

Speaker Profile



Kent Masters

CEO and Chairman
Albemarle Corporation



Director,
Vibrantz Technologies

Kent Masters is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Albemarle Corporation, a global leader in transforming lithium and bromine into critical ingredients for mobility, energy, connectivity, and health. Masters has accelerated Albemarle's profile as a purpose-driven, values-led organization committed to creating a more resilient world where people and planet thrive.

Under his leadership, Albemarle has expanded to more than 70 countries serving nearly 2,000 customers around the world. Barron's named Masters to its Top 25 CEOs list in 2023, while TIME included Albemarle in its list of 100 most influential companies for that year. Masters first joined Albemarle as a member of its board of directors in 2015 as part of the company's Rockwood Holdings Inc. acquisition.

Before joining Albemarle, Masters served as Operating Partner of Advent International, an international private equity group. Prior to Advent, he was Chief Executive Officer of Foster Wheeler AG, a global engineering and construction contractor and power equipment supplier. He is also a former member of the executive board of Linde AG, a global leader in manufacturing and sales of industrial gases.

Masters serves on the board of directors of Vibrantz Technologies. He is also a member of the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council. Masters earned a Master of Business Administration from New York University and a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Speaker Profile



Toddi Steelman

Vice President and
Vice Provost for
Climate and
Sustainability,
Duke University



Dr. Toddi Steelman is Vice President and Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability at Duke University. She is the administrative and academic lead for the Duke Climate Commitment—a university wide initiative to unite Duke’s education, research, operations, and public service missions to engage the entire community in the pursuit of climate change solutions.

She previously served as Stanback Dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment (2018-2023). She is best known as a wildland fire expert and has brought her expertise to bear in a variety of venues including the Royal Society (UK), National Academy of Sciences (US) and as an invited keynote speaker in Portugal, Canada, Germany, Australia, and the United States.

She a past-President of the International Association of Wildland Fire. Her research agenda has focused on understanding community responses to wildfire, wildland fire communication and how communities and agencies interact for more effective wildfire management on large, interjurisdictionally complex wildfires. The author of four books, Steelman has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, as well as opinion and editorial pieces in *Nature*, the *Globe and Mail*, *The Hill* and the *Los Angeles Times*.