

## Principal Staff

**Michael McCarthy**, MS, is the Assistant Vice President for New Business Development for The WorkPlace, Inc. (Southwestern Connecticut's Regional Workforce Development Board) located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. In this position, Michael is responsible for several key initiatives aimed at improving the capacity and competitiveness of industries as they relate to workforce and economic development and is currently the Managing Director of the **bluegreen** Research Institute.

Michael has been working with a number of communities around examining Green workforce issues. Most recently, Michael developed a plan for a multi-county collaboration in the Hudson Valley (New York) around "Green collar" workforce talent development. This project resulted in an initial investment of \$500,000 from the New York State Department of Labor to examine the role of Green jobs in the economy. This collaboration brought together WIBs, community colleges, economic development entities and Green businesses to the collaborative table to develop a transformative strategy in workforce development.

Prior to joining The WorkPlace, Michael worked for the City of Bridgeport where he was involved in both economic and community development initiatives. Michael is a frequent presenter at conferences and seminars on economic and workforce development topics. Mr. McCarthy holds a Masters of Science in Urban Management from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Albertus Magnus College.

**Ann Harrison** is the manager of The WorkPlace, Inc's and **bluegreen's** policy and research initiatives. She brings a career interest in community relations, municipal and state government, and policy-focused outreach campaigns. Ms. Harrison's responsibilities include investigating policy themes and performing research to determine trends relating to workforce development. She also aids in the development of projects to enable The WorkPlace, Inc. to achieve its strategic goals.

Ann holds a BS degree in Political Science and Journalism from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). Prior to joining the WorkPlace, Ann was a newspaper reporter and worked in the private sector as a public relations account executive, and for city and state government as well as for non-profit organizations in Connecticut.

