

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

LUNCHEON PANELISTS



Dawn Crandall joined the team at the Home Builders Association of Michigan in 1996 as the Political Affairs Director, and was recently promoted to the EVP of Government Relations. In that role, she is directly responsible for lobbying on behalf of the members on issues that impact education, taxation, workforce development and economic development.

Currently, her focus is working closely with the Housing Michigan Coalition to work on creating more attainable housing. She is also responsible for the political operations and making sure candidates and legislators on both sides of the aisle are elected, who support the mission of the Home Builders Association of Michigan.

To complement those efforts, she is also the executive director of the HBAM's non-profit, Skilled to Build Michigan Foundation, where she is focused on Cultivating, Educating and Recruiting the workforce of tomorrow, today. Prior to joining the Home Builders Association of Michigan, Dawn spent ten years working in the Michigan Legislature – starting as an intern for a state Senator, and ending her time as the legislative director for a state Representative.



Sarah Lucas serves as the Office of Rural Development Deputy Director at MDARD supporting the strategic needs of rural Michigan, including economic and workforce development, infrastructure, public health, and environmental sustainability.

Lucas, AICP, has a 20-year career in community and economic development in small communities and rural areas in Michigan, leading a variety of cross-sector initiatives and planning efforts resulting in long-lasting coalitions, local and state policy change, and enhanced regional capacity for growth and investment. Previously she served as the CEO of the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Marquette County's leading resource and advocate for economic development.

Prior to her work with Lake Superior Community Partnership, Sarah served as the Community Development Director for Networks Northwest, a 10-county regional planning agency in Northwest Lower Michigan; led the development of Housing North, a regional organization devoted to policy and communications solutions to housing needs in Northwest Lower Michigan; and, after relocating to Marquette in 2020, worked with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region to develop a regional economic development plan for “building back stronger” in the region's post-pandemic economy.

Additionally, Lucas serves on several regional and statewide boards, including the Community and Economic Development Association of Michigan, the Economic Development Leaders of Michigan, and the Michigan Association of Planning, where she currently serves as Board President.

She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and is currently an MPA candidate at Northern Michigan University. She lives in Marquette with her husband and their three boys.

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Born in California and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan, **Dave Worthams** considers himself a lifelong resident of Southwest Michigan. Frankly, he cannot imagine a better place to live.

Dave has served as a Constituent Relations Director for former Congressman Nick Smith, as a policy advisor to former Michigan Speakers Rick Johnson and Craig DeRoche, as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Michigan State Senator Jud Gilbert, as a Legislative Associate for the Michigan Municipal League, and as the Vice President of Policy for the Michigan Bankers Association. He currently is the Director of Employment Policy for the Michigan Manufacturers Association (representing over 1,700 members located across the state) leading MMA's lobbying efforts in health care, talent development, and workplace policy before the Michigan Legislature.

In his spare time, Dave is very active in his community. He served as the 69th President of JCI Kalamazoo/Kalamazoo Junior Chamber/Jaycees before moving upward in the organization to serve as the 87th President of JCI Michigan/Michigan Junior Chamber where he provided leadership training and support for over 3,500 community leaders aged 21- 40.

Additionally, he was appointed by the Kalamazoo County Commission in 2013 to a six-year term on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. He was also appointed by Governor Rick Snyder in 2013 to the Michigan Board of Real Estate Appraisers. Most recently, he has been appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer for a term on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. He is also an official baseball umpire for Michigan Little League Baseball – District 2.

A proud Western Michigan University Bronco (where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in public administration) and a graduate of Kaplan University (where he earned his Masters of Science in Legal Studies), Dave has been married to his wife Niki since 1998 and has two children (Alex and Cristiana) and a very rambunctious chiweenie (Zabrina).