Christine Buteas
Chief Government Affairs Officer
New Jersey Business & Industry Association
 cbuteas@njbia.org

Christine “Chrissy” Buteas is Chief Government Affairs Officer of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA), the nation’s largest state-level business association whose member companies collectively employ 1 million people. Buteas also serves as the Executive Director of the NEW JOBS PAC, the State’s largest and most influential ideological business political action committee.

Prior to joining NJBIA, Buteas served as the president and CEO of the Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey, representing New Jersey home health agencies, hospices and health care service firms servicing the state’s Medicare, Medicaid and private pay patients. She serves on the board of trustees of Middlesex College, Girl Scouts of Heart of NJ and is a member of the Northern Board of Junior Achievement whose mission is to inspire and prepare young people in grades K-12 to succeed in a global economy through real world relationships with business, government, and education partners that can help them develop the employability and financial literacy skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. Buteas is also the former president and current board member of the Women’s Political Caucus of New Jersey, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to advancing women in government.

Thomas Baffuto
Executive Director
The Arc of New Jersey
 tbaffuto@arcnj.org

Tom Baffuto was named Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey in June of 1998. A thirty-three year veteran of The Arc, Tom's leadership and vision has resulted in significant growth and innovation for the organization. This includes the development of new programs to address the transition from school to adult life for students with I/DD and The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute which provides resources, advocacy and information to thousands of families each year as they care for a loved one with I/DD. Tom was also instrumental in fostering and promoting employment opportunities for people with I/DD. Project HIRE, which is the largest supported employment program in New Jersey, was started by Tom in 1985. Since that time Project HIRE has assisted more than 3,000 individuals with developmental disabilities find and keep jobs in the community. Tom's statewide advocacy has resulted in numerous successful campaigns on issues ranging from reducing waiting lists for services to increasing the wages for direct support professionals (DSPs).
Wesley E. Anderson
Director of Training and Consultation Services
The Arc of New Jersey
wanderson@arcnj.org

Wesley E. Anderson is the Director of Training and Consultation Services at The Arc of New Jersey; where he provides technical assistance and customized workshops to supported employment agencies and schools throughout the state. A certified practitioner of The Teaching Family Model and Traumatic Brain Injury Specialist, Wesley has been providing supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 10 years. He started his career in Special Education and later supported employment as an Employment Specialist and Job Developer. A proven networker, he was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce Southern NJ to their Ambassador Committee. In his current role, Wesley also sits on the national board of directors for APSE, The Association for Professionals Supporting Employment First.

Nicole Engel
Case Manager
InspiriTec, Inc.
nengel@inspiritec.org

Nicole received her Master’s degree from Montclair State University in 2019. She has been employed with InspiriTec a little over 2 years, and has provided case management to individuals employed by InspiriTec. She also has experience working in harm reduction, and has had the opportunity to testify in front of NJ State Senate for funding for these programs.
New Jersey girl born and raised in Warren county. Family roots are farmers and teachers. Graduated from North Warren Regional High School and received associates degree in liberal arts from Warren County Community College.

Started with Walmart in 1999 as an overnight unloader and stocker. Was promoted after 4 months to a supervisor position. I have done several different positions with Walmart over the 22 plus years I've been there, most of them as a supervisor of some kind. I've been in the HR department over 5 years.

I met my husband at Walmart and we are celebrating 14 years married next month.

Marc Schweitzer is a trained Vocational evaluator, Master’s level Counselor and Certified Social Worker with over 25 years of experience in the Rehabilitation field.

Marc also has 25 years of experience in the Interior Contracting and Food service industries in Supervisory and Administrative roles. He has placed numerous individuals with disabilities into competitive integrated employment over his 14 years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Marc brings his knowledge and expertise with workforce development to his role as a Consultant to the DVRS Business Outreach Team.
Cheryl Casciano
Program Planning and Development Specialist
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services,
NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development

She covers Central Jersey in her role as a Business Outreach Consultant for the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Prior to her employment with NJDVRS, Ms. Casciano was self-employed as a free-lance sign language interpreter.

Matthew Fernandes
New Jersey State Director
Best Buddies International

Matthew Fernandes is currently the New Jersey State Director for Best Buddies International and a leader in the Diversity, Inclusion, and Development fields. He attended George Mason University, where he obtained his bachelor’s degree in Government and International Politics with a minor in International Studies. Upon completing college, he shifted his focus into fundraising and development, and he began his lifelong career in non-profit organization management. Matthew has worked with the Boy Scouts of America, the American Lung Association, and the United Way of Greater Newark. Presently, in addition to his role with Best Buddies Intl., he is an adjunct professor in the Career & Community Studies Department at The College of New Jersey.
Thank You to our Participating Organizations

Access NJ
Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD)
ASAH
Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey
Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ)
Community Access Unlimited
Community Options, Inc.
Easter Seals New Jersey
Jewish Vocational Services of MetroWest
New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP)
New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA)
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC)
New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
New Jersey Department of Human Services
New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce
Senate President Steve Sweeney
The Arc of New Jersey
The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities