

**Berkshire Leadership Program
2017 Bus Tour – Speaker Bios**

Jonathan Butler – 1Berkshire

Jonathan was appointed President & CEO of the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce in the Summer of 2014. Since then, he has transitioned through the merging of multiple organizations and become the President and CEO of 1Berkshire. Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Franklin Pierce College and is a candidate for a Masters in Public Administration and a Masters in Political Science from Suffolk University.

Jonathan began his professional career working as a Legislative Director for former State Senator Benjamin Downing at the Massachusetts Statehouse before going on to become Town Administrator of Adams, MA at the age of 27.

Jonathan serves on multiple boards and committees including the Governor's Economic Development Planning Council, the Berkshire County Education Taskforce, the Berkshire Leadership Impact Council, the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, the Compact for Higher Education, Forest Park County Club and as a Trustee of Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter School. He was also a founding member of ProAdams, and served on the board of the former Berkshire Visitor's Bureau. Jonathan was also recognized in 2016 as part of the first *Forty Under 40* class in the Berkshires. Jonathan lives in Adams with his wife Michele Butler, and his dog, Jackson.

Laura Brennan – 1Berkshire

Laura Brennan holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, where she also minored in religious studies and received a Hackman fellowship to research the Lancaster chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW).

Laura is the Director of Client Services for 1Berkshire, responsible for recruitment and retention of businesses and oversight of events, educational programming and fundraising projects. Prior to the recent 1Berkshire merger, Laura worked for the Berkshire Visitors Bureau as Director of Membership, and spent the prior seven years at Hancock Shaker Village - most recently as its Director of Operations & Marketing.

Laura currently volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the Berkshire United Way. Previously, she has been involved with the Pittsfield Tourism Commission, the Networking and Recognition Committee of the former Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, and a working group leader in the Berkshire Initiative for Growth (B.I.G.). She served on the Board of the former Berkshire Visitors Bureau, and is a graduate of the Berkshire Leadership Program, class of 2008.

Krystle Gallo – General Dynamics Mission Systems

Krystle Gallo is a Systems Engineering Team Lead at General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS) in Pittsfield, MA. She is a 2015 graduate of the GDMS Engineering Leadership Program, an entry level, rotational program designed to build future engineering leaders within the company. She is currently responsible for leading a cross-functional team as part of an incremental modernization of the US Navy ballistic missile submarine fleet.

Krystle is a 2014 BLP graduate and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee. She also volunteers with the Berkshire United Way, is a board member of the Pittsfield Economic Development Authority, and teaches a weekly Zumba class in Pittsfield. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Union College (2012), a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University (2015), and is currently pursuing an MBA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Jenn Smith – Berkshire Eagle

Jenn Smith is an award-winning journalist and community engagement editor, who has been with The Berkshire Eagle since 2004. She grew up in Berkshire County, graduated from Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton and is an alumna of Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

In her field, Smith covers a range of topics, from features to politics, education to entertainment, municipal to social justice issues. She's reported from The Berkshires to California and Haiti to Pakistan, and has a passion for listening to and sharing people's stories.

Outside of journalism, Smith serves on the Board of Directors for Town Players of Pittsfield and the Steering Committee for Berkshire Leadership Program. She is an assistant baker for Tunnel City Coffee; volunteers for various other community, regional and statewide projects, and is always looking for her next adventure.

In addition to serving various journalism fellowships, she' earned awards and distinctions from Berkshire Community College's 40 Under Forty, the Berkshire County Guidance Association, Multicultural BRIDGE, Berkshire Business & Professional Women and the Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center and Girls Inc. Jenn is an alumna of the Berkshire Leadership Program, Class of 2011.

Jenn Smith is also your BLP project liaison and is happy to help you with any questions during this trip. Sit back and enjoy the ride!