

DELAWARE  
**BUSINESS TIMES**



**DELAWARE BUSINESS TIMES**

THE MOST IMPACTFUL  
LEADERS IN THE FIRST STATE  
2024

■ LEGAL SERVICES



**Mike Hoffman**  
Partner  
Tarabicos, Grosso & Hoffman, LLP

If you've ever paid attention to land use development in northern Delaware, you've likely heard from Mike Hoffman. The partner at Tarabicos, Grosso & Hoffman is one of the most sought-after attorneys for land use, zoning and development throughout the state. Hoffman is working with KPR Centers on its redevelopment of the former Tri-State Mall, Acadia Realty Trust on its revitalization of Brandywine Town Center and Fusco Management on The Grove mixed-use center, among many other projects. Hoffman completes due diligence, community outreach, hearings before legislative and administrative bodies, and all phases of the entitlement process from conception to completion.

**ALMA MATERS:** University of Delaware, Villanova University School of Law

**BOARDS:** OperaDelaware, Leadership Delaware

**Q&A: Best advice for your younger self?** Be thorough, thoughtful, honest, and patient, and remember that your reputation is one of your strongest assets, so protect it.



**Michael Houghton**  
Senior Counsel  
Morris, Nichols, Arshnt and Tunnell LLP

For decades, Michael Houghton has built an expert practice at Morris Nichols on unclaimed property and regulatory and legislative matters, representing governmental entities, banks, trust companies, insurance companies and public utilities. He's also previously served as president of both the Uniform Law Commission and the Delaware State Bar Association. Currently, Houghton serves as chair of the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council, a non-partisan body of public and private sector leaders who develop the official state revenue projections that elected leaders use to develop the state's annual budget.

**ALMA MATERS:** University of Virginia School of Law, University of Virginia

**BOARDS:** Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, Artesian Resources Corporation, Rockefeller Trust Company of Delaware.

**Q&A: What was your first job?** Dishwasher and waiter in a restaurant in Ocean City, N.J.



**William M. Lafferty**  
Chair & Partner  
Morris, Nichols, Arshnt & Tunnell LLP

William "Bill" Lafferty was named the leader of Morris Nichols, the fifth largest firm in Delaware with 70 attorneys, in 2021. He came to the role with a more than 30-year career at Morris Nichols focusing on Delaware corporate and commercial litigation, with an emphasis on cases involving mergers and acquisitions, proxy contests and consent solicitations, and shareholder class and derivative actions. The lifelong Delawarean supports his alma mater through serving on the University of Delaware's Board of Trustees.

**ALMA MATERS:** Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University, University of Delaware

**BOARDS:** University of Delaware, Arshnt-Cannon Fund Advisory Board, Dickinson Law Board of Overseers Advisory Board, UD John L. Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance Advisory Board, NYU School of Law Institute for Corporate Governance and Finance Advisory Board

**Q&A: Best advice for your younger self?** When opportunity knocks on your door, answer it. Those early opportunities will lead to more opportunities in the future as you grow professionally.



**Kathleen McDonough**  
Outgoing Chair & Partner  
Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP

When Kathleen McDonough started to practice law in 1985, she considered some Philadelphia firms, but chose Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP, the oldest law firm in Delaware, due to its diverse practice offering and long-term client relationships. Today, McDonough is a partner and one of the most sought-after labor attorneys in the state. She founded Potter Anderson's labor and employment practice, and has appeared before the Chancery Court on matters regarding trade secrets and non-compete agreements. In her career, McDonough has represented large health care systems and Delaware-based chemical companies in court, among others. With roughly 90 attorneys, Potter Anderson is slated to hit its 200th anniversary in 2026.

**ALMA MATERS:** Saint Joseph's University, Temple University School of Law

**BOARDS:** ChristianaCare Health System, Hagley Museum and Library

**Q&A: Favorite thing about Delaware?** So many things! My husband and children (all Delaware natives). My law firm and that Delaware is the best state in the U.S. to practice law. How easy it is to make a contribution that makes a difference. And the beautiful state and county parks!



