



**NIHCM**  
FOUNDATION

## Climate Changes Health: Moving Towards Environmental Health Equity

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

**KATHRYN SANTORO, MA** is Director of Programming at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to transforming health care through evidence and collaboration. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM's programs to highlight market and policy innovations, including webinars and Capitol Hill briefings, and directs the organization's journalism and population health programs.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from George Washington University with a focus on women's health policy. Ms. Santoro previously served as a Project Consultant for Women in Government where she was responsible for compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her Master's degree, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant for a health policy consulting firm and a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women's and children's policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science.

**John M. Balbus, MD, MPH** is the Interim Director of the new Office of Climate Change and Health Equity within OASH. A physician and public health professional with over 25 years of experience working on the health implications of climate change, Dr. Balbus has served as HHS Principal to the U.S. Global Change Research Program and co-chair of the working group on Climate Change and Human Health for the U.S. Global Change Research Program since he joined the federal government in 2009. Before coming over to the new Office, Dr. Balbus served as Senior Advisor for Public Health to the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Prior to joining NIEHS, Dr. Balbus was the Chief Health Scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund and an Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services. He received his MPH degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, his MD degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Harvard University.

**Heather McTeer Toney, JD** elected at age 27, knows what it means to be a public servant. She was the first African-American, first female and the youngest to serve as Mayor of Greenville, Mississippi from 2004-2012. In 2014, she was appointed by President Barack Obama as Regional Administrator for Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Southeast Region. Known for her energetic and genuine commitment to people, her work has made her a national figure in the area of public service, environmental justice and community engagement. She currently serves as the Climate Justice Liaison for the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and Senior Advisor to Moms Clean Air Force, two affiliated organizations that represent over 3 million climate and environment allies committed to fighting climate change and protecting children from the dangers of air pollution. Heather is a sought-after speaker and writer.

The daughter of a civil rights attorney and public-school teacher, Heather was born and raised in Greenville, Mississippi. In 2003, she was elected Mayor of the City of Greenville and re-elected for a second term in 2007. Under her leadership, the city emerged from significant debt, focused on sustainable infrastructure repair and received millions of dollars in grants and federal assistance. At EPA, Mrs. Toney was responsible for protecting public health and the environment in eight southeastern states, as well as six federally recognized tribes; making Region 4 the most populated and diverse of ten regions. In addition, she led efforts to create and support local environmental

justice initiatives, promote clean energy and enhance the quality of work life for Region 4's approximately 1,000 employees while effectively managing a budget of more than \$500 million.

Heather has served in several roles throughout her career including as a National Spokeswoman for *She Should Run!*, a National Organization that encourages women to run for office. She is an expert on environmental and climate justice with [SheSource](#), a publication of the Women's Media Center and is often called up for advocacy and training diverse officials on equity in leadership, environment and climate. She has presented in over 15 countries including Kenya, France, Portugal, Nigeria and Senegal. She is a member of the board of directors for [Vote Solar](#).

Heather Toney has appeared on numerous news outlets including [CNN](#), [MSNBC](#), Fox News, and [Democracy Now!](#) She has written for and been featured in publications such as the [New York Times](#) and the [Washington Post](#) and is a regular columnist for [DAME magazine](#). Most recently, Heather was one of the essayist featured in the breakout Climate book of 2020, "[All We Can Save](#)", essays from women at the forefront of the climate movement. Heather was featured in the May 2005 issue of Essence Magazine as one of the "[50 Most Remarkable Women](#) in the World. She is also one of the winners of Marie Claire Magazine's "[Women on Top](#)" awards and the inaugural [Rachel's Network "Catalyst Awards"](#) recognizing women of color that work on climate issues. Heather is often a guest on various Sirius/XM radio shows and was included in the PBS/AOL documentary entitled "[MAKERS](#)", where she appears alongside noted women such as Hilary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice.

Mrs. Toney earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Spelman College in Atlanta and her law degree from the Tulane University School of Law. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and an active member of Oxford University United Methodist Church. Heather loves to compete in triathlons and is a member of several sports related groups. She is married to Dexter Toney and they have three children.

**Dr. Lindsey Butler, PhD, MSc** is an environmental epidemiologist, science communicator, and thought leader specializing in the intersection of climate change and human health. She serves as the Director of Climate and Health Resilience at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) where her core priorities include reducing the organization's environmental impact and moving towards carbon neutrality, empowering Blue Cross associates, clinicians, and members with accurate, accessible information about climate change and health, and advancing environmental justice and climate resilience in the communities served by BCBSMA.

Prior to joining Blue Cross she served as the Deputy Chief of Policy to the Mayor of the City of Boston. Her work at City Hall focused on environmental policy, public health policy, language access, food assistance, developing the green workforce and data driven governance. She holds a Master's of Science and PhD in environmental epidemiology from the Boston University School of Public Health and an undergraduate degree in environmental science from Simmons University.

Dr. Butler is an environmental optimist and currently penning a series of children's books on solutions to the climate crisis.

