

THE POWER OF THE SKILLED TRADES

July 27, 2021 | Roundtable Summit Series

Meet the Panelists



Elizabeth Jende – Moderator

President/CEO, EJC Move Consulting

Elizabeth Jende is a talent management and HR industry professional, leadership coach and keynote speaker, as well as the founder of EJC Move, a strategic coaching and consulting firm. Through group, individual and corporate training, Elizabeth focuses on helping clients become the leaders that their organizations need, and that people love to follow and support.

Elizabeth doesn't just teach leadership; she lives it. Audiences and students are drawn in by her engaging presentation and her genuine commitment to leadership, calling her a "dynamo," "captivating," and "dynamic and commanding."



Adam Hoots – Keynote Open

Lean Champion/Project Manager, Langston Construction, LLC.

Adam Hoots started his career in the skilled trades as a plumbers' assistant for Modern Plumbing in Orlando, FL. In this position, Adam hated life as he was required to physically fit into trenches that were meant only for things being flushed down toilets. After three years of learning the plumbing trade, Adam thought he wanted to become an architect. After too many Xacto knife cuts, Adam realized that his brain was too practical for the theoretical thinking it took to become an architect and found a perfect fit in Construction Management.

Adam has currently completed over \$450M of high-tech cleanroom and life science construction and has a passion for lean construction. The passion for lean construction stems from his understanding that all things truly lean impact the craft worker in a positive manner. His life mission is to bring respect back to the skilled trades and will not settle for less.



Kimani Davis – Keynote/Panelist

Owner, YNOTU2

Motivational speaker and founder of YNOTU2, Inc., Kimani Davis has seen, lived, and persevered through many obstacles and tragedies throughout his career.

With over three decades of business leadership, nonprofit management, entrepreneurship, and most importantly, real-life, in-the-trenches street credibility, his journey is radically different. Kimani appreciates, and shares with listeners, that courage is a moment-to-moment choice and not about fame, riches, and acknowledgment. Courage is for everyone, every day. It's how we should live our life.

Kimani could have let his criminal past stop him, but his perseverance and passion for others opened new doors to success. Kimani used his past for the greater good giving back to the community in many ways. Before creating YNOTU2, Inc., Kimani worked as a licensed general contractor, a project manager, and site superintendent for the state of South Carolina supervising major construction projects such as Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Science Building, Village at Sandhill Condominiums, and Spirit Communications Ball Park. His tenacity for life, forgiveness, and hard work has opened many doors for someone who normally would not receive the opportunities to start over again.

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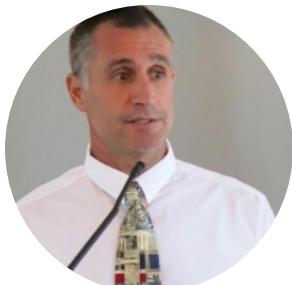
Brig Berthold – Panelist

Employment Program Manager, Upstate Warrior Solution

Brigham Berthold joined the Utah Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer. Early in his career, his unit was disbanded. After multiple reassurances that it was not his fault, he transferred to a Military Intelligence unit.

In a short, eight-year career, Brig served in France and Korea, visited Milwaukee, and ran full-spectrum Counterintelligence operations during a combat deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. He loved at least 30% of it. He was medically retired in 2017.

Brig is a father, a published and best-selling author, and a surviving spouse. He spends his days working with local corporations to end veteran unemployment. In his personal time, he enjoys baseball, chauffeuring his daughter around, and trying not to get punched in the face in the ring.



Steve Turner – Panelist

Founder and President, Bring Back the Trades

Steve Turner started the Bring Back the Trades campaign because as a small business owner for the past thirty years, in the trade of custom upholstery, it has become increasingly difficult to find and hire skilled individuals due to the shortage of public, private and vocational schools teaching the trades. Bring Back the Trades is dedicated to promoting and educating the public of the need for skilled trades professionals.

To implement our mission, Bring Back the Trades, Inc. collaborates with local educators, community leaders and local trades businesses to change the perception of the trades within the educational system, and awards scholarships to qualified students living in the United States who are pursuing post-secondary education in a professional trade.

Bring Back the Trades has designed a line of apparel with our logos depicting numerous trades so we can spread the word of the importance of these crucial jobs. Proceeds from the sales help fund the scholarship program in which individuals can gain access to the trade education of their choice and ultimately gain employment in that trade, which is crucial to the growth of our country.



Jay Blankenship – Keynote Close

Regional Workforce Advisor, South Carolina Department of Commerce

Jay is one of the 12 Regional Workforce Advisors who are focused on ensuring South Carolina's workforce continues to be one of the best in the nation. At a time when South Carolina's economy is developing at historic rates, the Regional Workforce Advisors are the state's resource for creating a workforce of the future. The Regional Workforce Advisors will serve as a connection for the business and education communities to collaborate on how to best prepare the workforce to meet industry demands.

SKILLED TRADES ALLIANCE

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