

## 2015 North Central National Service Training Speaker/Presenter Bios



### **Stuart G. Axenfeld, Assistant Inspector General for Audit**

*Corporation for National and Community Service Office of Inspector General*

Stuart G. Axenfeld, who was appointed Assistant Inspector General for Audit in 2008, oversees a team of OIG audit managers and auditors who perform audits of Corporation operations, programs and grantees. He joined the OIG in 2004 as an Audit Manager. Axenfeld was previously employed at the Office of Inspector General of the Library of Congress as the Senior Auditor. His duties included leading a team of professionals that performed audits of Library programs, contracts, and grants. Prior to that, Axenfeld was employed by the Defense Contract Audit Agency. Here he was a Supervisory Auditor who led a team of auditors performing audits of Defense Department contracts and contractor system audits, including billing, accounting, and purchasing systems. Stuart received a Bachelor's Degree from the University in Maryland in 1983. He is a Certified Public Accountant.



### **William C. Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

William C. Basl became the Director of AmeriCorps following an 18-year tenure as the Executive Director of the Washington Commission for National and Community Service. He notes that his passion lies with “developing new strategies where service and volunteerism can be recognized as major efforts that bring our country together,” and his extensive list of accomplishments bears out that philosophy. Bill began his national service career as a VISTA volunteer in 1970-1971 helping migrant farm workers in eastern Washington establish their own businesses. He continued as a VISTA leader in 1971-72 where he helped form a regional service network. He continued to make his mark in the national service movement by founding the Washington Service Corps in 1983, the first state-wide youth service initiative in the nation designed to address priority local education and human service needs, and helped develop national service legislation. Bill also founded the nation's first veterans' corps and is noted for establishing a collaborative regional network to provide AmeriCorps training across the Pacific Northwest. He is a past chair and board member of the Association of State Service Commissions & was selected by the White House as a Champion of Change—Service Innovator in 2011. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Bill received a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island.



### **Lisa Bottomley, Senior Specialist**

*Michigan State University Extension*

As the Senior Specialist at Michigan State University Extension, Lisa Bottomley's work is focused on mentoring and volunteer management. Lisa provides leadership to 4-H youth mentoring efforts in Michigan including curriculum/ resource development, professional development, and grant management. She serves on the National Mentoring Center Stakeholders Council and the Mentor Michigan Providers Council. She has been an invited presenter at numerous state, national, and international conferences. This past February, Lisa received the Michigan State University (MSU) Distinguished Academic Staff Award, which recognizes the significant accomplishments and notable efforts of exceptional professionals at MSU. She holds a Master of Arts degree from MSU.



### **Tom Branen, Executive Director**

*America's Service Commissions*

Tom Branen has served as the executive director of America's Service Commissions (ASC) since 2005. ASC represents the 53 governor supported state service commissions that are responsible for hundreds of national service programs throughout the nation. Tom began his career as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in 1992. As a VISTA, Tom transformed a closed Catholic school into a community education center in a public housing community in Tulsa, OK. A year later he became part of a team that established the Oklahoma Service Commission. He joined CNCS in 1994 and during his tenure there served in a number of roles, including AmeriCorps Program Officer and Government Relations Officer.



### **Mary Bruce, Co-Executive Director**

*AmeriCorps Alums*

Mary Bruce is a national service champion with more than a decade of experience growing and scaling high-impact nonprofit organizations. She is an AmeriCorps Alum (Latin American Youth Center in D.C., 1999-2000), a Returned Peace Corps volunteer (Morocco, 2004-2006). Before joining Alums, she served as Senior Education Advisor at Civic Enterprises, a public policy and strategy firm where she led Civic Enterprises' education policy portfolio, including their work with the Grad Nation Civic Marshall Plan Leadership Council. Mary earned her MPA in Domestic Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and a BA in Poverty Studies from the University of Virginia.

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### **Rachel Manuel Bruns, Deputy Director, Programming and Operations**

*America's Service Commissions*

Rachel Manuel Bruns is an advocate for national service and volunteering at the state and national levels with the roles of Deputy Director at America's Service Commissions and Strategy & Development Officer of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Previous roles include Director of Volunteer Wisconsin and Executive Director of Iowa Campus Compact. Rachel is a graduate of Drake University (MPA, AS, JMC) and actively involved in her community volunteering with organizations including Junior League of Des Moines, YNPN Des Moines, Furry Friends Refuge, Central Iowa Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Phi, and Children and Family Urban Movement.



