



Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Jon Borden

Small Business Specialist, SBIR/STTR

Jon Borden currently serves as Small Business Specialist for the Defense Advanced Research Agency (DARPA).

Spent 28yrs in the Military – 4yrs active duty in the Navy and 24ys spread out across the Army Reserves, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves; holding positions of Operations Specialist, Heavy Equipment Operator, Training Manager, and Senior Command Post Specialist.

His civilian career encompasses 15yrs working in the automotive repair industry going from changing oil to Shop & Office Managing.

In 2000, he became an Air Reserve Technician (ART) with the Air Force Reserves making his reserve and civilian government position the same. He spent a year as a Training Manager in Wing Headquarters Office before transitioning to a position in the Command Post, as a Command Post Specialist. He went on to retire from the Air Force Reserves in 2008 as the Command Post Superintendent.

He transitioned his civilian government employment to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Security & Intelligence, a year later he was promoted to the Chief of Policy, Records Management, and Research Services (PRRS). In this position he over managed the Records Management Office, Public Release Office, Research Services Office, Mailroom, all DARPA Policies and Guides.

In May of 2016 he accepted a position in the Small Business Office as a Small Business Specialist, with the expectation of making a difference in the Small Business community.



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Rachel Melnick

National Program Leader for Agroclimatology

Dr. Rachel Melnick is the National Program Leader for Agroclimatology and Production Systems at USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). She is one of ten program officers managing the department-wide USDA SBIR program. She leads competitive research and extension programs at USDA NIFA in the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative, Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS) with NSF, and the USDA SBIR Plant Production and Protection – Engineering topic area.

Prior to her current position, Dr. Melnick worked as an AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow at USDA NIFA. She also worked as a Research Plant Pathologist (Postdoctoral) at the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Sustainable Perennial Crops Lab. She has expertise in plant-microbe interactions, biological control, drought mitigation, plant disease diagnostics, working with small business to test biologics, and general crop production. She earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Penn State University and a B.S. in Biology from Bloomsburg University.



Missile Defense Agency (MDA)

Jordan Reynolds

Deputy Operations Manager, SBIR/ STTR Program

Mr. Jordan Reynolds serves as the Deputy Operations Manager for the SBIR/ STTR program as part of the Missile Defense Agency Advanced Research Directorate. In this role, he executes the Agency's vision for capitalizing on the creativity and innovation of the nation's entrepreneurs and small businesses. Through an aggressive outreach program and encouraging business ties with the Government, the program enhances the technical capability of the Ballistic Missile Defense System.

Mr. Reynolds joined the Missile Defense Agency as a contractor in 2012 supporting the Command & Control, Battle Management and Communications (C2BMC) program. Serving as an Acquisition Analyst, he managed cost, schedule and performance for the program's Logistics, Operations & Sustainment Program. In 2014 Mr. Reynolds transitioned to Project Manager for the new concept C2BMC Training Support System (TSS). He oversaw TSS development from prototype to production and coordinated the system's deployment in support of missile defense operations in STRATCOM, NORTHCOM, PACOM, EUCOM and CENTCOM. Mr. Reynolds began his civilian federal service career in 2015 with the Missile Defense Agency by joining the Advanced Research Directorate in his current role as the Deputy Operations Manager for the SBIR/ STTR Program.

Mr. Reynolds has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Military History from Presbyterian College and a Master's degree in Business Administration from The University of Alabama. He is a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserves and currently serves as a Civil Affairs Team Leader.



Department of Defense - Navy

Lee Ann Boyer

Program Manager, SBIR/ STTR Program

Miss Boyer, Lee Ann, is the program manager for the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research Commercialization Readiness Program. In executing the program, Lee Ann manages numerous activities designed to assist small businesses in getting their technology fully developed, tested, and inserted into products and services used by the fleet and forces. Additionally, Lee Ann provides subject matter expertise in areas of SBIR/STTR Statutes, Regulations, and Policies for Navy and DoD as well as supporting all aspects of topic development and contracting for Navy.

Prior to her current assignment, Miss Boyer was a warranted Contracting Officer. Lee Ann served as the Deputy Director of Contract and Grant Awards at the Office of Naval Research where she annually directed the award of over \$2B in contracts and grant awards by a staff of more than 40 and personally managed the contracting efforts for the Navy's only Federally Funded Research and Development Center, the Center for Naval Analyses. Miss Boyer's previous contracting assignments included work at the Strategic Systems Program Office for the Guidance Systems Branch and the Naval Regional Contracting Center Washington where she quickly progressed from intern to Contracting Officer.

Miss Boyer has a Bachelor of Science degree with Special Honors from Jacksonville State University, Master of Science degree from Florida Institute of Technology, a Master of Education degree from Northcentral University, and a Juris Doctorate from George Mason University. In addition, Miss Boyer has completed the Leadership for a Democratic Society program at the Federal executive Institute and the Senior Executive Fellows program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Lee Ann's hobbies and interests include her adopted cat Domino, college football, and working to improve the lives of foster kids.