**Chris Buccini**  
President  
Buccini/Pollin Group

Lifelong Delawarean Chris Buccini, along with his brother Rob and business partner Dave Pollin, has left his mark through billions of dollars in developments, primarily in his hometown of Wilmington. As leader of the firm's commercial management affiliate, BPG Real Estate Services, Buccini has overseen major renovations of its downtown office buildings and rolled out a new redevelopment plan for its Market West campus, including the former Brandywine, Nemours and DuPont buildings. He also has been overseeing the redevelopment of The Concord into a mixed-use campus in Wilmington's Brandywine Hundred suburbs.

**ALMA MATER:** Princeton University

**BOARDS:** Wilmington Friends School, Delaware Business Roundtable, University of Delaware President's Leadership Council

**Q&A: Best advice for your younger self?** Listen, learn, execute and never have fear.



**Rob Buccini**  
President  
Buccini/Pollin Group

Since co-founding Buccini/Pollin Group with his brother Chris and business partner Dave Pollin, Rob Buccini has grown the company to over \$6 billion in transactions and ownership of 6 million square feet of office and retail space, over 10,000 hotel rooms, 3,500 apartments and four live entertainment venues. He leads BPG's residential, commercial, retail, parking, sports and entertainment development activities, including building the Chase Fieldhouse in Wilmington. More recently, he's completed Crosby Hill, the first new apartment building built in Wilmington in many years, and announced plans for two more downtown complexes.

**ALMA MATER:** Cornell University

**BOARDS:** Beau Biden Foundation

**Q&A: What's something interesting about you that isn't on your resume?** I won a high school football state championship at Wilmington Friends School and an Ivy League football championship at Cornell University.



**Louis Capano III**  
CEO  
Capano Management

As a third-generation real estate developer, Louis Capano III is well-versed in building in the First State. His family-owned and family-led Capano Management offers a full range of services from real estate investments to asset acquisition, management to construction and sales/leasing to mortgage origination. With 3 million square feet of office and retail assets under management and more than 8,000 multifamily units developed or under construction, Capano has built one of the largest development firms in Delaware with projects like The Falls and The Reserve at South Ridge. Outside the firm, his family's charitable foundation has also donated more than \$6 million to local causes.

**ALMA MATER:** Babson College

**BOARDS:** Baldwin School for Girls



**Ed Capodanno**  
President  
Associated Builders and Contractors, Delaware Chapter

Ed Capodanno has been advocating for Delaware's contractors for 30 years, starting as president of the Delaware Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors, a nonprofit trade association that represents commercial and industrial merit shop contractors, in 1993. That role includes lobbying state lawmakers on changes beneficial to the construction industry and working with school districts to enhance trade education of future workers. That experience has led him to be tapped for numerous appointments to state task forces. Outside of ABC, Capodanno has earned service awards from the YMCA, Lions Club and Special Olympics.

**ALMA MATER:** Salisbury University

**BOARDS:** Delaware Workforce Investment Board, Jobs for Delaware Graduates



**Neal Dangelo**  
Senior Managing Director  
Newmark

Since joining Newmark in 2001, Neal Dangelo has completed over 750 leasing and sales transactions totaling over 7.5 million square feet, which are amongst some of the largest leasing transactions in the region, including ING Direct, Farmers Insurance, Computer Sciences Corp., and CSC. That work has frequently drawn Dangelo industry accolades naming him one of the best real estate brokers in the greater Philadelphia region. During his tenure, Dangelo has worked with some of the largest landlords in the region, including Equity Commonwealth, Brandywine Realty Trust, Buccini/Pollin Group, Trefoil Properties, Keystone Property Group and M&T Bank.