### **Lauren Buckentine, Regional Program Manager**

*ServeMinnesota Action Network*

Lauren has been with ServeMinnesota Action Network for a year and a half. She started as a Program Assistant and has more recently taken the role of a Regional Program Manager. As a Regional Program Manager, Lauren provides training and ongoing support to a cohort of approximately 70 AmeriCorps members. She also leads the organizational In-Kind Cross-Functional Team. Prior to starting her career, Lauren obtained her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics at Minnesota State University - Mankato. She has always had a passion towards education and a desire to help others.



### **Jody Burns, Deputy Region Director for Programming, AmeriCorps NCCC, North Central Region**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

Jody Burns has been with the Corporation for National and Community Service for 21 years. As the Deputy Region Director for Programming, Jody focuses on projects, partnerships, training, service learning, member development, and accomplishment reporting for the North Central Region based in Vinton, Iowa. Prior to joining the AmeriCorps NCCC team, Jody worked in the areas of academic service learning, career development, and criminal justice. Jody holds a Bachelors of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology.



### **Tony Campbell**

*Reformed Church in America*

Rev. Tony Campbell serves as the Coordinator for African-American Black Ministries for the Reformed Church in America. Rev. Campbell has served and pastored congregations in South Carolina, Texas, Washington D.C. and Michigan. In the past Rev. Campbell has worked for various nonprofits at both the local and national level. He was executive director for Community Mobilization for America's Promise where Colin Powell was the chair, Senior Vice President for External Relations for Community in Schools National Office, Executive Director for the Institute for Educational Partners, and Vice President for Community Investment at the Heart of West Michigan United Way. He also serves as a Michigan Community Service Commission Board member.

### **Thomas Chin, Audit Manager**

*Corporation for National and Community Service Office of Inspector General*

Thomas Chin joined the CNCS OIG in 2007 as an Auditor and was appointed as an Audit Manager in November 2009. Thomas leads and supervises a team of OIG auditors and contractors to conduct a variety of financial, performance, grant audits, and program evaluations. Prior to joining the CNCS OIG, Thomas served as Staff Auditor and Senior Auditor at the Public Sector Practice of Ernst & Young, LLP (EY) in Washington, DC. Thomas is a current member of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants (VSCPA), and Financial Statements Audit Network (a Standing Committee under the Federal Audit Executive Council). He was the Early Career Director to the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA; EY's liaison to the Washington, DC chapter of AGA; reviewer of the AGA Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting program; and high school outreach volunteer with VSCPA. He has volunteered with Community Tax Aid to provide tax preparation assistance for low-income individuals and families. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in accounting, and graduated summa cum laude from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

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### **Brian Cognato, Grants Management Specialist**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

Brian Cognato joined CNCS in February 2015 as a Grants Management Specialist on the Criminal History Checks team. Prior to joining CNCS, he served at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where he focused on strategy development, program operations, and grants management in a small program office, and PeacePlayers International, an NGO that builds peace among youth worldwide through sports. A graduate of the University of Maryland in College Park, he is currently pursuing an M.P.A. at the Trachtenberg School at George Washington University.



### **Erin Cooperman, Executive Director, Office of Global and Community Health Partnerships**

*School of Public Health-Bloomington, Indiana University*

Erin Cooperman is a seven year veteran AmeriCorps Program Director. Prior to her work with AmeriCorps, she was a mentor with a teen pregnancy-prevention program at the YWCA and a lawyer with the Public Defender of Toledo, Ohio. Ms. Cooperman now splits her time between directing AmeriCorps Improving Health Throughout Indiana, teaching legal classes in the School of Public Health, and directing the School's Office of Global and Community Health Partnerships. She is also the president of the Indiana AmeriCorps Director's Association. Her training experience includes providing pre-service orientation to AmeriCorps members and supervisors for seven years; conducting monthly trainings for AmeriCorps members; and teaching numerous class.



### **Katelyn Dokken, Program Manager**

*ServeMinnesota Action Network*

As the program manager for ServeMinnesota Action Network, Katelyn Dokken supports a cohort of Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps members in north-central Minnesota. After graduating from the University of Minnesota, she served for two years with City of Lakes AmeriCorps at Edison High School in Minneapolis and did a year of service as a Volunteer Coordinator with Minnesota Reading Corps. She currently volunteers with a local "lunch buddy" program in Grand Rapids, MN and with Northern Community Radio as a volunteer DJ once a month.



