. From 2014 to 2021, he served as a Resident Scholar at the Anisfield School of Business, Ramapo College of New Jersey. Between 2010 and 2014, he served as the first Chief Economist of the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, where he was responsible for economic and revenue projections, as well as analyzing the state's economic policies. He joined the Treasury after a lengthy career at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where he played a key role in forecasting and policy advice, eventually rising to the position of Senior Vice President. He has held leadership roles in various professional organizations. In 2011, he received the William F. Butler Award from the New York Association for Business Economics, and he is a fellow of NABE and the Money Marketeers of New York University. He has also received multiple awards for articles published in Business Economics. In 2017 and 2024, he delivered the Anisfield School's Sebastian J. Raciti Memorial Lecture. He is a panel member for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's Survey of Professional Forecasters and the Committee on Research in Income and Wealth. He has published papers across various areas and is the author of "Economic Indicators for Professionals: Putting the Statistics into Perspective." He earned his bachelor's degree from Emory University, his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is a Certified Business Economist by the National Association for Business Economics™.