

## **DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



**Jeffrey Ray**  
**Western Carolina University**  
**Kimmel School, Dean**

Jeffrey Ray is the Dean of the Kimmel School at Western Carolina University. Prior to his deanship at Western Carolina University, Jeffrey served as dean and professor of mechanical engineering technology at Southern Polytechnic State University for seven years. During his tenure as dean at SPSU, Ray helped develop his school's first strategic plan, coordinated three major accreditation processes, and acquired funding for more than \$2.5 million in new and replacement equipment. He also created and developed two new undergraduate programs and one new graduate program.

Prior to joining SPSU, Ray served as director and professor in the School of Engineering at Grand Valley State University from 2004 until 2007, and as associate professor and chair of the mechanical engineering program there from 1997 until 2004. He also previously was an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Youngstown State University and a biomedical research engineer at Vanderbilt University.

Ray is a member of the ASEE, serving as chair of the organization's engineering technology council and vice president of its institutional councils. He earned his doctorate in mechanical engineering at Vanderbilt University and his master's and bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering at Tennessee Technological University.



**Jamie Raynor**  
**Western Carolina University**  
**Director of Development**

As a higher education professional for over 13 years, Jamie gained early experience on the academic side of her alma mater for several years before turning her focus to development with initial work in alumni relations and annual giving. After receiving a B.A. in English and a M.Ed. in Educational Technology through the University of South Carolina Aiken, Jamie completed all doctoral coursework in the USC's Higher Education Leadership program and is in the process of writing her dissertation on alumni giving motivations.

She has successfully raised major gifts for student, faculty, program, and capital support at prior colleges and universities in South Carolina, Colorado and Georgia through individuals, corporations, and private foundations. Joining the Western Carolina University development team in August 2015, Jamie is thrilled to work with the Kimmel School's dean, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters to secure major gifts to strengthen programs, scholarships, faculty research and development, and facilities within the Kimmel School. Jamie has quickly become a Cata-mountain fan, and she resides in Cullowhee with her husband, who has been in the construction management field for over a decade, and their two daughters.

**Mike Keenan**  
**Eaton Corporation, Human Resources Manager**

Office of the Dean

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**Jack David Bolick**

**Gryphon Investors**, GEAB Advisor and Investor  
Member of Gryphon Executive Advisory Board, Fund Investor

Mr. Bolick is a proven senior executive and leader with a Global Fortune 100 diversified industrial manufacturing Corporation and high technology growth businesses.

His recent successes and experiences include: full responsibilities for a \$3 billion global P&L including finance, HR, legal, R&D, operations, IT, M&A, QA, and marketing & sales. In 2002, he restructured and restored customer confidence in Honeywell Process Solutions business, by setting global strategic and tactical direction. In 2008, he received the Frost and Sullivan "Life time achievement award" in the Automation industry.

Mr. Bolick's specialties include: 30+ years semiconductor, microelectronics and software experience He has market experience in Oil & Gas, Refining and Petrochemical, Pharma, Spec Chem, Paper & Pulp, Mining, Semiconductors, Textiles, Furniture, etc.

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**Charlie Kimmel**

**Kimmel & Associates**, President & Chief Executive Officer

President and CEO, Charlie Kimmel, has dedicated his more than 20-year career to executive search at Kimmel & Associates.

Charlie officially began his career at Kimmel & Associates in 1990 as a recruiter. In 1993, he graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina-Asheville where he received a BA degree in History.

During the following 13 years, he worked his way through the ranks: as research assistant; recruiter for general construction in the Southeast; to consultant for regional and national commercial builders; consultant in our Heavy Civil Division; and corporate trainer, prior to being named chief operations officer in 2003. Six years later, Charlie assumed his role as president and in 2012 was named chief executive officer.

In his free time, Charlie enjoys supporting his community by running in several 5K events each year for various charitable organizations. Charlie leads Kimmel & Associates with a focus on setting and enabling the highest levels of professional standards and client service — all with the aim of delivering outstanding results for our clients.



**Lisa Leatherman**

**Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC.**, Duke Energy Nantahala Area District Manager

Lisa is a native of Franklin, NC and holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Biology from Elon College.