### **Chad Driscoll, Program Officer for Education and Youth Development**

*Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service*

Chad has been with the Iowa Commission for over three years providing support, technical assistance, & program development to national service programs across the state. Before joining the Commission, he was an AmeriCorps program director and is a proud AmeriCorps alum, having served with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Davenport, IA from 2006-2012. Chad has been actively involved in local and national AmeriCorps Alums chapters since serving as a member. He is also a board member of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network in Des Moines, involved with the Young Professionals Connection locally, and was on the board for YPIowa as the state young professional group. Chad received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Management & Psychology from St. Ambrose University.



### **Matthew Downey, Program Director, Nonprofit Services**

*Johnson Center for Philanthropy, Grand Valley State University*

Matthew Downey's 23 years of experience in the nonprofit sector as a consultant, program manager, and development officer support his current role overseeing the Johnson Center's technical assistance and capacity building services for nonprofit organizations. In this capacity he frequently speaks and instructs on a range of nonprofit management issues. Prior to the Johnson Center, Matthew worked with a wide array of nonprofit organizations. In 2010, Matthew's writing was featured as a chapter in the Sage Publications textbook, "Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations." He was recognized by Grand Rapids Business Journal in 2010 and 2012 as one of West Michigan's 40 leading executives under the age of forty, and was named Young Nonprofit Professional of the Year in 2011 by the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Greater Grand Rapids.

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### **Kaira Esgate, Staff (Former CEO – Reimagining Service)**

*America's Service Commissions*

Kaira Esgate serves as a member of the America's Service Commissions (ASC) team. Prior to her current position, Kaira served as the executive director of Reimagining Service, a national multi-sector coalition dedicated to converting good intentions into greater impact through effective volunteer engagement strategies. With Reimagining Service, Kaira led efforts to bring new data and insights to volunteering and developed the nationally-recognized nonprofit service enterprise model. During her tenure with CaliforniaVolunteers, the state service commission in California, Kaira served in a variety of roles, including as Chief of Staff to the nation's first Cabinet-level Secretary of Service & Volunteering.



### **Katrina French, Disaster Services Unit - Program Officer**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

Katrina French joined the Disaster Services Unit with the Corporation for National and Community Service as a Program Officer in 2011. She came to CNCS following a year in AmeriCorps VISTA with Volunteer Mississippi. During her VISTA year she was tasked with working with the coastal nonprofits and faith-based organizations to address long term recovery challenges from the BP Oil Spill. Prior to her VISTA year, Katrina served both a Corps Member and Team Leader year with AmeriCorps NCCC.



### **Ben Gulker, AmeriCorps Program Officer**

*Michigan Community Service Commission*

Ben Gulker is an AmeriCorps Program Officer at the Michigan Community Service Commission. In this role, Ben has provided oversight, training and technical assistance to a portfolio of AmeriCorps State programs since 2011. Previously, Ben managed a statewide AmeriCorps program in Michigan and is a proud alumnus of AmeriCorps\*VISTA. He holds a Master's degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor University.



### **Marsha Hazen, HealthCorps Manager**

*Cherry Health*

Marsha Hazen began her national service career serving as an AmeriCorps\*VISTA with Michigan State University Extension in 2002, developing out-of-school time programming for children. In 2008, she joined the Community HealthCorps program as an AmeriCorps member. HealthCorps is the largest health-focused, national AmeriCorps program that promotes health care for America's underserved, while developing tomorrow's health care workforce. In 2013, Marsha became program director for the Community HealthCorps program at Cherry Health in Grand Rapids, MI. She finds that collaboration among national service programs is incredibly beneficial for her role, her members' experience, & for promoting the national service movement in their community.



### **Mayor George Heartwell**

*City of Grand Rapids*

Now serving his third term, Mayor George Heartwell took office on January 1, 2004. During his tenure, City government has implemented a variety of environmental measures, including purchase of renewable resource energy, use of alternative fuels in city vehicles, continued attention to water quality in the Grand River, and widespread implementation of energy conservation measures. In January 2007 the United Nations recognized Grand Rapids as a "Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development." Grand Rapids is widely recognized as one of the most sustainable cities in America. In 2010 the US Chamber of Commerce gave Grand Rapids the "Nation's Most Sustainable City" award, and in 2012 Mayor Heartwell was given the first place Climate Protection Award by the US Conference of Mayors. With 22 colleges or universities in the metropolitan area, Grand Rapids is known as a knowledge center. Human medicine, medical education, & health research is the most rapidly growing economic cluster. Even during times of severe economic downturn, Grand Rapids has shown remarkable economic resiliency.

