



## **Alex Rivera, BA, MPA**

Alex Rivera was appointed the Director of the Center for Economic and Workforce Development, Social Entrepreneurship, and Innovation at the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University in November 2021. In this role, he leads the administration of a US Economic Development Administration University Center grant, which calls Kean to deploy its resources to support economic development in New Jersey's urban communities. He previously worked with the Watson Institute on creating a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, also funded by the US Economic Development Administration, from 2014 to 2016.

Before his present role with the Watson Institute, Alex held municipal and county government roles in Arizona and New Jersey. He has worked in environmental stewardship, leading urban environmental restoration efforts for the Mercer County Park Commission, and supported economic and workforce development initiatives for the City of Trenton.

Alex is the Chair of the Outdoor Equity Alliance, Garden State Preservation Trust, and Green Energy and Infrastructure Committee of the Newark Workforce Development Board. He is passionate about green infrastructure and nature-based solutions for the social and economic challenges New Jersey's communities face. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The College of New Jersey. He was a Marvin Andrews Fellow in Urban Management at Arizona State University, where he received a Master's of Public Administration.