**BOARDS:** Wilmington Alliance

**Q&A: What's something interesting about you that isn't on your resume?**  
I'm an avid offshore fisherman.



**Pete Davisson**  
Founding Partner  
Jackson Cross Partners

Pete Davisson, a founding partner of the regional brokerage Jackson Cross Partners, found his calling late in life. He was 43 when he started as a full-time broker, but found that he had an eye for selling. Over the last three decades, his career has spanned more than 1,000 transitions in excess of 3 million square feet of space and \$700 million in sales and leases, including with giants of industry like Bank of America, DuPont, AIG and Bloomberg. The longevity of his career has made Davisson a sought-after expert in the local market.

**ALMA MATER:** Saint Joseph's University

**BOARDS:** St. Joseph's University Real Estate and Construction Alumni Advisory Board

**Q&A: Favorite thing about Delaware?**  
The size of the state, the fact that there are only three counties and the city, county and state government structure make it a very easy state to work in, especially in the commercial real estate business. The fact that it is only two hours (by car) from top to bottom makes it very easy to serve clients and customers which is also very convenient.



**Ernie Delle Donne**  
Chairman  
Delle Donne & Associates

As a second-generation builder, Ernie Delle Donne learned the ins-and-outs of the development business from his late father, Eugene. They worked together for four years as Delle Donne & Associates, and today Ernie has carried on the family legacy by building some of Delaware's most recognizable buildings, including the Tower at STAR on the University of Delaware's STAR Campus, 802 Delaware Avenue that is home to Capital One, and now Avenue North, a reimagining of the former AstraZeneca campus in Fairfax. Outside of Delaware, Delle Donne may be best known as the father of two-time WNBA MVP Elena Delle Donne.

**ALMA MATER:** Columbia University



**Peggy Del Fabbro**  
CEO  
M. Davis & Sons

As the fifth generation of Davis family members to lead the storied M. Davis & Sons construction firm, Peggy Del Fabbro has been on the job since she was a little girl. While she was hesitant to follow in her father's footsteps at first, she joined the family business and worked her way through the ranks until taking over in 2008. In her tenure, Del Fabbro has launched boiler and electrical power distribution departments along with an engineering group. Today, M. Davis is the largest woman-owned company in Delaware and a leader in customized industrial solutions.

**ALMA MATER:** University of Delaware

**BOARDS:** Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineering, Delaware Valley Chapter, The Brandywine Valley SPCA Advisory Board

**Q&A: What was your first job?**  
In my teen years I worked at M. Davis & Sons helping with administrative work and bookkeeping. After college, I worked for NVF for four years, and then returned to my roots in construction at M. Davis.



**Brian DiSabatino**  
President & CEO  
EDiS Company

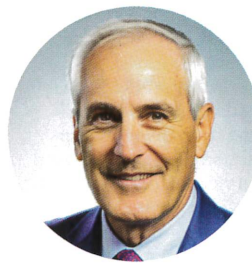
Since joining EDiS Company in 1987 as a fourth-generation owner, Brian DiSabatino has been a leader in the construction of some of Delaware's most impressive buildings and a leader in the community too. EDiS built the renovated University of Delaware football stadium, Wilmington University's Brandywine campus, the new Avenue North Tower and even a whole new community, with the Town of Whitehall. Outside the firm, DiSabatino serves as chair of the The Grand Opera House and the Delaware Business Roundtable, while also advocating for mental health among military veterans with annual fundraisers.

**ALMA MATER:** James Madison University

**BOARDS:** Delaware Business Roundtable, The Grand Opera House, Philadelphia Zoo, Neumann University, Irish American University

**Q&A: What was your first job?**

Cleaning out horse stalls at Brandywine Race Track.