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### **Ginna Holmes, Executive Director**

*Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC)*



Ginna Holmes became Executive Director of the MCSC in June 2013. Prior to joining the MCSC, Ginna spent five years as the director of Academic & Career Planning at Alma College where she & her staff helped students to identify and plan for their educational and professional goals. She has also served as executive director of the Alma Community Center, executive director of the Alma Public School's K-12 After-School & Summer Program, and assistant director of the Center for Student Development at Alma College. Ginna began her professional career as a high school teacher & has worked with all ages of youth, from preschool to college. Ginna's commitment to service has expanded to her personal life as well. She has served as the adviser for the Gratiot Co. Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council for 19 years and as a member of the MID-Michigan Women's Resource Center Board. She has also served on the Alma and St. Louis Rotary Club board, including one year as president.

### **Kristin Honz, Senior Program and Compliance Officer**

*Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service*



Kristin Honz has been with the Iowa Commission for 11 years providing support and oversight to all programs across the Commission. Currently she provides fiscal support and monitoring to all AmeriCorps and Volunteer Generation Fund programs in Iowa, along with program development and outreach support. Kristin is a graduate of the University of Iowa, but she refuses to say what year! She enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband, daughters and two elderly dogs.

### **Rebecca James, Director of Federal Programs**

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis*



Rebecca James was an AmeriCorps host site supervisor for one year & an AmeriCorps program director for five years. She has worked at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington as a Unit Director and she is now the Director of Federal Programs at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Indianapolis. Her training experience includes providing pre-service orientation to AmeriCorps members & supervisors for five years; conducting regular trainings for AmeriCorps members; and training Boys and Girls Club staff and volunteers.

### **Bonnie Janicki, Senior Grants Officer**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*



Bonnie Janicki is a Senior Grants Officer for Grant Operations in CNCS's Office of Grants Management. Currently, she manages a team of grants officers responsible for the day to day grants management of a diverse portfolio of programs that includes AmeriCorps State and National, Social Innovation Funds, Martin Luther King and many others. Bonnie began her federal service with the Corporation in 1994 and continues to enjoy her work.

### **Oksana Jensen, Program Officer**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*



Oksana Jensen has been a Program Officer at CNCS since 2011, where she has worked with a diverse portfolio of commissions and national direct grantees. In addition to her job at CNCS, she is teaching a course in project design, monitoring, and evaluation as an adjunct instructor at American University's School of International Service. Prior to joining CNCS, Oksana spent nine years at international development organizations where she managed youth development, civic engagement, human trafficking, and international education programs in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Oksana has a BA in International Affairs and Economics from the University of Maine and an MA in International Politics from the School of International Service at American University.

## 2015 North Central National Service Training Speaker/Presenter Bios



### **Jay Johnson, Partner/Owner**

*WorldLink Communications*

Jay Johnson is a nationally renowned speaker, author, and trainer in the area of communication and leadership development. As a two time National Excellence in Training Award recipient from the Association of Professional Communication Consultants, Jay has earned the respect of colleagues in academics and industry alike with his perspectives on nonverbal communication, interpersonal relationships, persuasive messaging, and teambuilding. Jay has given talks and keynotes across the country to organizations such as the United Way, Consumers Energy, the United State Junior Chamber, University of Michigan Hospital, the Detroit Regional Chamber, and a variety of other corporate and nonprofit organizations.



### **Lynnetta Kopp, Executive Director**

*Friends of Coulee Region RSVP, Inc.*

Lynnetta Kopp has 11 years of experience directing the Coulee Region Foster Grandparent & RSVP programs, which serve the La Crosse Wisconsin area. Her programs won the 2012 National Service Impact Award. Lynnetta has extensive experience building strong Senior Corps Associations including her recent term as Wisconsin Senior Corps President and her current role as Vice-President of the National Senior Corps Association (NSCA). Lynnetta recently played a key role in leading and coordinating the first-ever, highly successful National Senior Corps Conference in San Antonio, TX.



### **Emily Kubiszewski, Program Officer**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

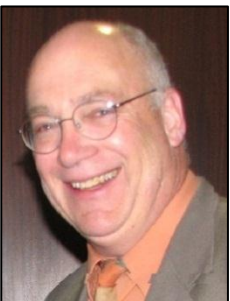
Emily Kubiszewski has served as a Program Officer for Indiana VISTA and Senior Corps programs since 2009. Prior to joining CNCS, Emily administered a state wide VISTA program for the Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis. Emily's first introduction to CNCS was an internship with the Indiana State Office in 2006. Emily holds a Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Management and an Undergraduate Degree in Public Affairs from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. In May, she will complete her Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University Indianapolis. Growing up in a military family, Emily has resided in multiple cities, but has called Indianapolis home for 10 years.



