Senator Mia Costello
State Legislature
Alaska State Senate

Senator Mia Costello represents West Anchorage in the Alaska Legislature. First elected in 2010 to the State House, Mia served four years on the House Finance Committee until being elected to the Senate in 2014. She currently serves as the Chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee, Co-Chair of the Joint Armed Services Committee. A lifelong Alaskan, Mia served as staff for two Alaska governors, legislative aide to a state representative, and intern coordinator for U.S. Senator Ted Stevens in D.C. She is a Harvard graduate, earning her MAT from UAS. Along with being a competitive swimmer in high school and college, the first female Alaskan to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Trials and first Harvard woman to qualify for NCAA Division I swimming. Mia’s legislative focus is on innovation and developing Alaska’s long-term economic future to provide the best opportunities for future Alaskans.

Nirav Desai
Chief Technologist
Booz Allen Hamilton

Nirav S. Desai is a Chief Technologist in Booz Allen Hamilton’s Strategic Innovation Group where he leads the firm’s Horizon 3 Immersive Technology Strategy and their Seattle Innovation Hub. In these roles Mr. Desai seeks to help bridge the divide between the innovation economy and incumbent business models – with an acute focus on AR/VR, Machine Intelligence, Internet of Things, and emerging disruptive technologies applied to the Federal, Health, and Technology sectors. He works with corporate innovation labs, government research centers, universities, and startup incubators and accelerators, to identify edge technologies that address challenging use-cases. Mr. Desai serves as a Startup Mentor for TechStars, a leading startup accelerator with programs in Seattle, Boulder, Austin, Boston, Berlin, and others. He also has an affiliate faculty appointment with the University of Washington’s Department of Electrical Engineering. Prior to
working at Booz Allen, Mr. Desai worked at various robotics and media startups in DC and Austin. He graduated from the University of Texas with degrees in Computer Science, Math, and Philosophy.

Northwest Innovation Panelists

Dr. Steven Ashby
Director
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Dr. Steven Ashby is the Director of the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, where he is responsible for setting PNNL’s strategic direction and overseeing its nearly $1 billion R&D budget. Under his leadership, PNNL’s more than 4,400 scientists, engineers and support professionals are advancing the frontiers of science, delivering technological innovations and driving solutions to market. As the nation’s premier chemistry, earth sciences and data analytics laboratory, PNNL is addressing the most pressing challenges in energy resiliency and national security. In particular, PNNL researchers provide national leadership in grid modernization, energy storage, nuclear non-proliferation and cyber security – all for the purpose of keeping the U.S. safe, secure and strong. A widely recognized leader in computational science, Dr. Ashby is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences. He currently serves as chair of the National Laboratory Directors’ Council that represents 17 DOE national laboratories and serves on advisory committees for local and state organizations, including the Washington Roundtable. He received a doctorate in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Vikram Jandhyala
Vice President for Innovation Strategy
University of Washington

Vikram Jandhyala is Vice President for Innovation Strategy at the University of Washington, Executive Director of CoMotion, UW’s collaborative innovation hub, and co-Executive Director of the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX). He is a Professor and former Chair in the Department of Electrical Engineering, an Adjunct Professor in the Information School and serves on the advisory boards of UW Foster Business School’s Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship and Partners for Our Children. Vikram received his PhD degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1998. He founded, along with his students, Nimbic (acquired by Mentor Graphics) and was an early employee at Ansoft (acquired by Ansys). His current interests are in innovation, entrepreneurial and design thinking, social and organizational networks, and computational and data science.
Vinay Narayan is the Executive Director of VR for HTC VIVE overseeing the commercialization and market growth strategies of VR. He’s also Board Member and Adviser to a host of VR and AR focused companies, associations, and institutions. As a frequent speaker and sounding board for the community, he’s always on the look out how to expand the ecosystem and equally as important, how to create a path of profitability for the industry. Vinay’s advice for VR startups: It still takes good business fundamentals and a deep understanding of what good VR is to create something meaningful. Know the history and ecosystem of VR, but most importantly really define what your customer needs.

Mike Geyer is the Director, Manufacturing 360 Evangelism, Ecosystems & Emerging Tech at Autodesk. Mike has worked in an open pit mine, an aluminum smelter, heavy construction, and as a cognitive sciences research assistant prior to joining Autodesk. His interests include additive manufacturing, advanced automation, machine learning, wisdom of the ancients, and the alchemy that occurs at the intersection of art and science. He is part of the emerging services and products group at Autodesk and enjoys helping the company lead the new industrial revolution.

Albert Hogan is a senior program manager with a business and technology expertise working in startups, government and global companies. He is customer centric, results driven program manager with a business acumen, focus on executing quality technology strategies, establishing strong business analysis, and delivering results that exceed
Greg Howes
CEO
IDEAbuilder

Builder with 20 years of experience as the owner of a residential building company and 10 years of experience as a technology entrepreneur. Building change by integrating the technology industry and the $8.5 trillion global construction industry. My mission is to openly hack the AEC industry and make the Pacific Northwest a global leader in timber technologies and building with wood. Partner at CutMyTimber, President at IDEAbuilder, Co-founder of AEC Hackathons, Founder of VR Hackathons Seattle, and Vice-Chairman of the Digital Fabrication Network.