**Larry DiSabatino**  
President  
DiSabatino  
Construction Company

In founding DiSabatino Construction Company in 1981, Larry DiSabatino created one of the most prolific builders in Delaware. He has managed more than \$800 million dollars worth of construction since 1976, including major laboratory, research and office facilities, more than 2,700 apartment units, homes, and various commercial facilities. The firm has won contracts for projects for ChristianaCare, Nemours Children's Health, DuPont, and TD Bank, among others. It notably is building Imani Village and The Flats, two major redevelopment projects for income-eligible housing in Wilmington.

**ALMA MATER:** Lehigh University

**Q&A: What's something interesting about you that isn't on your resume?**

I'm involved in Angel Investing in African growth-oriented small and medium enterprises to help build a vibrant business sector and to help provide opportunities for people there. The motto of the group is to "do well while doing good."



**J. Gregory  
"Greg" Ellis**  
Managing Principal  
Patterson-Woods  
Commercial Properties

Before joining Patterson-Woods Commercial Properties in 2005, Greg Ellis served as the Corporate Real Estate Department manager for MBNA Bank America. He brought that experience in negotiating major commercial leases to Patterson-Woods, where he has successfully negotiated and closed sales and leases worth more than \$138 million involving office buildings, warehouses, shopping centers, hotels, and land. As managing principal today, Ellis oversees the work of more than a dozen brokers at Patterson-Woods. Outside of the office, he continues to make an impact as chair of The Committee of 100.

**ALMA MATER:** Duke University

**BOARDS:** The Committee of 100

**Q&A: What was your first job?**

I was an attendant at the tennis courts for South Bethany Beach.



**Wills Elliman**  
Senior Managing Director  
Newmark

When it comes to Delaware's office market, there are few as well connected as Newmark Senior Managing Director Wills Elliman. He joined the major brokerage's Wilmington office in 2001 and for more than two decades has represented Fortune 500 corporations, law firms, and institutional landlords, including deals with ING Direct, CSC, Solenis, SevOne and Richards, Layton & Finger. Elliman worked on the \$83 million sale of Barclays U.S. Consumer Bank's headquarters in Wilmington, which was one of the most expensive office sales in recent memory for Delaware.

**ALMA MATER:** Duke University



**Bill Holloway**

Director of  
Community Practice  
**Bernardon**

Bill Holloway has had a nearly 40-year career at major regional architecture firm Bernardon that includes major Delaware projects like the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Train Station in Wilmington and the restoration of the historic Old State House in Dover. He currently is working on a major addition to the Delaware Division of Public Health Laboratory in Smyrna. He has long served as director of Delaware operations for the West Chester-based Bernardon and recently became director of community architecture practice, including government, civic, and hospitality projects. He has received state and national accolades for his leadership in the industry.

**ALMA MATERS:** Pennsylvania State University, Georgetown University

**BOARDS:** National Institute of Building Sciences, Del-Mar-Va Council of the Boy Scouts of America, New Castle County Chamber of Commerce, Easterseals of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore

**Q&A: Favorite thing about Delaware?**  
Delaware's ocean beaches!



**Rich Julian**

President  
**Benchmark Builders**

As president of third-generation, family-owned Eastern States Group and Benchmark Builders, Rich Julian has been among the most prolific home builders in Delaware over the past 20 years, building or partnering on more than 2,300 homes in 26 communities. Benchmark was at the forefront of 55+ community development and continues to be among the biggest builders in the niche. Julian was also a co-founder of the Town of Whitehall community along with EDiS Company, helping to develop one of the largest master-planned communities in the state near Middletown.

**ALMA MATER:** Villanova University

**BOARDS:** ABC Delaware, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, University of Delaware, Kent Sussex Leadership Alliance, WSFS Southern Delaware Advisory Board, Easterseals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore Advisory Board

**Q&A: What's something interesting about you that isn't on your resume?**  
I am seven states shy of seeing all 50 states in the U.S.