### **Josh Lambrecht, Special Projects Director**

*ServeMinnesota Action Network*

Josh Lambrecht has been with ServeMinnesota Action Network for nearly six years and has supported three AmeriCorps programs (Minnesota Reading Corps, Minnesota Math Corps, and Minnesota Opportunity Corps). He honed his presentation skills facilitating the "Work on Purpose" curriculum and training on various AmeriCorps topics. Josh also helped pilot a cross-stream partnership between the Minnesota Reading Corps and Foster Grandparents where Foster Grandparents learn specific Reading Corps interventions and are placed in Reading Corps preschool classrooms. This pilot is a leading edge outcomes-based Senior Corps program considered a role model by CNCS. Josh also serves as the National Liaison for the Young Nonprofit Professional Network chapter in the Twin Cities. He is a two-term AmeriCorps alum and graduated from St. John's University in 2005 with a degree in Political Science.



### **Dave Layton, RSVP Director**

*Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging*

Dave Layton has been with RSVP for 17 years, the last eight as the RSVP Director for RSVP of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. He is active in both the IA and IL Associations of RSVP Directors (IARSVPD) and currently serves as President of the IL ARSVPD. Before RSVP he was the Physical Director of his local YWCA, where he supervised AmeriCorps members in a large afterschool program. His cross-stream partnerships have included supervising a mentoring program that matched AmeriCorps members with RSVP mentors; engaging VISTAs to build RSVP capacity; helping create the Davenport Volunteer Center (DVC), funded by the Volunteer Generation Fund; partnering with IA and IL State Commissions on regional volunteerism conferences; and partnering with the IA Commission, AmeriCorps NCCC, the DVC, & local partners on a Disaster Volunteer training.

## 2015 North Central National Service Training Speaker/Presenter Bios



### **Mark J. Lindquist, Keynote Speaker**

*Breath Is Limited*

Mark J. Lindquist is a nationally recognized motivational speaker and world-touring entertainer who has performed live for over 1,000,000 people in 22 countries and 44 states throughout his career. He is also the author of the books, *Passion! 8 Steps to Find Yours* and *Service, My Way of Life*. As an actor, he has appeared in ABC's LOST, CBS' Hawaii Five-O, and the Universal Studios movie "Battleship." He has performed for Grammy winning artists, Academy Award nominated actors, foreign dignitaries around the world as well as staffers at the White House. Mark is a former Sergeant in the United States Air Force and an Afghanistan War Veteran who currently lives in Fargo, North Dakota. Information on his company can be found at [www.BreathIsLimited.com](http://www.BreathIsLimited.com)



### **Adam Lounsbury, Executive Director**

*Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service*

Adam Lounsbury has served as the executive director of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service for 11 years. In that time, the number of AmeriCorps members serving the state has increased from 200 to more than 1,300. Adam is an active volunteer in his community of Van Meter and serves as chair of America's Service Commissions, the national association of the 53 governor appointed state service commissions leading the nation's service movement.



### **Ted Miller, Chief of External Affairs**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

As the chief of external affairs at CNCS, Ted Miller and his team direct all online and digital platforms, manage partnerships with outside organizations, oversee media relations, and work with the White House to advance President Obama's Call to Service priorities. They also oversee the MLK Day of Service and the September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance. Before joining CNCS in 2012, Ted was the director of communications and online advocacy for NARAL Pro-Choice America. He also served as press secretary to former Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota and then-Rep. Sherrod Brown of Ohio. He worked as the regional communications director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2002; he also was a presidential appointee in the Clinton administration at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Ted has appeared on or been quoted in numerous media outlets, from the NY Times to NPR to MSNBC. Ted holds a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas.



### **Dan Milnes, Region Director, AmeriCorps NCCC, North Central Region (Vinton, Iowa)**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

Dan joined CNCS in the summer of 2008 following completion of a 27-year military career with the U.S. Air Force. Following his military career, Dan wanted to continue serving his country in a service related leadership capacity. He has found the AmeriCorps NCCC program to be a perfect fit as a full-time, team-based residential program for young men & women who desire to serve. Dan thoroughly enjoys the esprit de corps and camaraderie of the NCCC staff and partnering agencies, and finds deep satisfaction working with the assigned Corps members as they fulfill their two-fold mission of strengthening communities & developing leaders. He is honored to lead the AmeriCorps NCCC North Central Region team. Dan holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration & a Master's Degree in Public Administration.



