

NIST Community Resilience Fellows

The Community Resilience Fellows are nationally recognized leaders in their field of expertise and bring a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience that advanced the Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure Systems (Guide) and Community Resilience Panel (Panel).

From 2014 to 2018, they provided support to development activities for the Guide and Panel, and implementation of the Guide in communities. Their expertise in areas critical to community resilience led to substantial contributions.

Community Resilience Planning

Chris Poland, Chris D. Poland Consulting Engineer, is a world renowned authority on earthquake engineering and a leader of community disaster resilience planning. His passion for vibrant, sustainable, and healthy communities drives his focus on community resilience based on his 40 years of experience in consulting on engineering, standards development, and the development of resilience plans. He is a member of the Board of Directors for SPUR, co-chairs their Resilient City Initiative and led the publication of “The Disaster Resilient City”. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the past Chair of the Advisory Committee to the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and served as chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings Standards Committee completing both ASCE 31 and ASCE 41, standards for the evaluation and rehabilitation of existing buildings that are used worldwide.



Donna Boyce, Solix Inc, serves as the Director of Recovery and Resilience Programs where she develops and manages programs related to disaster recovery and resiliency. Her responsibilities also include providing subject matter expertise regarding Solix government funded programs and representing Solix in the practice areas of disaster recovery and resilience. She has participated in several resilience initiatives such as the NJ/NY FEMA Elevation Summit as a panelist member and the NYSEDA Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) Steering Committee. Donna previously served as the Director of the Sandy Housing Recovery Program with the Community Development Corporation of Long Island where she developed and managed programs related to Superstorm Sandy housing recovery. Donna’s community service includes membership on the board of Community Advocates, Inc.



Electrical Power Infrastructure

Stuart McCafferty, Hitachi Consulting, provides an innovative technological vision for a variety of industries based on 30 years of experience. He developed the first Smart Grid Maturity Model and scoring tool for the first DOE Smart Grid project; the 7 Principle Characteristics remain the primary tool to evaluate a grid’s “smartness”. He was Program Manager on NIST’s Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) for 4 years, managing a diverse team of standards development, testing and certification, architecture, and cyber security experts. The project received the Project Management Institute’s 2013 International Distinguished Project Award. He was the lead Subject Matter Expert for the City of Huntington Beach’s California Local Energy Assurance Planning (CaLEAP) project, providing resiliency planning support. He also co-Chairs the Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB) committee, which is an industry standard community of practice promoting interoperability using internet of things (IoT) technologies and distributed intelligence in the field.



Transportation Infrastructure

Joseph Englot, HNTB, is the National Director of Infrastructure Security. He has more than 40 years of experience in the design and management of transportation infrastructure projects. Mr. Englot oversees projects to retrofit bridges, tunnels, and transit facilities against the effects of natural hazards and structural deterioration. As Chief Structural Engineer and Assistant Chief Engineer for Design at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Mr. Englot led all multi-disciplinary engineering and architectural design, including facilities and infrastructure systems for subways, monorails, airports, ports, tunnels, roads, and bridges. He also directed damage assessment and disaster recovery projects for the 2001 destruction of the World Trade Center and the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.



Water Infrastructure

Donald Ballantyne, Ballantyne Consulting LLC, has become a national leader over the last three decades on seismic performance of water and wastewater systems. He has extensive experience in applied research and assessment of the resilience of water and wastewater systems. He has provided significant expertise and leadership to the ANSI/AWWA J100 standard on Risk and Resilience of Water and Wastewater Systems, water supply systems for fire suppression and drinking, the Water and Wastewater Committee for the Oregon Resilience Plan, conducted seismic resilience assessments, and developed mitigation plans for 75 utilities. He is a past chair of the ASCE Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering Executive Committee, and a past director of the Earthquake Engineering Institute. He has conducted post-earthquake studies for 13 earthquakes in the US and abroad, focusing on water and wastewater systems.



Societal Dimensions of Disasters

Liesel Ritchie, University of Colorado Natural Hazards Center, is Associate Director at the University of Colorado's (CU) Natural Hazards Center and a research professor with joint appointments in CU Boulder's Institute of Behavioral Science and Environmental Studies Program. During her career, Dr. Ritchie has studied a range of disaster events, including the Exxon Valdez and BP Deepwater Horizon oil spills; the Tennessee Valley Authority coal ash release; Hurricane Katrina; and earthquakes in Haiti and New Zealand. Since 2000, her focus has been on the social impacts of disasters and community resilience, with an emphasis on technological disasters, social capital, and renewable resource communities, and she has published widely on these topics. Dr. Ritchie currently serves as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program Advisory Board.



