



NACo International Economic Development Task Force: Spring Conference Call Agenda

Thursday, June 15, 2017: 3:30PM – 4:30PM EDT

Phone Number: 1-888-757-2790

Passcode: 476059

Task Force Leadership

- Chair:** The Hon. Larry Johnson, Commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Mary Lou Berger, Commissioner, Palm Beach County, Fla.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Barbara Sharief, Commissioner, Broward County, Fla.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Kathryn Starkey, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Stephanie Wright, Councilmember, Snohomish County, Wash.

Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order and Welcome – The Hon. Larry Johnson, Commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.
- Roll Call
- Introduction of U.S. Department of State Speaker
- Presentation from Mr. Mitchell Ferguson, Deputy Director for [Bilateral Trade Affairs](#), Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. State Department
 - Topic of Presentation: The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) – the basics of NAFTA, the controversy around NAFTA and what counties need to know about how NAFTA impacts them and their residents.
- Best Practice Highlight
 - The Hon. Kathryn Starkey, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.
 - Mr. Tom Mudano, Executive Director, [American Manufacturing Skills Initiative](#) (AmSkills)
 - [Link to AmSkills Presentation](#)
- Q & A
- Closing and Announcements

NACo Staff Contact for IED Task Force: Jonathan Harris, Research Associate, 202.942.4247 or jharris@naco.org



Speaker Information

Mitchell Ferguson is the Deputy Director for Bilateral Trade Affairs in the Department of State's Economic Bureau. He joined the Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 1995, and has been posted to Embassies throughout Latin America and Africa. Mr. Ferguson's career has focused on bilateral trade, and he has worked to negotiate/support trade agreements with Colombia, Central America, Mexico and South Africa. Mr. Ferguson recently completed a detail to the Office of the United States Trade Representative in the Office of Japan, Korea and APEC Affairs, where he helped lead the U.S. delegation to the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment.

Mitch is a native of California, and he attended the California State University in Chico, earning a degree in economics, and the California State University in Sacramento, where he earned an MBA. Mitch is married to Marcela Ferguson, whom he met during his first tour in Colombia, and they have two children, Catalina and Tristan.

Tom Mudano serves as Executive Director for the American Manufacturing Skills Initiative (AmSkills). Tom joined AmSkills within months its start in February 2015, overseeing the startup implementation of five training facilities in three counties (Pasco, Pinellas and Hernando). He officially became the Executive Director in February, 2016. Since then, AmSkills has implemented Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship training programs for youth and adults, providing them with technical skills, as well as soft skills and life skills, and placing them in a position to succeed in life.



Previously, Tom worked for the City of Clearwater, Florida, where he designed programs for the disabled, managed an education and sports facility, served as Technical Services Manager and created the City's first Neighborhood Services Division. After a 15-year career with the City, Tom went on to become the Director of a \$2.3 million non-profit organization; was an Owners' Representative managing \$40 million+ construction and technology projects, including Florida's first underground basement and geothermal research facility; and owned a marketing company working with several manufacturers and the German American Chamber of Commerce South, Florida Chapter, among others. Tom holds a Bachelor's Degree from Western Carolina University.