### **Lizzie Morris, Program Coordinator**

*ServeMinnesota Action Network*

As the Program Coordinator for ServeMinnesota Action Network, Lizzie Morris supports Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps members and sites in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Prior to her current role, Lizzie worked in volunteer management as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Greeley, CO and as Community Advocacy Coordinator at Tubman, a large social service agency in Minneapolis. Lizzie volunteers as a Big Sister with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and with Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota conducting incoming volunteer orientation sessions. Lizzie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Global Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.

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### **Steve Patty, Principal Consultant**

*Dialogues In Action*

Steve Patty has more than 20 years of experience working in the field of evaluation and leadership development. He holds a PhD from Trinity in Chicago & has been trained at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is a former department chair at Multnomah University & visiting professor in the doctoral departments of business at the International University of Monaco. Dr. Patty has trained hundreds of leaders in evaluation strategy & design & has consulted with organizations & foundations throughout North America and internationally in evaluation, including the YMCA of the USA, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Canadian Evaluation Society, Foundation Centers, Americorps in Oregon, Washington, and Iowa, Geneva Global, Nonprofit Association of Oregon, United Way, & Lilly Endowment Inc., among others. He is a published author & frequent conference speaker.



### **Linda Brown Rivelis, CFRE – President**

*Campaign Consultation Inc.*

Linda Brown Rivelis has professionally managed resource development/fundraising for disaster response, women's reproductive health, children with disabilities, etc. organizations. As co-founder of Campaign Consultation, she infuses knowledge into her company's Institute curriculum. A 28-year Certified Fund Raising Executive, her experience pollinates the sustainability learning of 35,000 and counting. In studies on Campaign Consultation's Institute training, Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation reports participant learning grew six months after attending an Institute. Great ROI for clients such as CSAP, USAID, Johns Hopkins, CNCS, Epilepsy Foundation of America, & now NCNST!



### **Chris Rooney, Vice President**

*Willis*

Chris Rooney has been the broker/consultant for several AmeriCorps health plans for 14 years, including The Corps Network Plan, which insures over 4,000 members each year. Chris collaborated with America's Service Commissions to provide several educational webcasts regarding the challenges associated with AmeriCorps health benefits and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In 2014, Chris helped all his clients institute fully ACA compliant plans for their full-time members.



### **Amy Salinas, Managing Partner**

*On3Learn*

Amy Salinas has spent the last 24 years working in the fields of national service, volunteerism, community development, and youth development and leadership. Over the last 18 years, she has spent much of her career with national service programs, particularly AmeriCorps State, National, and VISTA. Over these years, Amy has worked with organizations of varied size and scope to support their development, adherence to rules and regulations, and high quality programming for impact. In this work, she has monitored grantees, coached organizations to success, facilitated teams and strategic planning, developed curriculum, delivered trainings, and written grants and secured funding. Within national service, Amy started off as an AmeriCorps Member where she served in

Arlington, Texas, worked for that same program, and worked for the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service as a Program Officer, Training Specialist, and Disability Inclusion Specialist. And for the last 10 years, Amy has worked as a consultant within the national service family. Recently, she has started her own business with two other national service experts called On3Learn where she and her co-owners are developing web based courses for the AmeriCorps field.



### **Shirley Sagawa, Chief Service Officer**

*National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC)*

Shirley Sagawa leads the development of the Service Year exchange as Chief Service Officer for the NCoC. She serves as Senior Policy Advisor to America Forward, an initiative of New Profit. She is currently a fellow with the Center for American Progress, an Adjunct Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University, and author of *The American Way to Change*, describing how volunteer and national service can be a breakthrough strategy for change. She is best known for her founding role in the creation of AmeriCorps. As co-founder of the innovation consulting firm sagawa/



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Jospin, Shirley has provided strategic advice and developed new initiatives for public and private sector clients, including Bloomberg Philanthropies/Cities of Service, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, the Points of Light Foundation, YouthBuild USA, the Institute for Higher Education Policy, Scholarship America, the Presidio Trust, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Shirley has served as a presidential appointee in both the first Bush and Clinton Administrations. As Deputy Chief of Staff to First Lady Hillary Clinton, she advised the First Lady on domestic policy and led the planning for White House Conferences on Philanthropy, Partnerships in Philanthropy, & Teenagers. After Senate-confirmation as the CNCS's first chief operating & policy officer, she led the development of new service programs for adults & students and directed strategic planning for this new government corporation. She has also managed successful collaborations in the private sector, including the Learning First Alliance, a partnership of national education associations. With advanced degrees in law & public policy, she began her career as the Chief Counsel for Youth Policy for the Senate Labor Committee, specializing in education, children's, & youth issues, and subsequently served as senior counsel to the National Women's Law Center working on Title IX, child care, & military issues, and on many nonprofit boards. Her book, with Deb Jospin, *The Charismatic Organization*, offers breakthrough insights into building strong, effective, & well-resourced nonprofit organizations. Her previous book, *Common Interest, Common Good: Creating Value through Business and Social Sector Partnerships* describes how business and social sector organizations can collaborate for mutual gain. Shirley is a graduate of Smith College, the London School of Economics, and Harvard Law School, where she served on the Harvard Law Review.



