

## Presenter's Biographies

**Cindy DeGroen** has been with the State Demography Office of the Division of Local Government since June of 1993. Her current responsibilities include the preparation of population forecasts by age and sex for the counties of Colorado and by ethnicity for the state for use by other state agencies and local governments. Cindy participates in the Office's program of Local Economic and Information Forecasting Assistance through the preparation of forecasts of labor force participation rates by age and sex for use in determining the migration required or implied by economic forecasts and to aid local governments in the understanding of their economy and the causes of growth and change within it.

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**Elizabeth Garner** is an economist and joined the State Demography Office in September of 2004 and has been the director of the State Demography Office since March 2005. The State Demography Office produces population and economic estimates and forecast for use by state agencies and local governments. A primary focus of the office is to show the relationship between jobs, people, and community services like housing, education, and health care. Elizabeth has 20 years of experience working with county and sub county socio economic data. She received her B.A. in Business from the University of San Diego, MA in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University and is a PhD Candidate in the same program. Elizabeth serves on the Governor's Revenue and Economic Advisory Committee.

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**Alexandra Hall** is the director of the Office of Labor Market Information (LMI) and chief economist of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. She is responsible for Colorado's contribution to a number of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics economic series on Colorado labor markets. Alex is involved with several national committees and, at the state level, she serves on the Board of Commissioners of State Veteran's Nursing Homes and the Governor's Revenue and Economic Advisory Committee.

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**Angeles Ortega** serves as Information Specialist for the U. S. Census Bureau, Denver Region. In her role, she develops and delivers data training workshops and presentations to Census partners. Prior to her appointment to the Denver Regional office, she served as a Partnership Specialist in the Charlotte Region. During the 2010 Census, she built partnerships and relationships to assure full participation in the 2010 Census. Ms. Ortega formerly served as Executive Director of the Latin American Coalition, a social service organization serving the needs of the Hispanic community in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Region. Angeles has been a strong advocate for the Latino community. Originally from Mexico, she studied Languages at the Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro, Mexico and Non-Profit Management at University of Nevada-Reno, in 2009 she earned an MBA from Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina.

Angeles Ortega has served in several community boards including the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority (WTVI), the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee, Arts and Science Council and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. She also served as a member of the North Carolina Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. Angeles is a Fellow of the William Friday Leadership Initiative, a graduate of Leadership Charlotte class XXI and American Leadership Forum, class I.

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**Stephan Weiler** is a Professor of Economics and Research Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University. He received his BA (Honors) in Economics and MA in Development Economics from Stanford University in 1988, and his Economics PhD from UC-Berkeley in 1994 where he studied with eventual 2001 Nobel Laureate George Akerlof. From 2004 through 2006, Stephan was appointed as Assistant Vice President and Economist at the Federal Reserve's Center for the Study of Rural America to lead the Center's applied research work. The Center was the focal point in the Federal Reserve System for rural and regional development issues, providing cutting-edge research perspectives to private, public, and nonprofit decision makers. Stephan became a frequent speaker before industry, university, and public policy audiences throughout the nation, is a regular contributor to media outlets ranging from the Wall Street Journal to National Public Radio, and has published nearly one hundred articles, book chapters, and policy papers. His research has spanned a variety of development and labor market issues in Africa, Appalachia, Europe, and the American West. His current work focuses on regional economic growth and development, particularly in rural and inner-city areas, combining theoretical, empirical, and policy analyses on topics such as information, innovation, industrial restructuring, land use, public/private partnerships, immigration, entrepreneurship, and the environment.

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**Deying Zhou** is the Estimates demographer and has been with the State Demography Office of the Division of Local Government since 2011. Her current responsibilities include the preparation of the annual total population and household estimates for the state, counties, municipalities, and special districts. She also serves as liaison to the Census Bureau and the local governments by coordinating state and local governments to share needed datasets. She provides data and advises the Census Bureau on population estimates and methodology. Deying is a PhD candidate and finished all PhD level courses at the University of Hawaii, and has a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Hawaii. She has over 20 years of extensive experience in economic and education research, analysis and management.

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**Dr. Thomas J. Zvirlein** is a Professor of Finance and the Director of the Southern Colorado Economic Forum in the College of Business and Administration at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He has been at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs since 1984. Tom has taught in all areas of finance but his focus is teaching in the areas of corporate finance and international finance. His experience includes various teaching engagements in England, Finland and Germany.

Tom's research interests are in the area of valuation, economic value added, dividends and financial strategy. He has published in journals ranging from Business Horizons, Financial Management, Financial Services Review, the Journal of Management and others. He received his PhD from the University of Oregon in 1985 with a major in finance and minors in quantitative methods and economics. He holds an MBA and a BS in economics from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

He has been involved with the Southern Colorado Economic Forum since its inception in 1997 becoming the Forum's director in 2002. The Southern Colorado Economic Forum is a public-private partnership between the business community in the Pikes Peak Region and the College of Business and Administration at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The Forum presents an annual analysis of the economy and quality of life in the Pikes Peak Region. The Forum electronically publishes the Quarterly Updates and Estimates (QUE) to monitor the regional economy throughout the year.