



STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

MICHAEL DAWIDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael Dawida brings vision and leadership to Scenic Pittsburgh, along with more than 30 years of public service experience as a legislator, lawyer and teacher. As a Pennsylvania State Senator and Representative from 1979 to 1996, Mr. Dawida championed and passed many legislative firsts including the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act, the Pennsylvania Food Donor Act and the Pennsylvania Organ Donation Act. In 1996, Mr. Dawida was elected to the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners where, as Chairman, he overhauled the County Pension System, founded the Airport Authority, and created the Allegheny County 911 System. He also orchestrated several billion dollars of development projects that include the Heinz Stadium, PNC Park, David Lawrence Convention Center and the “Waterfront” in Homestead. In addition to his role as Executive Director of Scenic Pittsburgh, Mr. Dawida is a professor of Law and Public Policy at California University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the Hamline University School of Law.

DAVID DEMKO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dave Demko contributes technical experience, an understanding of the private sector and a passion for the community to Scenic Pittsburgh’s mission. He has more than 25 years experience in engineering research, software and network development for both the private and public sectors. Mr. Demko is now a resident of, and advocate for, the Central North Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh. He holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh, a M.S. in Business Administration from California University of Pennsylvania, and is a Chubb Institute Fellow.

ABBY GEISEL, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Abby Geisel is a dynamic emerging professional with a passion for promoting the Pittsburgh region and all of the unique scenic resources it has to offer. She has varied experience in public relations, social media and marketing. Abby has demonstrated leadership capabilities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication from Saint Vincent College and currently resides in the South Hills. As an avid runner and amateur photographer, she relishes observing and capturing the scenic beauty of western Pennsylvania.

