

# INSPIRING FEARLESS COMMUNICATION

*PANELEST BIOGRAPHIES*



**CIGIE LIFT**  
Leading, Inspiring, and Fostering Talent



**Stanley (Stan) J. Hammonds**  
**Director of Curriculum Design  
and Instructor Development**  
*Department of Transportation OIG*

Mr. Hammonds serves as Director of Curriculum Design and Instructor Development at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of Inspector General (OIG). In this role, he uses his extensive instructional design and training background to ensure the quality and effectiveness of all internal OIG training, and to enhance the facilitation skills of all staff who deliver training.

Stan joined OIG in 2018 as the Director – Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion (CDI), where he worked to maintain an organizational culture that supports civility and equity. He was responsible for directing all facets of a comprehensive CDI Program to include OIG's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) activities. Prior to that, Stan served as lead trainer for DOT's Departmental Office of Civil Rights from 2015-2018, a position where he supported the training needs of all civil rights offices within DOT. Including an active duty career with the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Hammonds has 32 years' experience in leadership and management with the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and Transportation.

Stan is an expert instructor and facilitator, having spent the last 19 years designing, implementing, and evaluating educational and training programs aimed at developing individuals and enhancing organizations. He is also a professional coach in the Federal Coaching Network.

Mr. Hammonds holds Master of Science in Adult Education and Bachelor of Science in Resources Management degrees from Troy University.



**Brian Sano**

**Director of Organizational Health**

*Department of State OIG*

Brian Sano is the Director of Organizational Health for the Department of State OIG, a position he has held since 2018. His role involves connecting business brains (strategy/mission) with human hearts (employee engagement/professional and personal development). Through coaching, mentoring, and providing executive-level advice, he leads efforts to cultivate a culture that supports staff members' sense of purpose, curiosity, inclusion, and belonging, while driving innovative results. He inspires a shared vision and empowers others as leaders (hint: anyone can be a leader, regardless of position) by building psychological safety, collaboration, and trust. Through learning and developing trainings and initiatives, he helps people thrive and reach their true potential personally and professionally.

Since 2017, Mr. Sano has served as an Executive-Leadership Coach with the Treasury Executive Institute. In this role, he encourages and empowers clients and colleagues to explore and see things from a fresh perspective, helping them reach their true potential through powerful questions, active listening, and other coaching and design thinking skills.

From 2012 through 2018, Mr. Sano served as the Senior Policy Advisor for the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, where he provided executive-level advice on strategic direction, planning, and communication to agency officials and teams to effectively reach and impact key stakeholders. Before joining the IG community, Mr. Sano served as Senior Counsel at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Division of Enforcement, and a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York. He has also worked as a Senior Associate at the international law firm WilmerHale and as a Media Planner at McCann Worldgroup.

Mr. Sano earned a J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from Hamilton College. He is a life-long learner committed to living and leading with a "growth mindset." His "Why" statements is: To care for and celebrate others, so they can lead creative, meaningful, and cheerful lives.



**Francine Hines**

**Acting Assistant Inspector  
General for Management  
Services**

*Department of Education OIG*

Francine Hines serves as the Acting Assistant Inspector General for Management Services for the Department of Education OIG. Ms. Hines is responsible for leading support operations for the OIG's budget, human resources functions, administrative operations, and its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative.

Ms. Hines has more than 20 years of government and private sector experience leading business and management operations. Throughout her career, Hines has reengineered programs and processes to reduce costs and improve performance. She has also led her teams in resolving human capital problems to promote an inclusive workplace, encourage optimal effort, and continuously develop staff to improve and sustain support operations.

Prior to joining the OIG in December 2019, Hines work at the Unites States Postal Service. During this tenure, Hines served in the capacity of Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Mission Support, Director of Budget and Financial Operations and Director of Audit Services.

Hines has received numerous awards for her work, including a CIGIE Award for Excellence, Distinguished Achievement Awards, and Exceptional Performance Awards. Hines is active in the inspector general community and currently represents the OIG on the Performance, Recognition and Awards Sub-Committee for the CIGIE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Group.

Ms. Hines earned her BA in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Bowie State University and a Masters in Information Technology from the University of Maryland. Ms. Hines is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Government Financial Manager, and Certified Lean-Six-Sigma.



**Amanda Seese Whelan**  
**Assistant Inspector General for  
Strategic Communications and  
Programs**  
*Department of Transportation OIG*

As principal for Strategic Communications and Programs, Amanda Seese Whelan oversees a variety of activities that provide strategic value, critical advice, and mission support across DOT OIG. The Office of Strategic Communications and Programs encompasses several, frequently interdependent program areas with high external and internal impact, including Budget and Financial Management; Government and Public Affairs; Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion; Communications; Organizational Development; and Administrative Professional and Executive Assistant Services.

Ms. Seese Whelan began her career in government oversight and auditing at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in 2006. She then moved to Computer Sciences Corporation in Arlington, VA, where she helped the Missile Defense Agency enhance its relationship with government auditors. She rejoined the Federal auditing ranks at the Office of Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, where she reviewed homeowner retention programs.

Ms. Seese Whelan joined DOT OIG in 2010 as a Senior Analyst and was soon promoted to Project Manager, leading audits focused on the Department of Transportation's rail, maritime, and transit programs. Four years later, she became DOT OIG's first New Hire Workforce Development Manager; in that role, she centralized the onboarding process and designed the New Employee Orientation Program, which has since helped welcome and integrate hundreds of staff members. From 2015 to 2019, she served as the organization's Chief of Staff, helping the Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General conduct collaborative strategic planning, implement decisions to meet mission needs, and manage day-to-day operations.

Her achievements have been recognized by awards from the Secretary of Transportation and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. In October 2018, she received DOT OIG's highest honor, the Inspector General's Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of her achievement of results with a lasting impact and her commitment to the core values of "Mission First, People Always."

Ms. Seese Whelan holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast news from Kent State University.