U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

Anthony Aldrich
Program Manager, SBIR/ STTR Program

Mr. Anthony J Aldrich is the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Manager for Special Operations Forces, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics (SOF AT&L), U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He is responsible for all USSOCOM SOF AT&L SBIR funded activities. Mr. Aldrich has over 15 years of civilian Federal service.

Mr. Aldrich entered Federal Service in 2002 as a Physicist at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Florida where he served in the Guided Weapons Evaluation Facility as a Hardware-In-the-Loop Test and Evaluation engineer. In 2005, he transferred to the Eglin Range Support Squadron serving as an Electronics Engineer and Program Manager for the threat radar, tracking radar and telemetry systems.

Mr. Aldrich transferred to Us Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in 2009, where he supported the Range Radar Replacement Program as a Project Director.

Prior to entering Civil Service, Mr. Aldrich worked at various small businesses designing Industrial Control Systems, Medical Equipment and Aviation Electronics.

EDUCATION

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK - Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, 1984



Department of Health and Human Services – National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Patricia Swayne

Communications Specialist, SBIR/STTR Program

Patricia Swayne is the Communications Specialist for the NIH SBIR/STTR Program where she develops the team's outreach strategy and online presence. Using traditional messaging and social media engagement, it is her priority to inform and expand the SBIR/STTR community, while also connecting with demographics that historically have lower application rates (Women-owned and/or Socially Disadvantaged Small Businesses (WOSDB)). Patricia is invested in creating opportunities and access to better health for the global citizenship, and inspiring innovation through relatable stories. Her goal is to translate important, effective information into a language that everyone can understand.



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

John Pucci

Program Director, SBIR/STTR Program

John Pucci is the DHS Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Director. He has been in that role since May 2016 after joining DHS in October 2015. Prior to that he was the Operations Manager for the Army SBIR Program from June 2008 until October 2015. He also served as the Acting Program Manager from December 2009 until June 2010. Mr. Pucci has an extensive history of supporting research for the Department of Defense (DoD), working at the Army Materiel Command (AMC DCSRDA) and the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command RDECOM for 18 years and at the Naval Electronic Systems Command (NAVELEX) and the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) for 14 years before that.



Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC)

Michael Merriken

FLC Southeast Regional Coordinator

Mr. Michael Merriken is the Manager for the Technology Transfer Office responsible for shaping and executing the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic's approach to Federal Technology Transfer by cultivating, developing, and sustaining partnerships with industry and academia, connecting these organizations and people in order to expand research opportunities and promote dual use technology. Responsibilities include technology assessment; marketing of laboratory resources; the establishment, negotiation, and management of technology transfer agreements; and the negotiation of licenses for intellectual property leading to the successful commercialization of technologies and products.

Mr. Merriken received a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and a M.S. in Human Factors Engineering from Virginia Tech and is currently serving on the Executive Board and Coordinator for the Southeast Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Lynn Garrison

Technology Transfer Lead, SBIR/STTR Program

Lynn Garrison serves as the Marshall Space Flight Center Small Business Technical Advisor in support of the Small Business Office. Mrs. Garrison is also a Marshall Space Flight Center Technology Transition Lead for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, which help the agency, meet federal research and development needs and increase private-sector commercialization of innovations derived from federal R&D.



National Science Foundation (NSF)

Debasis Majumdar

Program Director, SBIR/STTR Program

Debasis Majumdar is a Program Director for the SBIR/STTR Program in the Industrial Innovation and Partnerships Division of the Engineering Directorate at NSF. Prior to joining NSF, he was a Research Associate at Saint-Gobain and a Senior Principal Scientist at Eastman Kodak Company, spanning an industrial career of over 30 years. In that capacity, he was engaged in applied research, new product development and commercialization, manufacturing excellence, technology transfer and intellectual property development and management. His research expertise includes advanced materials comprising polymers, metals, ceramics, inorganic-organic nanocomposites and functional coatings for a variety of applications such, as imaging, display and life science. He is a co-inventor of more than 100 US patents and a co-author of more than 30 peer reviewed papers and book chapters. Debasis holds a Ph.D. degree in Materials Science and Engineering from Northwestern University and a B.Tech. degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.



National Science Foundation (NSF)

Nancy Kamei

Program Director

Nancy Kamei is a Program Director focused on Medical Devices and Digital Health. In 2017, after several years of retirement, she joined the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships to serve the United States' entrepreneurial ecosystem. For several years, she served as a National Instructor for the Innovation Corps (I-Corps™) program, interacting with NSF and National Institutes of Health grantees, which inspired her to join the SBIR/STTR Program and continue working with innovators and entrepreneurs. Nancy has more than 20 years of experience as an investor, having selected and managed billions of dollars of investments of both public equities (Capital Group Companies) and venture capital (Intel Capital). She is also a serial entrepreneur, having been on the founding team of several Silicon Valley startups (Onyx Pharmaceuticals). After receiving her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of California, San Francisco, she started her career at Merck and then completed her Master of Business Administration at Stanford Graduate School of Business. Nancy also has more than 40 years of service to the non-profit sector. She recently relocated to the Washington, D.C. area after a lifetime in California.



