

SPEAKER BIOS

(Alpha Order)

SOUTHEAST REPRESENTATIVE:

Tom Bugnitz, CEO, Manufacturer's EDGE
tbugnitz@manufacturersedge.com

Tom Bugnitz has over 35 years of broad experience in strategic planning, operations and financial oversight. Most recently, Tom was a senior executive for Coolerado, a manufacturer of cutting-edge green air-conditioning systems that grew from five to 60+ employees during his tenure. As founder and president of the Beta Group, Inc., Tom advised corporate and government clients across the globe for over 25 years in business strategy development, cross-organizational team building, and management process and organizational redesign. Tom also co-authored a widely-adopted book on business strategy and capital planning for technology, now in its third edition of printing.

NORTHEAST REPRESENTATIVE:

Jessica Cowden, Director of Marketing & Communications, Manufacturer's EDGE
jcowden@manufacturersedge.com

Jessica has over 20 years of experience in branding, marketing, public relations, social media, and graphic/web design. Jessica started working for Manufacturer's Edge in July 2013 and was delighted to be able to assist with the rebranding and transformation from CAMT to Manufacturer's Edge.

Previous employment includes serving as the Arts Communications Manager and Public Relations Professor at Castleton University, a decade in the role of Marketing Coordinator for the Performing Arts at Colorado Mesa University, as well as running a freelance business with clients throughout Colorado, Vermont, New York, London, and Amsterdam.

METRO REPRESENTATIVE:

Karen Gerwitz, President & CEO, World Trade Center Denver
Karen.gerwitz@wtcdenver.org

Karen Gerwitz brings 30 years' experience in international business to the organization in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Her enthusiastic vision for how Denver can become a more globally-conscious city is what is driving the organization to its new development in the RiNo neighborhood near downtown. With business development, strategic growth and marketing as her main functional expertise, Karen has served overseas in Ghana and Austria, and in Colorado in multiple sectors including: IT, Aerospace, Lumber, Science, Mining, and Government. Her protocol and international cultural expertise prepared her well to host the official visits of the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the G8 Summit, the Western Hemisphere Ministerial Summit, and hundreds of other delegations. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in International Business and her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Colorado.

NORTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE:

Janine Ledingham, Northern Colorado Regional Director, Manufacturer's EDGE

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Janine has spent the majority of her career supporting small business growth, entrepreneurship and job creation as a consultant and economic development professional in Colorado. Most recently, Janine was a Director with the Longmont Economic Development Partnership focused on attracting, retaining, assisting, and growing start-up, small, local, and underrepresented businesses. She facilitated the award of over \$1.3M in economic development grants and loans, established Longmont NewTech Meetup, built a small business advisory committee and delivered a wide variety of business education workshops. She also led a collaborative economic development effort to grow, build new partnerships, and bring visibility to Longmont and Northern Colorado's startup communities. At Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) across the state, Janine advised hundreds of small business owners around a diverse set up business needs including business startup, business planning, business financing, and market strategy development. She facilitated the award of \$2.6M in Recover Colorado loans and grants post 2013 floods and managed the Boulder SBDC's core consulting program. In addition to economic development roles, Janine has worked in a variety of marketing and sales roles in telecom companies and in the hospitality industry.

SOUTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE:

Cindy Nowak, Denver/South Regional Director, Manufacturer's EDGE

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Cindy Nowak has over 25 years of experience in workforce training and consulting as well as account management, business consulting and project management in both the private and public sectors. She has also operated her own business services company. Cindy has dedicated the last 15 years, with both Manufacturer's Edge and the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), to working with companies to assess organizational and training needs and designing comprehensive continuous improvement training plans.

During her career with Manufacturer's Edge and CCCS, she secured \$4.2M in funding for Colorado companies through a variety of state and federal grant programs. She has forged multiple partnerships with industry resources and government and educational agencies to match manufacturing expertise and resources to Colorado companies to help them grow and succeed. These partnerships, background, and experience have contributed to her success at Manufacturer's Edge as a regional director working with clients in Arapahoe, Douglas, and Southern Colorado.