Cory Jobe, Director of the Illinois Office of Tourism, is responsible for leading the state’s tourism marketing and development efforts. In his role, Mr. Jobe works in collaboration with tourism industry professionals across Illinois to promote domestic and international visitor travel, and to help grow the state’s tourism industry. Prior to his appointment by Governor Bruce Rauner in January 2015, Mr. Jobe served as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Illinois Comptroller from 2011 to 2015. Currently based in Chicago, he recently served on the Springfield City Council as the elected Alderman for Springfield’s 6th Ward, an area with many notable tourism attractions, including the Dana Thomas House and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. From 2006-2010, Mr. Jobe served as leader of the Peoples Economic Development Corporation, and he served as Director of Economic Development for the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer from 1997 to 2006. He currently sits on the National Board of Directors for the U.S. Travel Association based in Washington, D.C., and locally sits on the Board of Directors for The Hope Institute for Children and Families.

Ty and Lynne McDaniel are owners and founders of the Chicago furniture store, *An Orange Moon*. Located in the heart of Humbolt Park (2418 W. North Ave.), the store/studio reflects Lynne’s creative interpretation of her Master of Arts degree. Lynne has been a pioneer in encouraging collaboration within the neighborhood which has led to business growth. Their vintage furniture and design shop, has become a focal point in the developing WOW or West of Western District in Chicago. They have carved a niche in acquiring and selling high-end Danish and American Mid-Century Modern furniture. *An Orange Moon* is a winner of Best of Chicago.

Scott Struchen, Peter Limberger, Keith Pearse and Inga Carus are partners in the Tangled Roots Brewing Company as well as a hops farm, microbrewery and restaurant in Ottawa, IL. Each enterprise celebrates local fare and capitalizes on regional assets. Scott Struchen, founding partner & chief commercial officer, is an accomplished restaurateur having spent 23 years in the hospitality business opening and managing successful restaurants, bars, and nightclubs. His experience is complimented with marketing and sales experience as a national account manager with United and the Vice President of Chicago Beer Company.

Peter Limberger and his wife Inga Carus jointly own and manage their family investment office CL Enterprise. Peter is a German national with many years of professional experience as entrepreneur and investor in many countries. Inga is a 5th generation Illinoisan and manages as Chairman the 100-year old family business Carus Group. CLE’s primary focus for investments is the area known as
Starved Rock Country, about 80 miles west of Chicago. Both Peter and Inga are very engaged in comprehensive regional economic development initiatives. CLE is founder and primary investor in TRBC and owns and manages several other businesses ranging from a substantial farm operation, to hop farming, real estate development and manufacturing businesses.

**Alicia Schatteman** is an Associate Professor of nonprofit management in the School of Public and Global Affairs, joint faculty with the Department of Public Administration and the Center for NGO Leadership and Development. She received her Ph.D. in Public Administration from Rutgers University-Newark and a master’s degree in communications management from Syracuse University. She also consults and conducts research in nonprofit strategic planning and performance measurement. Prior to returning to school for her doctorate, she worked for 10 years in the public and nonprofit sectors as a communications specialist and then an Executive Director.

**Leodis Scott** is an Instructional Assistant Professor at DePaul University-College of Education and cofounder/research scholar at LearnLong Institute for Education and Learning Research (LIFR), a non-profit educational membership think-tank informing individuals and the public about professional, adult, higher and continuing education. Dr. Scott is also an Associate in PASCAL Observatory. Dr. Scott is an expert on the connection between higher education and local economic development.

**Sarosh Saher,** AICP, is the Community Development Director for the Village of Lake Zurich, Illinois. He has over 20 years of progressive experience in community and economic development, land use planning, urban design, downtown revitalization, TIF administration, historic preservation, and federal grant administration. His work includes producing innovative solutions to challenges, and facilitating the collaboration between departmental staff, residents, consultants and contractors. Saher has prior experience with the City of Elgin and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

**Norman Walzer,** Ph.D. in Economics, is Senior Research Scholar in the Center for Government Studies where he conducts research on local community and economic development issues, governmental structure and finance. Most recently, he coordinated a national study of community supported enterprises and business where local residents invest in businesses considered essential to the quality of life or with special value for development within the city. He regularly advises state and local governments and organizes an annual statewide rural economic development conference featuring best practices from across the U.S. including CSEs, makerspaces, and other innovative uses of buildings in small communities.

**Patty Ruback** is the founder of Eat Local DeKalb, an online community connecting consumers to growers in and around DeKalb County, IL. She graduated with a Master’s in Biological Sciences from Northern Illinois University with emphasis in Conservation GIS (Geographical Information Systems). Her most recent outreach effort included developing an interactive web map of small family farms found within 50 miles of DeKalb County and working with other community members to create an informational website. Patty has expertise in multiple social media platforms and web based tools useful in connecting customers and businesses as well as organizing groups to achieve common objectives.