### **Cathy Sharp, State Program Director, Michigan**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

Cathy has been with CNCS since 2000 when she began as State Program Specialist in New York. In 2005, Cathy accepted the position of State Program Director (SPD) for South Carolina, serving in that role for the next seven years. In 2012, she accepted a transfer to serve as SPD in Michigan. Prior to CNCS, Cathy worked for nine years as a project director for Senior Companions & Foster Grandparents in the ten county region of Northwest Michigan (NWMI). Earlier work experience included case management for the Medicaid waiver program for the Area Agency on Aging of NWMI and coordinator of the Respite Care/Information & Referral Program with the same agency. Cathy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology from Central Michigan University and a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology from Eastern Michigan University.



### **Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

On April 9, 2012, the U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Wendy Spencer to serve as CEO of CNCS. Under her leadership, CNCS has launched new partnerships, including FEMA Corps, School Turnaround AmeriCorps, STEM AmeriCorps, VetSuccess AmeriCorps, justice AmeriCorps, and Financial Opportunity Corps; increased the agency's focus on veterans and military families; and overseen the national response to a number of severe disasters. Her efforts to engage elected officials include creating the annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service where 1,760 Mayors express their appreciation for national service & volunteerism. Spencer's management career spans 32 years and includes leadership roles in government, nonprofit, & private sectors. She has served in both Democratic & Republican administrations. Prior to coming to Washington, D.C., she served as the CEO of the Florida Governor's Commission on Volunteerism where she connected national service and volunteer strategies to meet state prioritized needs, as well as, coordinated volunteer efforts in response to disasters, including eight record-breaking storms in 2004-05. She also served as the Director of the Florida Park Service, where she oversaw natural resource and recreational management for 158 state parks spanning 600,000 acres. Other organizations Spencer has served professional roles in include United Way, Chamber of Commerce, banking, insurance, industry, & legislative. Among other honors, Spencer has received the prestigious Governor's Award from Gov. Jeb Bush for her disaster work.



### **Ceil Sperzel, Director of RSVP**

*RSVP South Central Indiana*

In addition to being the Director of RSVP South Central Indiana, Ceil Sperzel currently serves as the President of Indiana's Senior Corps Director's Association. This organization has been highly effective at advocating for and supporting its members.

## 2015 North Central National Service Training Speaker/Presenter Bios



### **Mary Steele, Director**

*Northwest Iowa RSVP*

Mary Steele has directed the Northwest Iowa RSVP Program since 1988. During that time she has served as the President of the Iowa Association of RSVP Directors multiple times. Mary brings an excellent perspective on the many successes, as well as challenges, her association has faced over the years.



### **Mike Stehlin, Staff Member**

*Serve Illinois Commission*

Mike Stehlin has more than 30 years of experience training in front of groups. During his time in state government in Illinois, Mike was the training manager for two large state agencies. He has developed scores of training curriculum and presented in front of a wide range of audiences during his career. The one constant through all the years has been the enjoyment Mike gets working with group dynamics, leading workshops, and spreading enthusiasm.



### **Dr. Erwin Tan, Director of Senior Corps**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

As the Director of Senior Corps, Dr. Tan oversees the RSVP, Foster Grandparent (FGP), and Senior Companion (SCP) programs that engage adults age 55 & over in volunteer service in their communities. A board certified Internist and Geriatrician, Dr. Tan previously served as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he was an attending physician in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He was also a researcher at the Johns Hopkins Center on Aging and Health. From 2003-2004, Dr. Tan was a White House Fellow serving as a Special Asst. to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Before coming to Washington, D.C., he was a member of the Bio Terrorism Working Group at the Dept. of Public Health in San Francisco and a faculty member at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. Dr. Tan was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army. He received a BA from Brown University & graduated from New York University School of Medicine as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. While at Brown University, Dr. Tan participated in the Tougaloo Exchange program, spending a semester at this historically black college in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Tan was born in Indonesia and is a naturalized American citizen.