Lisa has been an employee of Duke Energy for 26 years. She has worked in other various customer facing roles through her 26 year career at Duke Energy including lake services, hydro relicensing, hydro operations, engineering and vegetation management.

She is a member of the Franklin Daybreak Rotary Club. She serves on boards for the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee River, Macon County CareNet and Macon County Department of Social Services. She has also served on the board for Macon County Habitat for Humanity.

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### **Stephen Edmonds**

**Edmonds Consulting Corporation, President**  
**Edmonds Turbine Company LLC, President**

Mr. Edmonds is a graduate of West Virginia University (1965), with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. He previously worked with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, a division of the United Technologies Corporation. At Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Mr. Edmonds was a senior project engineer responsible for the design of compressors for the F100 (F-15,F-16), F119 (F-22), and F135 (F-35) engines. He was also the Director of Japan Programs and the Director of Business Development and Strategic Planning.

Currently, he is the president of Edmonds Consulting Corporation (ECC) and Edmonds Turbine Company, LLC. (ETC). ECC provides gas turbine design and development services. ECC Helped to develop gas turbine laboratory facilities at

WCU including a high technology structures laboratory, turbine heat transfer water flow visualization rig and cascade wind tunnel. ETC is a startup company developing a new high performance gas turbine for Distributed Power Generation and propulsion.



### **Richard L. Robinson**

**Meritor, Leans System Manager**

Richard Robinson is a North Carolina native with a wealth of experience in the field of manufacturing operations, Lean/Sigma transformation and global project management in corporate settings both domestically and internationally. He has worked with colleagues at all levels and with diverse cultural backgrounds over a 25-year career. Richard completed his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has received corporate training in the Toyota Production System in Nagoya, Japan, Business Driven Leadership training in Copenhagen, Denmark, and both Six Sigma and Design for Six Sigma certifications through General Electric.

Richard's early career was with a large international company from Finland in R&D and process engineering related to paper making and machinery in the field of structural and fluid dynamics. In 1997, he took a Six Sigma Black Belt position for manufacturing operations with a division of General Electric Corporation. In 1999, he was recruited for a key and newly created position of Master Black Belt for Dana Corporation for the startup of a "greenfield" 400,000 sq ft facility as a result of a business acquisition of the Echlin manufacturing operations. He was subsequently promoted to the Operations Manager. With a decline in the global truck market and the divestiture of various Dana businesses in 2001, Richard transferred to Volvo Construction Equipment in which he led all major North American product introductions and manufacturing expansions for Volvo Asheville Plant along with managing all aspects of manufacturing. While with Volvo, he established an exceptional track record in the areas of project and manufacturing management, Lean/SixSigma, operational development, and policy deployment leading to the Volvo, Asheville Plant receiving national recognition as a Shingo Silver Medallion award winner, considered the Nobel Prize for Manufacturing.

In 2007, Richard launched and managed a successful re-introduction of fabrication and machining back into the Volvo Asheville Plant. During this project implementation time, he specialized in cultural team building, capital investments and implementation, employee recruitment, employee training and certification. By collaborating with the local community college (Asheville Buncombe Technical College), Volvo was awarded a \$250,000 grant to provide the necessary training in order to reestablish the specialized machining and heavy welding business. The partnership with AB-Tech led to the receipt of the Distinguished Partners for Excellence Award given by the State of North Carolina.

In 2010, Richard joined Meritor, the recognized leader in providing advanced drivetrain, mobility, braking and aftermarket solutions for the global commercial vehicle and industrial markets, as the Engineering Manager of the Asheville Plant. During this time, he led a \$40 MUSD capital investment in the Asheville plant along with applying for and receiving two State grants related to job growth and Technology for a total of \$279,000. In July of 2013, he took the Corporate Lean Systems Manager position for Meritor's North America Truck business. Richard is also currently serving as a Board Member for United Way, Henderson County.

Richard and his wife Tammy, a Real Estate Professional with Beverly Hanks at the Ramble community in South Asheville, have been married for 22 years. Richard and Tammy reside in Mills River with their Golden Retriever, Wilbur.