Digital Works offers employer-designed training, placement assistance, and mentorship for in-demand, remote-work opportunities, connecting people to customer support and IT jobs for global and local corporate employer partners.

Mark Lautman, CEcD is a founding director of the Community Economics Lab, a private not-for-profit think tank that innovates new approaches to economic development to work in a labor and capital constrained economy. His consulting business, Lautman Economic Architecture, LLC, works with community leaders to transform community economies and elevate the professional practice of economic and workforce development. Mark is the author of *When the Boomers Bail: A Community Economics Survival Guide*, available on Amazon.com. Mark has three decades of experience as a professional economic developer and has designed and managed four economic development programs. Mark is a graduate of The University of New Mexico in Economics, Architecture, and Geography, and a former Peace Corps Volunteer.

> *This system innovation pioneered by Digital Works represents a major breakthrough in a decade-long quest to develop a new job creation program theater focused on the rapidly growing sector of solo work. We believe that the program, when combined with a locally supported advancement and retention platform for solo workers, will enable many rural and disadvantaged communities to get back in the business of creating economic base jobs.*
>
> – Mark Lautman, CEcD

> *Digital Works excels at preparing the most vulnerable of our society for the twenty-first century economy—one that requires skills and experience with remote digital working and a sense of entrepreneurship, instead of the usual programs focused on the last century's industrial economy.*
>
> – Dr. Norman Jacknis

Dr. Norman Jacknis is Senior Fellow at the New York-based Intelligent Community Forum with special responsibility for the Rural Imperative program. He was most recently Director of Cisco's IBSG Public Sector Group and is a globally recognized expert in government innovation and transformation. At Cisco he worked in-depth with the National Association of Counties and the U.S. Conference of Mayors in the development of a strategy for the economic viability of American cities in 2030. For 10 years, Dr. Jacknis was the CIO for Westchester County, New York. Under his leadership, the community was ranked as one of the Top7 Intelligent Communities in the world. Dr. Jacknis received his doctorate, master's, and bachelor's degrees from Princeton University.

Roberto Gallardo, Ph.D. leads the efforts of the Mississippi State University Extension Intelligent Community Institute that helps rural communities transition to, plan for, and prosper in the digital age. He is an Associate Extension Professor of the Mississippi State University Extension Center for Technology Outreach. Dr. Gallardo holds an engineering degree from the University of the Americas in Mexico, a master's in economic development from Southern Miss University, and a doctorate in Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University. In his book, *Responsive Countryside: The Digital Age and Rural Communities*, Dr. Gallardo examines the role of broadband in rural community development and discusses how the Digital Works program can contribute to a process through which rural areas can take stock of their broadband readiness.

> *Digital Works not only provides necessary digital skills and customer service skills, but it also provides a self-esteem shot for those that are motivated and want to work from home.*
>
> – Dr. Roberto Gallardo