Department of Energy (DOE)

Chris O'Gwin

Outreach and Assistance Program Manager

The mission of the DOE SBIR/STTR Programs Office is to manage the administration and evaluation of about 2,000 Phase I and Phase II grant applications each year. The annual budget of the DOE SBIR/STTR programs is \$205M and enables the DOE to award approximately 400 Phase I and II grants every year.

Chris is principally responsible for managing the DOE SBIR/STTR Outreach and Assistance program. In this capacity, he facilitates a nationwide effort to develop and increase its underrepresented small business research and development base in search of SBIR/STTR grant opportunities.

Chris has worked for the DOE since November 1987, holding positions of leadership in both administrative and technical organizations. He received a BS in Business Education from Longwood University and an MS in Government from the Johns Hopkins University.



United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Nicholas McFall

Primary Patent Examiner and Outreach Detailee with the Texas Regional Office

Nicholas McFall is a Primary Patent Examiner who joined the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in 2011 and examines patent applications related to aircraft and spacecraft. He is also a Licensing and Review examiner, which involves reviewing applications for referral to defense agencies. Prior to joining the USPTO, he worked at Gulfstream Aerospace on the Flight Sciences team as both a thermodynamics engineer and a propulsion engineer. He started working on special missions aircraft and later worked on the G650. He is currently on detail with the outreach team of the Texas Regional Office.



United States Patent and Trademark Office
(USPTO)

Jacob Y. Choi
Assistant Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark
Texas Regional Office

Jacob Y. Choi is a Regional Assistant Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Texas Regional Office. He joined the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in 2001 and has examined patent application related to means and processes for casting visible radiant energy (Illumination). In 2010, he became a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) over seeing a group of patent examiner in communications: radio wave antennas and antenna and electric lamp and discharge devices: systems. During his tenure in the Office as a manager, he has been involved in detail assignment to Office of Commissioner of Patents – Mobile Apps, APIs, e-Publications for handheld devices, has worked for the Office of Patent Training (OPT), and has involved in projects – Patent Interview Best Practice, Docket Management (DM), and Patents Data. He is permanent to the Texas Regional Office and recently completed a yearlong detail assignment in Rocky Mountain Regional Office and Texas Regional Office as the Resource Supervisory Patent Examiner (RSPE) and played vital role in opening and running the day to day operation. As a Regional Assistant Director, he is responsible for assisting the Regional Director in building management/facility operations, outreach coordination and implementation, and organization leadership and cross-coordination across all regional offices and the HQ.



U.S. Small Business Administration - Office of Innovation and Technology

Brittany Sickler

Outreach and Partnership Strategist

Brittany Sickler is the Outreach and Partnership Strategist for SBA's Office of Innovation and Technology. Her primary duties advance the goals of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/ STTR) programs, enabling a diverse range of small businesses to explore their technological potential and profit from its commercialization. She focuses on support organizations across the country that grow the pipeline of potential applicants with breakthrough ideas, and oversees initiatives such as the SBIR Road Tour, Train the Trainer, and manages the Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program.

Sickler spent three years in SBA's North Dakota District as an Economic Development Specialist, building and strengthening regional connections with grassroots startup networks and rural communities. Prior to SBA, she was a Peace Corps Volunteer and Volunteer Leader in Guatemala in the Sustainable Community Tourism program, focusing on economic development and environmental conservation. She was a Masters International Fellow, completing a Master's in International Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University. Sickler also holds degrees in Business Administration and Spanish from Indiana Wesleyan University. Her career in economic development started in Florida with microlender ACCION USA, providing small business loans to individuals unable to access traditional credit.



U.S. Small Business Administration - Office of Innovation and Technology

Edsel Brown

Deputy Director

Mr. Brown has served with the U.S. Small Business Administration since 1990. He is currently the Assistant Director for the Office of Technology. In this position he provides oversight over the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs.

In addition to his tenure at the SBA, Mr. Brown has served as a Financial Consultant to several NASD broker dealers, owned a Liberty Tax Franchise, and operated an Entertainment/Sports Law practice.

He has been a member of a number of organizations including the DC Chamber of Commerce, Calvert County Economic Development Commission, National Bar Association, American Bar Association, NAACP, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Life Member)

A native of Plainfield, N. J., Mr. Brown holds B.A. (Government/Political Science) and M.A. (Public Administration) degrees from Ohio University, and a J.D. (Law) degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. He is a licensed Attorney.