### **Sharon Tewksbury-Bloom, Project Director, Youth in Action AmeriCorps Program**

*Civic Service Institute – Northern Arizona University*

Sharon has served in the volunteer management and national service field since 2006. She currently serves as a Project Director of the Youth in Action AmeriCorps program at Northern Arizona University, of which she is also an alumna. She is an award-winning speaker and has presented trainings at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service, Center for Nonprofit Advancement in Washington, DC, the Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Service Learning, and more. Sharon has a Master's Degree in Organizational Development and Knowledge Management from George Mason University.



### **Yvonne Walker, Grants Management Specialist**

*Corporation for National and Community Service*

Yvonne Walker has been a Grants Officer at CNCS's Field Financial Management Center in Philadelphia, for the past eight years. In this role she oversees the financial administration, negotiation, termination, and closeout of federal grant awards. She has 13 years' experience in budget management, development, and monitoring of expenditure patterns. She has presented on financial management at national conferences, conducted seminars throughout the country, & provides on-line webinars focusing on completion & filing of financial reports, budgets, compliance issues, and all grant related topics. She currently manages Senior Corps and VISTA Support grants in Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama.

### **Robert J. Walters, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations**

*Corporation for National and Community Service Office of Inspector General*

Robert J. Walters has more than 35 years in the law enforcement field. He began his law enforcement career as a Patrol Officer with the U.S. Army. After serving three years in the military, Robert left the service and became Deputy Sheriff for the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department in upstate New York. He re-entered the U.S. Army and was selected to become a Special Agent with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division. Working up through the

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ranks as a Special Agent within the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, Robert served as a member of the General Crimes Team, Procurement Fraud Team, Economic Crimes Team, & Special Agent-in-Charge. After retiring from the U.S. Army, Robert was assigned as a Protective Service Officer at the Dept. of Justice in Washington, DC. In 1999, he was appointed as a Senior Special Agent within the OIG at CNCS. In 2004, Robert was appointed as the Asst. Inspector General for Investigations, where he oversees the day-to-day operations of the OIG's investigation section. Robert holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and certificates in contract and grant management.



### **Jennifer Weichel, Volunteer Specialist**

*Michigan State University Extension*

Jennifer Weichel has been with Michigan State University (MSU) Extension for 20 years and has served as an Extension Educator, Supervisor, & Coach. She is also a member of the Volunteer Administration Community of Practice. Jennifer enjoys developing resources for teen and adult volunteers & providing professional development opportunities for the volunteer administrators that work with them. She received the National Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Staff in 2010. Jennifer received her Master's degree from the University of Michigan in Public Administration.



### **Bridget Clark Whitney, Executive Director**

*Kids' Food Basket*

Bridget Clark Whitney is the Executive Director of Kids' Food Basket (KFB), an organization attacking childhood hunger to help young people learn and live well by providing "Sack Suppers" to food-insecure children in West Michigan. During Bridget's thirteen year tenure, from college intern to Executive Director, KFB has undergone significant growth, from serving 125 children in 2002 to over 6,300 children each weekday as of 2015. Under Bridget's leadership, KFB has grown from a \$20,000 annual budget to a \$4.2 million budget and has become the largest and most successful anti-childhood hunger program in Michigan, and one of the largest in the country. KFB averages 190 volunteers each day and is one of the largest, most highly-engaged volunteer programs in Michigan, with over 20,000 volunteers yearly. Under Bridget's leadership, KFB has won a host of awards and honors, including the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year in 2014 and the Governor's Service Award for Volunteer Program of the Year in 2012. Bridget has additionally been recognized by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce as the 2013 ATHENA Young Professional and as one of Grand Rapids Business Journal "40 Under 40" and "50 Most Influential Women in West MI" (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014).



### **Jeanine Yard, Senior AmeriCorps Program Officer**

*Michigan Community Service Commission*

As Program Officer, Jeanine Yard has provided grant oversight to AmeriCorps State programs and training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps program directors for more than seven years. Prior to this, she spent six years as a Learn and Serve Program Officer at the MCSC providing support and guidance to school districts and community organizations engaged in service-learning. Jeanine has more than 30 years of experience working with nonprofit management, national service, and youth development programs.



### **Rich Zeck, Director Senior Companion Program, Training and Performance Enhancement**

*Gerontology Network*

Rich Zeck directs the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He's also the North Central region's National Senior Corps Association Board Representative. Currently he is President of the Michigan Association of Foster Grandparent/ Senior Companion Programs, a strong association with 35 years of advocacy for Senior Corps.