

## Speakers

### **Elena Irwin**

Elena Irwin is the faculty director of the Sustainability Institute and a distinguished professor of food, agricultural, and environmental sciences in economics and sustainability at Ohio State University in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics. Her research focuses on the economics of land use and development in urban, urbanizing, and agricultural regions, including spatial models of land, water, and ecosystem services. She has been a principal investigator on research projects totally over \$19 million, including funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other private and public agencies. She is a co-author of the 2018 NSF report “Sustainable Urban Systems: Articulating a Long-Term Convergence Research Agenda” and co-editor of the recently published 2019 book “Science for the Sustainable City.” She has been a member of the US EPA’s Board of Scientific Councilors Committee for Sustainable and Healthy Communities since last year and was elected last year to the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Executive Board. She co-founded the Sustainability Institute (SI) at Ohio State, which was launched in January 2019. In her capacity as SI faculty director she provides leadership to interdisciplinary sustainability research and teaching across the university, including mentoring core faculty of the Institute and collaborating with other faculty leaders on research development of SI’s key focus areas: healthy land, water and air; sustainable and resilient communities; and sustainable energy. She also co-leads the Sustainability Education and Learning Committee, which facilitates coordination, communication and development of interdisciplinary education programs in sustainability at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She holds an undergraduate dual degree in History and German from Washington University and a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from University of Maryland. She lives in Bexley, Ohio with her husband Brian Roe, and is the proud mother of two amazing teenage boys, Isaac and Elliot.

### **Bill Stanley**

Starting with The Nature Conservancy in 1999, Bill Stanley was previously the director of conservation and is now the director of The Nature Conservancy in Ohio. In this role he leads a team that is conserving, connecting, and restoring important natural areas and solving water problems in the state of Ohio and beyond. His team’s current projects include working with the agriculture industry to eliminate the harmful algae blooms facing Lake Erie, the Ohio River and the Gulf of Mexico, running a statewide stream and wetland restoration program, and working toward more productive and sustainable forests in southern Ohio. Prior to this, Bill was the director of TNC’s Global Climate Change Initiative. He led forest carbon science research and worked with power companies to support forestry projects that help to eliminate carbon pollution. Bill has served at the request of the Governor on the state’s Forestry Advisory Council and is a member of the Ohio Water Development Authority board. He is also on the Vice-

President's Advisory Council for The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Science. Bill has contributed to book chapters, been published in scientific journals and interviewed about conservation issues for Ohio papers, The New York Times, Time Magazine, USA Today, National Public Radio and other media. He holds a Master's degree in forest science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a BA in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia. Bill and his wife Megan have two kids, 16 and 12. They, along with their dog and a lizard, live in Grandview Heights, Ohio.

### **Chris Korleski**

Chris Korleski became Director of U.S EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) in August of 2011. He has served in that role since that time, with the exception of an 18-month stint as Region 5's Water Division Director from October of 2016 through June of 2018.

Prior to joining GLNPO, he was Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency from 2007-2011. From 1996-2007, Chris served as in-house environmental counsel with Honda of America Mfg. Inc., managing environmental compliance and regulatory issues at all of Honda's Ohio facilities. From 1988-1996, Chris worked in the Environmental Enforcement Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Chris has a B.S. in Soil Science from the Ohio State University (1981), an M.S. in Soil Science from the University of Nebraska (1984), and a law degree from the Ohio State University (1987).

Chris attributes his 40-year career in the environmental protection field to his involvement in the Ohio Youth Conservation Corps from 1976-1981.