

The **nextERA Advisory Group** is an advocacy group for 21st Century innovative local government. Appointed by the Alliance for Innovation (AFI) Board of Directors in late 2014, the group advances an agenda for Engagement, Research, and Advice to the AFI Board for the benefit of the Alliance for Innovation. The group is comprised of 18 members with representation from across the United States and all three AFI regions.

The AFI Board allowed nextERA to define its purpose in 2015. Through discussions with the Board at its meetings during the Transforming Local Government (TLG) and BIG Ideas conferences that year, the group cemented its charter and protocols for operation. In 2016, led by Chairperson Jim Becklenberg and Vice Chairperson Pam Weir, the group continued refining its purpose and achieved its goals for the year of 1) developing tools to help AFI Ambassadors engage each other about innovation within their organizations and regionally, and 2) developing nextERA's voice on contemporary management and policy issues.



Membership as of June 2016

The group is pleased to report on the following accomplishments:

- Participated in the AFI Strategic Plan update process, serving on subcommittees and facilitating input from the entire nextERA group on issues important to the future of the AFI.
- Developed the “Conference-in-a-Box” tool to help facilitate low-cost collaboration among co-workers or AFI Ambassadors on hot policy topics.
- Presented a session at the TLG Conference on how to optimize the conference experience. The session was well-attended and received very positive feedback. The group is planning to present this content again at the 2017 conference as a session or perhaps using other media and opportunities at the conference.
- Assisted in hosting the Ambassador Reception at the TLG Conference with a rapid- introduction exercise to help first-time conference attendees connect with colleagues.
- Led discussions in the workplace about successful “Workforce of Tomorrow” strategies and published an article about effective strategies in the Innovation Now Newsletter.
- Participated in an AFI Webinar on the Workforce of the Future representing the viewpoint of up-and-coming managers.



In addition to the accomplishments of the nextERA group work plan, individual nextERA members have proven to be highly engaged Alliance members and have contributed on behalf of their communities. These accomplishments include but are not limited to:

- **Jose de La Cruz**, San Antonio, TX, wrote article on San Antonio's Push to Become a Smart City.
- **Ed Foley**, Olathe, KS, wrote article on How Olathe Built a Successful Dashboard with their BI Tools, nextERA representative on the AFI strategic planning Well Run Organization Goal Committee, helped to organize Innovation Lab: Panel Discussion on Civic Trust and Engagement, helped to organize Ambassador Forum: Building the Workforce of the Future, served on TLG Conference evaluation committee.
- **Katherine Hendricks**, Mount Pleasant, SC, wrote article on the Workforce of Tomorrow
- **Wilson Hooper**, Charlotte, NC, nextERA representative on AFI Strategic Planning committee.
- **Kyle Kridler**, Dublin, OH, wrote article on A BIG Experience: My First BIG Ideas Conference.
- **Bryan Layton**, Navajo County, AZ, Hosted AFI West Regional Director Nijah Fudge for a Lunch and Learn with Navajo County, presented at the 2016 TLG Conference, served on the Planning Committee for the Next Generation Leadership Forum in Tucson, AZ.
- **David Rauch**, Edmonton, presented at TLG on civic technology, served as volunteer photographer at TLG 2016, participated in the creation of the Canadian Consortium for AFI.
- **Matthew Vanderhorst**, Montgomery, OH, helped with planning for BIG Ideas 2016
- **Pam Weir**, Goodyear, AZ, nextERA representative to AFI strategic planning committee and engagement goal subcommittee, wrote article on mentorship and the impact of Pokémon Go, served on the planning committee for the Next Generation Leadership Forum in Tucson, AZ, presented to Culture Exchange Ambassador Forum in Phoenix.



nextERA wishes to thank the AFI Board for its continued leadership and strong support. The group looks forward to continued feedback and discussion about optimizing effectiveness for AFI, assisting with Strategic Plan implementation, and playing an even stronger role supporting initiatives such as the “Workforce of Tomorrow” that are critical for sustaining strong, professional local government organizations for the future. In 2017, the group will be led by Chair Pam Weir and Vice Chair and Katherine Hendricks.