



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mark Wilbur



President & CEO, Employers Group. Mark joined Employers Group in 2007 as the youngest CEO in the association's 116 year history. He serves on the Board of the National Association of Manufacturers and was the 2011 Chairman of the LA County Business Federation (BizFed). He has served as the Associate Dean of the Marshall School of Business at USC, was a Partner in Business Consulting at Arthur Anderson, and served as co-instructor of Japan's first ever HR Certification Program. Mark has been a featured speaker at the Department of Commerce, President's Export Council Meeting, E-Learn Guild's Annual Conference, and SHRM and PIHRA's Management Conferences. He served as curriculum designer and instructor for both the USC and the Arthur Anderson Center of Professional Education receiving the "Anderson Excellence in Education" award four times. Mark has served as the volunteer Head Coach of the USC's successful ice hockey team for 16 seasons, earning eight PAC-8 Championships, four "Coach of the Year" distinctions and 13 "Cross Cup" victories against UCLA. Mark has both a BA and MBA degree from USC.

Dr. Robert Kleinhenz



Chief Economist at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). Dr. Kleinhenz directs the Kyser Center for Economic Research, which conducts research on the regional, state and national communities. Dr. Kleinhenz has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Southern California, all in economics. He is a frequent contributor to news media including the Wall Street Journal, CNBC, Bloomberg News, and NPR. Before joining LAEDC, Dr. Kleinhenz taught economics for over 16 years at CSU Fullerton.

Sonia Southwell



Director of Community Development for the City of Lakewood. Ms. Southwell is responsible for the Department's Planning, Housing, Building and Safety, Code Enforcement and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Ms. Southwell completed her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design in Brazil, her native country, where she subsequently taught Urban Design Principles. She has a master's degree in Planning and Environmental Design from Purdue University. She also holds a graduate level certificate in Housing and Transportation Planning for Air Quality. Ms. Southwell has worked for the City of Lakewood for 27 years. She is very involved in the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and is Chair of the COG's Planning Directors' Committee and a member of the COG's Economic Development Committee. Sonia is also active in the community as a member of Soroptimist International of Lakewood/Long Beach.