



Port of Portland

Kimberly Branam Chief Trade and Economic Development Officer



Kimberly Branam is the Port of Portland's Chief Trade and Economic Development Officer, overseeing the Port's marine and commercial development, navigation, Portland Harbor, and economic development departments. Since joining the Port in 2024, she has led efforts to preserve Oregon's only container terminal through a third-party operator agreement, establish a forward-looking plan to position the division for sustained growth, and attract an anchor tenant for the Mass Timber Housing and Innovation Campus.

Kimberly previously served as Prosper Portland's Executive Director (2016-2024), after five years as Deputy Director, directing major real estate development, local and traded-sector business development, and investments in inclusive growth. Earlier, she led the City of Portland's economic development efforts, guiding the first citywide strategy in 15 years. She holds a Master of Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School. A third-generation Portlander, she and her husband have two school-age children and enjoy traveling together.

Thursday, April 30, 2026

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Port of Vancouver USA

Alex Strogon Chief Commercial Officer



Alex Strogon is based in Vancouver, Washington and serves as Chief Commercial Officer at the Port of Vancouver USA, where he leads maritime marketing strategy, marine cargo development, industrial recruitment, customer service, and relationship-building to promote the port and domestic and international trade. He relocated to Vancouver in 2018 from Greenville, South Carolina, where he served as Senior Global Category Leader for GE Global Operations, managing global ocean transport sourcing and port operations.

Alex previously held leadership roles with American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier in Dubai and Houston, and earlier worked with APL and Maersk Line in business development and port terminal operations roles across the Middle East and the U.S. He has more than 25 years of maritime industry experience, holds a B.S. in Maritime Business from Texas A&M University at Galveston, and has completed executive education at the Kings Point Federal Maritime Academy.

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STATE OF THE PORTS

2026



Eric Yakovich, M.B.A. Director of Economic Development



Eric Yakovich is the Director of Economic Development at the Port of Kalama, Washington, where he manages properties, marketing, strategic planning, marine terminals, parks, recreation and security. Kalama is his hometown. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. He has 34 years of experience in non-profit leadership, as an accountant, finance director and chief executive officer.

Mr. Yakovich resides in Kalama with his wife. They have two, adult children and two grandchildren. He enjoys time with his family, friends and Husky football.

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Kayla Dunlap Director of Government & Public Affairs



Kayla Dunlap is the Director of Government & Public Affairs at the Port of Grays Harbor. She joined the Port in 2009 and is responsible for the Port's communications, outreach, and government relations.

Kayla double-majored in History and Political Science at St. Martin's University, where she also completed her master's in business administration. She serves on the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association Executive Committee, currently serving as Treasurer of the organization. Kayla is committed to and passionate about creating economic development opportunities and jobs for Grays Harbor.

A proud born-and-raised Harborite, Kayla lives outside of Aberdeen with her husband, two children and pets. She enjoys spending time with her family, watching her kids play sports, and traveling.

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STATE OF THE PORTS

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Ken Anderton Chief Executive Officer



Ken was appointed CEO by a vote of the Commissioners in 2025. Prior to joining the Port of Longview, Ken served as Senior Manager of Real Estate, Leasing and Investment at the Port of Portland.

Ken received his MBA in Global Management from the University of Phoenix, and an undergraduate degree in Management of Technical Operations from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Ken is community-focused and brings over 20 years of experience in real estate development and in the port industry.

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PORT OF WOODLAND

Chris Herman Executive Director



Chris has been the Executive Director at the Port of Woodland since November 2025. Before joining the Port, Chris worked for nine years with the Washington Public Ports Association and is well respected within the port community. He was responsible for the design of statewide advocacy strategy development and execution. He also managed educational programming for a diverse range of issues including economic development, tax, energy, broadband, procurement, and transportation policy including aviation. Prior to WPPA, Chris worked for the Washington State Department of Transportation. There he led freight rail planning, managed grant, and loan programs, and oversaw the Washington State Grain Train and the state-owned rail network.

Chris has over twenty years of experience in supply chain operations, process optimization, and strategy across industry sectors such as agriculture, food processing, energy, and petrochemicals, including Cargill, CHS Incorporated and Starbucks. Chris earned his Master of Public Administration from Cornell University in 2024. Originally from the Midwest, Chris enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities and adventures, traveling, and adopting senior pups in need of a home.

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STATE OF THE PORTS

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PORT OF
Columbia
County

Sean Clark Executive Director



Prior to being named Executive Director in September 2021, Sean spent seven years as the North County Operations and Terminal Manager at the Port and was responsible for the safety, security, dock management, and tenant leases at Port Westward Industrial Park and other Port facilities in north Columbia County. Sean also served as Deputy Executive Director of the Port from May to September 2021.

Prior to joining the Port of Columbia County, Sean was the Harbor Master and Facility Security Officer at the Port of Kalama and was responsible for marine terminal operations, navigation issues, marina management, and facility security compliance with the Department of Homeland Security and federal/state agencies.

Sean earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Management and Communications from Concordia University. He is a past President and current member of the Northwest Marine Terminals Association, past Chair of the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee and represents the Port of Columbia County's interests at a variety of industry groups.

A native Oregonian, Sean resides in Goble where he and his wife of 29 years have raised their son and two daughters. He is active in the community as a member of the local Kiwanis club, the Clatskanie Chamber of Commerce and a former Chairperson of the Rainier School Board.

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STATE OF THE PORTS

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Matt Friesen **Director of External Affairs**



Matt Friesen is Director of External Affairs at the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, where he leads communications, government relations, and community outreach across the Port's operations and assets. His work supports initiatives spanning the Port's maritime, rail, property, and infrastructure portfolio, including recent efforts on one of the most significant infrastructure projects underway in Oregon.

His career has spanned state and local government, international development, and public affairs and has nearly two decades of experience in policy development, strategic communications, and complex project management.

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