**AWE Speed Mentoring**

**November 15, 2018**

**Mentors:**

* Katie Abraham (Michigan Municipal Electric Association) – government/legislative affairs, oil and gas, electricity, environmental, energy
* Sarah Barbo (Consumers Energy) – corporate strategy & innovation, consulting, making big career changes
* Valerie Brader (Rivenoak Law) – legal, regulatory, government
* Rachael Eubanks (Michigan Public Service Commission) – regulatory, finance
* Deb Muchmore (Deb Muchmore Consulting) – consulting, messaging, strategy

* Tish Murphy (ITC Holdings) – corporate and utility operations law
* Katherine Peretick (NRStor, Inc.) – engineering, start up, storage
* Jamie Scripps (5 Lakes Energy) – consulting, lean energy, sustainability
* Heather Shawa (Lansing Board of Water and Light) – finance, c-suite
* Rebecca Takacs (ITC Holdings) – environmental and commercial law and litigation
* Mary Templeton (Michigan Saves) – finance, energy efficiency

**Mentor Bios:**

*Sarah Barbo*

Sarah is a strategy and innovation professional and a U.S. Army veteran. Her professional interests center around how to utilize innovation, strategy, and science to solve our 21st infrastructure and natural resource challenges.

She is currently a Director of Corporate Strategy at Consumers Energy, charting the future for Michigan’s largest electric utility. Her group assesses industry trends and technology advancements like electric vehicles and smart grids to integrate new products and services and define new business models for the utility.

Previously at Innosight, a growth strategy and innovation consulting firm, she helped clients in finance, healthcare, media, and additional industries develop dual strategies to strengthen their existing business and to “future-proof” by identifying areas of growth and building towards the business required in the future.

Sarah holds a BS in biology from the University of Dayton and an MBA and MS in Environmental Science from Yale University. She served 7 years in the U.S. Army as a Medical Services officer.

*Katherine Peretick*

Katherine Peretick is the Director of Engineering at NRStor Inc., a leading energy storage project developer. She directs the technical work to develop and build energy storage systems for the electrical grid, working with technologies from flywheels to batteries to microgrids, all with the goal of increasing renewable energy penetration on the electrical grid efficiently and cost-effectively. She is currently developing the world's first commercial fuel-free compressed air energy storage facility in Goderich, Ontario. Previously at General Compression, a high-tech compressed air energy storage technology startup company, Katherine led project engineering for the company’s first commercial project. She also found and evaluated new project opportunities and developed models to prove functionality, reliability, and profitability of the machine. In prior roles Katherine designed wind turbines at Vestas, and was a reliability engineer for the Mars rover, Curiosity, during her time at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

*Heather Shawa*

Heather Shawa joined the Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) in 2015 as the utility’s Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Executive Director. Her areas of responsibility include Finance, General Accounting, Purchasing and the IT Department. The BWL is Michigan’s largest municipally-owned public utility and has provided water, electric, steam, and chilled water services to mid-Michigan since 1885. The BWL delivers safe and reliable service to nearly 100,000 Electric and 55,000 Water residential and business customers.

Ms. Shawa’s background includes serving as the CFO and the Vice President of Operations for Demmer Corporation, a privately held manufacturing company serving defense, automotive and aerospace industries; and where she played a key role in facilitating the company’s growth from 350 to 1550 employees and reaching a sales growth of 400%. Ms. Shawa’s background also includes serving as the Board President and Secretary of Peckham Inc., a non-profit vocational rehabilitation organization that provides job training opportunities for persons with significant disabilities and other barriers to employment. Ms. Shawa also served as a member of the City of Lansing’s’ Mayor’s Financial Health Team, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Board, and is an active member of the Lansing Regional Chamber Political Action Committee.

Ms. Shawa received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from Northwood University and a Master’s of Science degree in business from Central Michigan University. She is active in the community and a proud graduate of Waverly High School. She enjoys family activities which include following her daughter’s basketball career at her Alma Mater, Northwood University.

*Rebecca Takacs*

Rebecca Takacs is an attorney with almost 20 years of experience in environmental law and litigation, toxic torts and commercial law, with utility experience in property acquisition, railroad agreements and other construction project matters. Rebecca spent the first ten years of her legal career at Dickinson Wright PLLC in its Detroit office where she specialized in commercial and environmental law and litigation, including toxic torts. Following her time at Dickinson Wright, she went to work at Pear Sperling Eggan & Daniels, P.C. where she specialized in commercial law and litigation for small and medium sized businesses. Rebecca began working at ITC Holdings Corp in February 2014, where she is currently a Counsel in the Capital Projects & Maintenance Practice Group. ITC is a provider of electric transmission services whose subsidiaries own and operate high voltage electric transmission equipment and lines throughout Michigan and in parts of Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Illinois. Rebecca assists ITC’s project teams with any legal issues that arise related to the design and construction of projects, as well as acquisition and maintenance of real estate rights of way and substation locations, primarily in Michigan. Rebecca also reviews railroad agreements and addresses legal environmental issues for all of ITC’s operating companies throughout the country.