**John Kaczowka**

Senior Vice President  
**CBRE**

As senior vice president in the major commercial real estate brokerage CBRE, John Kaczowka is among the busiest agents working out of Wilmington. He joined CBRE in 1998 and today specializes in commercial office and industrial properties, offering a unique perspective after serving as a tenant advisor. This past year, Kaczowka was involved in 82 sale and lease deals totaling more than 1.3 million square feet of space. He's also been involved in Wilmington by assisting the formation of Downtown Visions, which is tasked with public safety and cleanliness, business development and event planning.

**ALMA MATER:** University of Maine

**BOARDS:** Downtown Visions

**Q&A: Favorite thing about Delaware?**  
The people!



**Kevin Kelly**

Chair & Managing  
Principal  
**Leon N. Weiner &  
Associates**

Wilmington-based homebuilder Kevin Kelly has been a tireless advocate for affordable housing in Delaware and throughout the United States over a decades-long career. Leon N. Weiner & Associates (LNWA) has a diverse portfolio of both affordable housing and commercial projects, building, developing and/or operating more than 14,000 homes, rental properties and apartments across 10 states for people of all income levels, and more than 650 hotel rooms. The firm has developed a reputation for firsts in affordable housing construction and financing, building Delaware's first integrated community, the first turnkey public housing community, the first new construction Section 8 housing and the first Hope VI housing. Kelly's leadership in those efforts led to his induction into the National Housing Hall of Fame.

**ALMA MATERS:** St. Anselm College, Suffolk University

**BOARDS:** Council on Development Finance



**Bill Lingo**  
President  
Jack Lingo Realtor

Founded in 1974 by retired Air Force Colonel Jack Lingo, Jack Lingo Realtor is a family-owned business that focuses on realty in the Sussex County market, ranging between beach homes in the coastal communities to commercial and residential space in other parts of the county. The company first started with a single office on Rehoboth Avenue, and now has added two more in Lewes and Millsboro. Bill Lingo, the second generation at the helm of the company, has more than 40 years in finance and real estate markets and remains involved in appraisals of residential subdivisions and commercial properties. Jack Lingo Realtor's portfolio includes more than 1,000 units with residential areas and commercial developments like Tanger Outlet Centers and retirement communities.

**ALMA MATER:** University of Delaware

**BOARDS:** National Association of Realtors; Delaware Association of Realtors; Sussex County Association of Realtors.



**Gregory Pettinaro**  
CEO  
Pettinaro

As a second-generation leader of vertically integrated real estate development firm Pettinaro, Gregory Pettinaro spent a lifetime learning from his father, Verino. Today, the firm is the largest development firm in Delaware, and largely built Wilmington's Riverfront, including the Chase Center on the Riverfront, the Shipyard Center, the Christina Crescent and Gates Building, and more. In 2022, Pettinaro completed a long sought-after project in redeveloping Barley Mill Plaza and attracting the state's first Wegman's grocery store. That project is continuing with future phases, and the firm's attention will soon turn to the redevelopment of the former Hercules golf course.

**ALMA MATERS:** Lynn University, Florida Atlantic University, University of Delaware



**Greg Sawka**  
President & CEO  
Bancroft Construction

After a career at Exelon and custom home-building, Greg Sawka came to Wilmington-based Bancroft Construction almost by chance after answering an ad. Starting as an assistant project manager and rising through the ranks of the firm to oversee operations and preconstruction, Sawka was named president and CEO in 2010. Since then, he's helped the construction firm parlay successful expansion projects at the University of Delaware and Longwood Gardens into fruitful long-term relationships with both, including as part of a bid group on UD's STAR Campus. Sawka also opened offices in Princeton, N.J., and Salisbury, Md., to expand Bancroft's geographic reach.

**ALMA MATERS:** University of Delaware, Lehigh University

**BOARDS:** Delaware Historical Society, University of Delaware Lerner College, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors

**Q&A: What's something interesting about you that isn't on your resume?**

I am an avid personal and professional development reader and often read multiple books simultaneously. I have played in several poker tournaments and cashed in the Main Event in the World Series of Poker.



