

## **2023 LEAD Cohort Speakers Bio**



### **Judy Clarke - M.Ed.**

Organizational development consultant with over 40 years of experience and a background in mental health counseling and college instruction. Works with organizations to assess their needs and design innovative programs to address identified goals and increase organizational effectiveness. Helps organizational leaders understand the human dynamics within business situations and better manage their employees during change. Judy was trained and certified by William Bridges in change management and is a trained teacher in mindful self-compassion from UC San Diego School of Medicine.



### **Atousa - Consultant Project Manager/ Resident Engineer, ODOT, R1**

Atousa is a Consultant Project Manager/ Resident Engineer at ODOT and has more than a decade of working in the structural and transportation engineering field in the US and overseas. She is managing the engineering delivery of the I-205 Toll Project. Atousa is a multilingual Civil Engineer who immigrated to the United States from Iran approximately 9 years ago to practice her core values of freedom and equity. Atousa has a Master of Civil and Environmental Engineering from Portland State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Oregon. She is serving as a board member, volunteer and/or ambassador

with several international and local non-profit organizations: Women Transportation Seminar, Leading Water Forward, Greater FOA, and Dress For Success Oregon.

Her life purpose is to live in the present moment, choose joy, focus on what is most important, and embrace and believe in herself so she is better able to support and inspire others in making the world a more compassionate, loving, and equitable place.



### **Marcela - Transportation Project Manager, HDR, inc.**

Marcela has 19 years of experience in transportation engineering working initially in NYC where she worked as a consultant for various safety and transportation projects with the city and the state evaluating alternatives for transportation projects and land use scenarios. She then moved to Portland OR where she worked for ODOT Region 1 for about 7 years as the Access Management Engineer. She was involved in project delivery in Region 1 of major arterials including Outer Powell Transportation Safety Improvement, on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and TV Highway evaluating, implementing access management

treatments and reaching out to property owners for input. During her last 3 years with ODOT, she led the development review team to review land use actions that may impact safety and operations of the state highway system and developing safety and operational improvements. Currently, she works at HDR as an assistant project manager for Rose Quarter Project, leads Access Management and ROW for 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Major Maintenance Project, provides expertise in traffic engineering, safety and bike and ped analysis for various planning projects including OR 138E Concept Plan in Roseburg.



**Colette Mitrenga - Senior Traffic Engineer, HDR, inc.**

Colette is a Senior Traffic Engineer at HDR with over 20 years' design experience for public improvement projects. While built to be an engineer, Colette believes deeply in the human elements of the work like engineering judgment, aesthetics, strong teams, and laughter.



**Millicent Williams - Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation**

Millicent Williams is a career public servant committed to providing meaningful service to the residents, businesses, and visitors of every jurisdiction she has worked in.

A graduate of the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University's School of Business and Industry in Tallahassee, Millicent was a five-time mayoral appointee and served as agency director or senior executive for three separate agencies under three consecutive Washington, D.C. mayors. There she led teams dedicated to national service administration, grantmaking, emergency management and homeland security policy, and plan implementation.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, she worked in various roles ranging from coordinator of emergency management operations to parks planning and community engagement administrator.

Millicent rejoined PBOT in 2023 after managing PBOT's Capital Delivery division from 2017 to 2020, then serving as PBOT Deputy Director until May 2021. After her years at PBOT, Millicent served as Otak's Oregon/SW Washington Regional Director for the Public Sector and as Corporate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Millicent lives in Portland and is the proud mother of a 25-year-old son, Ethan. Ethan was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome in early childhood. Since then, Millicent has created solutions to ensure her son—and families struggling with being classified as other-abled—mature into full, independent members of society. Her experience with her son has also influenced the way she manages teams and structures her work.

Over the course of her career, Millicent has realized her desire to serve and to ensure the equitable distribution of critical resources and services in communities across the U.S., throughout the Caribbean,

in countries in western, central, and southern Africa, and in southern India. Her passion remains to connect with and serve local communities, demonstrating how our government can (and does) work to serve their interests.



**Shelli Romero - Area Manager Central, ODOT Region 1**

Shelli is Area Manager Central for ODOT Region 1. Prior to this position, she was Region 1's Government Liaison, Public Policy and Community Affairs Manager and the Interim Area Manager West. Shelli works in project delivery as a program manager with colleagues responsible for delivering ODOT Region 1's STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program). She is responsible for scope, schedule and budget of projects engaging in project scoping, development, design, and construction. She has worked with ODOT for 17+ years and in transportation for

22+ years. Shelli's academic and professional background includes project/program and personnel management, integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion in transportation workforce, contracting, hiring as well as design and construction, communications/public involvement and public/government affairs. She is a past recipient of the WTS Woman of the Year award, Daily Journal of Commerce Woman of Vision and an ODOT statewide Excellence Award for Lifetime Achievement.



**Shilpa Mallem - Design Manager, Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program, ODOT**

Shilpa Mallem (she/her) is the Design Manager for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) program. With a background in transportation engineering, Mallem has worked on multiple infrastructure projects across the country, ranging from the US 301 and US 113 corridors in Delaware to neighborhood traffic calming and safety improvements and innovative intersection and interchange design projects across the country. She believes successful transportation projects

are designed to context and informed by community and stakeholder input.

Mallem grew up in India and moved to the United States to get her master's in civil engineering from the University of Delaware. She is the past president of ASHE First State Section, the former chair of ITE International's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the current vice president of WTS' Portland Chapter, which focuses on promoting the advancement of women in the transportation industry.



**Heather Wills - Senior Vice President and Managing Director, WSP, USA**

Heather Wills is a Senior Vice President and Managing Director of the Transportation Operations Strategy National Business Line, based in Portland, Oregon. Heather has over 20 years of progressive leadership experience in the transportation industry, including many complex and controversial mega infrastructure projects. Mega projects and programs have many moving parts, Wills strategically pulls the pieces together for her

clients and colleagues providing pathways to success. Heather is currently leading a large interdisciplinary team with the Oregon Department of Transportation to bring tolling to the Portland Metro area. In this role, Wills leads a team of strategic communication and engagement professionals, traffic and revenue analysts, environmental discipline experts, equity consultants, transportation modelers and government relations specialists.

Heather leads with heart. She cares about her team as people and professionals, just as much as she cares about project successes. She excels at matching skills and interests and is a fierce advocate for providing “stretch” opportunities and mentoring for team members that provides strategic career advancement. Wills is passionate about collaborative problem-solving where everyone has a voice and opportunity to add value. Heather received a 2023 Women of Vision honor and was also identified in the Women We Admire’s 2023 Top 50 Leaders in Oregon.

In her spare time, Heather enjoys chasing her son and husband down mountains on a mountain bike and snowboard.