Communications Infrastructure

Steve Poupos, AT&T's Director of Global Network Operations, is a recognized leader in the telecommunications field with over three decades of experience in network operations. He has led business continuity program development and implementation, directed the development of network emergency management, national security emergency preparedness, and network disaster recovery preparedness and response plans, and managed network disaster recovery teams across numerous recovery deployments. His expertise includes Network Emergency Management (NEM), Network Disaster Recovery (NDR), Risk and Vulnerability Assessments, National Security Emergency Preparedness and Network Business Continuity, including contingency planning. Steve has led AT&T's Network Disaster Recovery Organization during recovery from Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Katrina, and many other hazard events.



Previous Community Resilience Fellows

Electrical Power Infrastructure

Erich Gunther, EnerNex, and his team developed energy system resiliency strategies through multiple projects for utilities, Fortune 500 companies, municipalities, and non-profit institutions. In 2013 he was retained by the New York/New Jersey Super Bowl Host Committee and PSE&G to provide independent engineering consulting support to ensure that the power systems performed under a range of contingencies, including storms and emergency scenarios. Mr. Gunther and his team completed a study for the California Local Energy Assurance Program (CaLEAP) where a variety of scenarios, architectures and potential implementation technologies were evaluated to ensure energy system resilience of cities during a large scale catastrophic event such as a flood, wildfire, or earthquake. His team also developed methods to ensure that a Fortune 10 technology company campus maintained business continuity through a layered system of energy resiliency methodologies.



Water Infrastructure

Kevin M. Morley, AWWA, is the Security & Preparedness Program Manager for the American Water Works Association (AWWA). He works closely with a variety of organizations to advance the security and preparedness of national critical infrastructure. Dr. Morley conducted research assessing the resilience of the water sector through the development of the Utility Resilience Index (URI). He has facilitated the expansion of mutual aid and assistance via the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) initiative and the development of water sector standards: ANSI/AWWA G430: Security Practices for Operations and Management, ANSI/AWWA G440: Emergency Preparedness, and ANSI/AWWA J100 Risk and Resilience of Water and Wastewater Systems.



Emergency Planning and Response

Jay Wilson, Hazard Mitigation Program Coordinator for Clackamas County, is the Chair of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) and participates in the Oregon Governor's Resilience Plan Implementation Task Force. He leads development and implementation of risk management, hazard mitigation and recovery plans for flood, earthquake, wildfire, volcano, and tsunami hazards, and climate change impacts. Mr. Wilson participated as a local emergency management practitioner on an EERI reconnaissance team for the Tohoku, Japan Tsunami disaster. He has provided invited testimony to the US House Science Committee on the Tsunami Warning and Education Act. As a FEMA Disaster Reservist Branch Chief, he supported Hazard Mitigation Programs and was an earthquake policy analyst for Berkeley and Oakland, CA.



Business Continuity Planning

George B. Huff Jr., The Continuity Project, is the founder and director of The Continuity Project in Alexandria, Virginia. He advises businesses and other organizations on emergency preparedness and response, business continuity management, and information technology security. Previously, he served as attorney-advisor to the Office of Security and Facilities/Judiciary Emergency Preparedness Office of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Mr. Huff is a member in good standing of the bar of the Supreme Court of Indiana, Supreme Court of the United States, and other federal courts. He also participates in the development of business continuity standards in the International Organization of Standards (ISO). George has served on project teams that developed ISO 22313 Business Continuity Management Systems Guidance, ISO 22316 Organizational Resilience, and ISO 22317 Business Impact Analysis.



Transportation Infrastructure

Theodore Zoli, HNTB, is the Technical Director of HNTB's nationwide bridge practice. Mr. Zoli has led the design of many award-winning bridges throughout the US and abroad. Mr. Zoli's work has been informed by his research into bridge safety and reliability with a focus on the design of structural systems against member loss and structural behavior under unforeseen extreme events. He leads HNTB's infrastructure security practice and has developed innovative protective measures for some of our nation's largest and most important bridges. Mr. Zoli has received national recognition for his work in bridges including the Engineering News Record Award of Excellence in 2012, the industry's most prestigious honor. In September 2009, Mr. Zoli was made a MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



This prestigious award was granted for major technological advances to protect transportation infrastructure and for his innovative designs.