**Chris Schell**  
CEO  
Schell Brothers

Schell Brothers is a new home construction company that bills itself as focusing on happiness over profit, and has divisions in Delaware, Richmond, Va. and Nashville, Tenn. The company offers varieties of architectural styles and innovative home plans, and since its inception in 2003, it has built between 400 and 500 homes in the First State per year. Preston Schell launched the company after a successful career in finance, notably a position at Merrill Lynch in Chicago, but searching for something more than making money. With 260 employees, Schell Brothers has also branched out into interior design with Decor Direct, outside living space design with Creative Courtyards as well as solar panel installation with Clean Energy USA.

**ALMA MATERS:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Harvard Business School



**Preston Schell**  
CEO  
Ocean Atlantic Companies

Preston Schell left a career as an investment banker to return back to the place that always brought him the most happiness: Delaware's beaches. Here, he founded Ocean Atlantic Companies, a full-service real estate development firm that has built commercial projects, residential neighborhoods and resort clubhouses, including The Peninsula on the Indian River Bay and Lighthouse Club at Coastal Club. Along with his twin brother, Chris, Schell is also among the biggest philanthropists in Sussex County, donating millions of dollars annually to local causes. An avid environmental supporter, Schell also co-founded the Sussex County Land Trust.

**ALMA MATERS:** Amherst College, Harvard University

**BOARDS:** Leadership Delaware, Inc, Sussex County Land Trust

**Q&A: Favorite thing about Delaware?**

The laid-back beach lifestyle. Every day is a vacation when you live down here in Southern Delaware and love what you do. I see my kids daily, never miss a sporting event of theirs, and have complete freedom and flexibility to do what I want, when I want.



**Bryon Short**  
Executive Director  
Delaware Contractors Association

Bryon Short has had a long career in the public and private sector, serving in Tom Carper's congressional office and later in the Department of Transportation before leaving to run his own small construction company. In 2007, he was elected to Delaware House of Representatives and served for a decade before retiring from Legislative Hall. That experience prepared him to now lead the Delaware Contractors Association, which aims to expand the regional construction economy, provide training and education to build the workforce of tomorrow, and create business development opportunities for its members.

**ALMA MATER:** Salisbury University

**BOARDS:** New Castle County Chamber of Commerce, Delaware Workers Compensation Oversight Panel

**Q&A: Best advice for your younger self?**

It's often hard to tell if an outcome is going to be good or bad in the long run. Even when things don't turnout as you planned, it can often be for the best. Pivot to the next adventure.



**Dennis Silcato**  
President  
Silcato Development

Dennis Silcato has 40 years of experience in commercial real estate and development, with regional shopping centers, residential projects, industrial complexes and power centers, among other projects. Among notable projects throughout the years include the rising 10th Street Centre off Delaware Route 1 outside Milford, the Four Seasons Plaza in Glasgow and the River Park Plaza in Salisbury, Md. Silcato Development has invested in southern Delaware properties with tenants like Grotto Pizza, Surf Bagel, Beebe Healthcare and more. Silcato has developed long-standing relationships with national and local corporations and retailers through his skills in executing large scale land deals and transitions.

**ALMA MATER:** University of Delaware

**BOARDS:** International Council of Shopping Centers; Delaware's County Bank Executive Committee



**Jamie Vari**  
Executive Vice President  
Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL)

As executive vice president of JLL's Wilmington office, Jamie Vari specializes in landlord and tenant representation services for corporate and institutional clients throughout Delaware and the greater Philadelphia region. In 11 years with the firm, Vari has secured more than \$40 million in tenant representation deals and obtained more than 1 million square feet of agency representation for clients. He's worked closely with major landlords like Delle Donne & Associates, The Commonwealth Group, and Harvey Hanna & Associates, including leasing the forthcoming Tower at Avenue North.

