



Sam Ridders serves as the strategic economic initiatives director at the Wisconsin Department of Administration, where he leads the coordination effort between federal agencies, state agencies, and local communities related to Foxconn's investment in the State of Wisconsin. Prior to joining the Wisconsin Department of Administration, he served as Executive Director of Tiny Earth, a global initiative based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, harnessing the research of undergraduate students to discover new antibiotics. Before leading Tiny Earth, he launched and led Georgetown University McDonough School of Business' Rural Opportunity Initiative. Prior to this position, President Obama appointed Sam to serve as Administrator of USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service. Before joining the USDA, Sam served as Director of the Energy and Environment Team with the White House's Presidential Personnel Office. Prior to this position, Sam served as Regional Field Director in Wisconsin on President Obama's re-election campaign. From 2007 to 2012, he was an attorney with a commercial litigation firm in New York City specializing in antitrust and First Amendment law. Before practicing law, Sam spent years working as a community and political organizer nationally and internationally. He earned a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin, a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University and a B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also served as a volunteer with the US Peace Corps in rural Zambia. Sam is from a small town in Southern Wisconsin.