Teemu Lehtinen
Chief Digital Officer (Digipäällikkö)
KIRA-Digi Project

Teemu Lehtinen is Chief Digital Officer of the National KIRA-digi project which aims to boost digital transformation within the real estate and construction sector in Finland. KIRA-digi is a joint effort of public and private sectors and co-develops unified information management practices with open standards and APIs, studies the need for legislative changes and funds quick experimental projects for exploring digital opportunities. Teemu has graduated from Information Networks study program and is finalizing his doctoral thesis at the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management at Aalto University. Teemu has been at Stanford University as a visiting scholar twice and is the local lead for AEC Hackathons in Finland.
Bioscience Innovation Panel

Jennifer Stoll (Panel Moderator)

Director of Government Affairs
Allergan

For over 20 years, Jennifer Stoll’s dynamic career within the healthcare industry has spanned the nation from east to west coast. From growing up on a Connecticut dairy farm, then graduating from the University of Connecticut, Jennifer has gone on to hold various leadership positions in transformative healthcare companies including Aetna US Healthcare, Sepracor, and Allergan, where she currently serves as Allergan’s Director of Western Government Affairs. Jennifer’s passion for innovation in healthcare and expansion of the bioscience industry has led to key roles in the bioscience sector in Oregon, currently serving on Executive Committee for the Oregon Bioscience Association and the board of OTRADI, Oregon’s signature bioscience research center. Additionally, Jennifer works closely within her community, holding several leadership roles with various western states and local trade associations and not for profit organizations. She resides in Portland, Oregon with her husband, Martin and her two daughters, Katarina and Juliana.

Jennifer Fox

Executive Director
OTRADI Bioscience Incubator

Jennifer Fox, Ph.D. is Executive Director of the Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (OTRADI) and the OTRADI Bioscience Incubator. OTRADI is a state-funded non-profit institute that fuels economic development of Oregon’s bioscience industry by translating innovative research into products and incubating companies that benefit health and wellness and create high-wage jobs for Oregon. Since founding OTRADI in 2008, Dr. Fox has helped to generate $14M in grant funding and $3M in revenue. In 2013, OTRADI opened Oregon’s first, and only, bioscience-focused incubator—the OTRADI Bioscience Incubator (OBI), which is now home to seventeen startup companies, developing new medical devices, diagnostics, therapeutics, digital health and healthcare IT products. Dr. Fox has developed invaluable business and economic development experience stemming from her ten years of working directly with bioscience entrepreneurs and startup companies. Dr. Fox is an active member of Oregon’s growing bio-entrepreneurial community. She currently serves on the Boards of Directors of the Oregon Bioscience Association, the Oregon Entrepreneur Network (OEN), the Innovation Quadrant Collaborative Action Network (IQ-CAN), the Portland Community College Biotech Program, the Pacific Northwest Life Science Executive Forum, and is a mentor and sponsor of the Saturday Academy Apprenticeships in Science and Engineering high school internship program. Dr.
Fox received her Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology and has more than 25 years of laboratory research experience.

Denise McCarty
Executive Director
Oregon Bioscience Association

Denise joined the Oregon Bioscience Association from the Columbia River Economic Development Council. While at the CREDC, McCarty led the effort to successfully recruit 25 new companies to Clark County, as well as numerous expansion projects. One such project, the Banfield Pet Hospital, was awarded Project of the Year by the Washington Economic Development Association in 2015. Before joining CREDC, McCarty worked for 16 years at Avnet Inc. She directed global business management and supply chain operations while overseeing two multi-national corporations with 60 operating sites.

Brendan Rauw
Oregon Health & Science University
Vice President of Technology Transfer & Business Development

Brendan Rauw is Vice President of Technology Transfer and Business Development at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). OHSU is the state’s only academic health center, providing the state’s most comprehensive health care, education, and breakthrough innovations. As Vice President of Technology Transfer and Business Development, he is responsible for advancing commercialization of OHSU’s intellectual property, increasing industry research collaborations, and developing strategic alliances. Prior to joining OHSU, Brendan was Associate Vice Chancellor and Executive Director of Entrepreneurship at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the founding CEO of Westwood Technology Transfer, an independent 501(c)(3) set up to oversee technology transfer and industry-sponsored research at UCLA. Previously, he held leadership positions at Columbia Technology Ventures, KAUST, and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG). He also worked in corporate and business development with Genzyme Corporation, acquired by Sanofi in 2011, and Celator Pharmaceuticals, acquired by Jazz Pharmaceuticals in 2016 for $1.5B. Brendan received an undergraduate degree with high honors in biology from Harvard College, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School, where he was a recipient of the McArthur Fellowship.