**ALMA MATER:** Goldey-Beacom College

**BOARDS:** ABC Delaware, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, University of Delaware, Kent Sussex Leadership Alliance, WSFS Southern Delaware Advisory Board, Easterseals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore Advisory Board

**Q&A: What was your first job?**

Dishwasher at a retirement community called Cokesbury Village



## ■ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**Scott Malfitano**

Vice President & Chair  
CSC / Delaware Workforce  
Development Board

In his 28 years at CSC, Scott Malfitano has answered customer service calls, launched corporate.com, aided with the company's business license service and overseen building its global headquarters in Wilmington. In his top position he worked to establish the CSC Station, a co-working and innovation space on the Wilmington Riverfront. Today, Malfitano is also leading efforts to reinvigorate the state's Workforce Development Board by bringing together industry, educators and public officials to prepare workers for future opportunities.

**ALMA MATER:** St. Joseph's University

**BOARDS:** Delaware Workforce Development Board; Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation; Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

**Q&A: What's something interesting about you that isn't on your resume?**

Two things: My lower lip was reattached from a skiing accident as a teenager. And I brought Gen, Alexander Lebed, secretary of the Security Council, to the U.S. for his first visit. Lebed negotiated the end to the First Chechen War, and was considered responsible for shifting his followers to give President Yeltsin a second term in the 1996 Russian Federation presidential election.



**Megan McGlinchey**

Executive Director  
Riverfront Development  
Corporation of Delaware

Created by the state government to boost economic vitality along the Christina River in 1996, the Riverfront Development Corporation has been a catalyst for public and private investment to turn a series of warehouses into mixed-use land for residents and businesses. Under Megan McGlinchey's leadership, the RDC has worked on site investigation and restoration initiatives that have enhanced and beautified the area into a tourism hub, starting first with Frawley Stadium. In the last five years, she has laid out a \$100 million vision to expand the RDC's efforts across the Christina River in a new project call

**ALMA MATERS:** University of Miami; University of Delaware.

**BOARDS:** Ursuline Academy; Ministry of Caring; Delaware Children's Museum; Delaware Zoological Society; Kalmar Nyckel Foundation; The Pilot School

**Q&A: Favorite thing about Delaware?**

I love the strong sense of community that exists in Delaware.



**Linda Parkowski**

Executive Director  
Kent Economic Partnership

Kent Economic Partnership is focused on attracting and retaining businesses in central Delaware, which boasts of a hour and a half drive to D.C., Philadelphia and New York. Roughly 60% of the U.S. population is within a three-hour radius of Kent County. Linda Parkowski was named executive director of the KEP in 2018, after the nonprofit was reorganized. Under her leadership, Kent County has helped draw a \$80 million corrugated box plant and is focusing efforts on drawing warehouse tenants to East Dover, among other initiatives.

**BOARDS:** Riverfront Development, Leadership Delaware, State Division of Parks and Recreation, Downtown Dover Partnership, State Division of Fish and Wildlife, Kent County Tourism

**Q&A: Best advice for your younger self?** Don't get comfortable in a job.



**Bill Provine**

President and CEO  
The Innovation Space

The Innovation Space is a nonprofit innovation ecosystem and home to leading science entrepreneurs. Located on the DuPont Experimental Station campus near Wilmington, the 130,000-square-foot lab and office space offers tenants cutting-edge equipment alongside a suite of entrepreneurship programs and opportunities supporting startup growth. Under the leadership of founding leader Bill Provine, The Innovation Space attracted and helped develop companies like Prelude Therapeutics, Napigen, Versogen, and more. As of 2023, the "start-up farm" broke \$1 billion in investments and signed with an international broker to boost the site's profile.

**ALMA MATERS:** University of Delaware; University of California, Berkeley.

**BOARDS:** American Association for the Advancement of Science; Resolution Project; National Advisory Council on Innovation & Entrepreneurship; The Innovation Space

**Q&A: What was your first job?**

Pizza cook and cashier.