

## Veronica Alarcon, Senior Program Manager of AmeriCorps - National Council of La Raza



Veronica Alarcon is the Senior Program Manager of AmeriCorps LENS — Latino Empowerment through National Service at the National Council of La Raza, a national direct AmeriCorps program. She is currently a Masters student in the Sociology and Social Work department at Texas Woman's University. Veronica has made national service her life's goal. Soon after AmeriCorps was started 20 years ago, she joined and served in both Dallas and Miami as a Member. Before managing the NCLR AmeriCorps LENS program Veronica led an AmeriCorps VISTA program at the University of Central

Oklahoma, and a state AmeriCorps program with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. She currently resides in Dallas, TX with her husband, Ricky.

## Kim Allman, Director - Office of Government Relations at the Corporation for National & Community Service



Kim Allman serves as the Director of the Office of Government Relations at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in Washington, D.C. Appointed by the Obama Administration in 2010, Kim leads the efforts with Congress, States and Local Governments for CNCS including the highly successful Mayors Days. In 2014, Kim was awarded the CEO's Team Award for Excellence for her work on Mayors Day when CNCS set a record for garnering the largest number of Mayors serving around a single issue – service and volunteerism- in a single day. Prior to CNCS, Kim ran her own successful consulting business working with movie studios, record companies and nonprofits including, Rosie O'Donnell's For All Kids Foundation on public policy strategies. Kim is a nationally recognized leader of state legislative programs having run the fifty-state efforts for the domestic music industry at the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and TechAmerica, the largest trade association representing the technology industry. Kim worked on the Hill as a Press Secretary for

Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and was a lobbyist for the former MCIWorldCom. She is a native of the Great State of Michigan where she served as senior staff for the Senate Democratic Caucus. She lives in Washington, DC and has little two boys.

#### Stuart G. Axenfeld, Assistant Inspector General for Audit – 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. Axenfeld was born in Washington D.C. He received a Bachelor's Degree from the University in Maryland in 1983. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

## Bruce Bailey, Executive Director - AmeriCorps St. Louis



Bruce Bailey has a degree in Public Administration from Webster University. He worked in government and social service for over 35 years, 15 of which were agencies serving youth. He began his career as a congressional aide, then as special assistant to Judge Noah Weinstein at the St. Louis County Juvenile Court. Subsequently, Bruce served as the Executive Director of two non-profit agencies developing Outdoor Education and Youth Corps programs. In 1994 Bruce directed a pilot program for the Corporation for National Service followed by serving as the founding Executive Director of AmeriCorps St. Louis. In 2002, Bruce received the Mel Carnahan Service Award for Exemplary Leadership to the Citizens of Missouri. Bruce has served as the Chairperson of Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and is an advisor to the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) with expertise in volunteer coordination and donations management.

#### Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps - Corporation for National & Community Service



William C. Basl is the Director of AmeriCorps State and National at the Corporation for National and Community Service. Bill 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 1971-1972 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 American Association of State Service Commissions and was selected by the White House as a Champion of Change – Service Innovator in June 2011. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Bill received a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island.

# June 8-10, 2015 • Fort Worth, TX

# **Speaker/Presenter Bios**

#### Jerry Bertrand, Independent Consultant



Jerry Bertrand is a consultant, coach and trainer, helping organizations and their people flourish--across government, nonprofit, and higher education. Jerry's background includes various roles in state government and the nonprofit sector, implementing and ensuring accountability of social service programs. As a trainer, Jerry has conducted onsite training for a variety of organizations, including NASA, Department of Labor, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Health and Human Services, Texas and Kentucky state governments, San Diego County, and the Washington, DC government. Jerry is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service Emerging Leaders Program, and the Leadership Austin Emerge Program. He serves on the Board of HFG Home for Young Men.

#### Daphne Brookins, Board Member - OneStar Foundation



Daphne Brookins of Forest Hill is a Human Services Specialist for the City of Fort Worth Community Action Partners and is the coordinator a youth leadership academy for youth ages 13-18 called Rising Stars. She is a board member of the Young Women's Leadership Academy, Expanding Your Horizons (STEM program for middle school girls), the Amon Carter Jr. Downtown YMCA, Director's Circle of Girl's Inc., Tarrant County Challenge, and Southeast Fort Worth Dropout Coalition. She is also a former forum leader and former spokesperson for the American Cancer Society, former Mayor Pro Tem and Councilwoman for the City of Forest Hill, and a past member of the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, the Tarrant County CHIP Coalition, and Fort Worth Sister Cities Young Professional Advisory Council. Brookins received a bachelor's degree

from Texas Wesleyan University where she served as President of the Alumni Association.

## 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.



## **Drew Carberry, Executive Director – Lighthouse, Inc.**



Drew Carberry is Executive Director of Lighthouse, Inc., an historic community-based non-profit organization that provides counseling and other services to community youth and families. A graduate of the University of Baltimore and Towson University, Drew has been a national provider of training and technical assistance for programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service in the arenas of program performance and compliance, supervision, and managing people. He has specialized in training first-time Team Leaders for the AmeriCorps NCCC in supervisory and leadership skills. Drew was one of the developers of the Baltimore City FUTURES program that addressed the high school dropout problem with a menu of services for youths identified as probable future high school dropouts. He has administered successful projects and programs addressing issues areas of the federal Faith-based and Community Initiative, prisoner reentry, crime prevention, and the funding and monitoring processes for state-based national service grantees.

#### 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.

#### Jamie Dake, Voluntary Agency Liaison - FEMA Region VI



Mr. Dake considers his job as a Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) to be one of the best and most rewarding positions in the federal government. In this role since 2006; he has provided voluntary, faith-based and community organizations with guidance on federal disaster recovery programs and information relevant to the community's recovery efforts. All of this is done to support and empower families in their time of need. Jamie has had the unique opportunity to serve at many levels of emergency management in his career. His first emergency management experience came as a member of AmeriCorps St. Louis in 1997 where he had the opportunity to become a

wild land firefighter and support community preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives. Service with AmeriCorps led to a position creating a volunteer management plan for the Missouri United Methodist Disaster



Response Team. This work opened up the opportunity to manage the Citizen Corps grant program for the State of Missouri Emergency Management Agency. These positions gave the varied perspectives necessary to effectively engage stakeholders at all levels.

## Liz Darling, President/CEO - OneStar Foundation



Elizabeth Darling is a highly accomplished public service leader with a background in public policy, community development and social service delivery at the local, state and federal levels. In 2009, she became President/CEO of OneStar Foundation. Previously, Elizabeth was Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in Washington DC, where she provided oversight and management of all CNCS' national programs. Her experience includes the role of Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Human Resources where she provided oversight for: Child Support Enforcement; Child Care; Social Services; Family Investment; and Community Services. Prior to her work in Maryland, Elizabeth was the founding director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Elizabeth is a graduate of Baylor University. She serves on the board of Texas Association of Business and is the chair of the national board of trustees for Camp Fire USA. Liz was recently named a member of the 2014 NonProfit Times Power and Influence Top 50, earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE)

credential in June 2014, and received the designation of Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) in March 2015.

## Kelly DeGraff, Director of Disaster Services – Corporation for National and Community Service



As the Director of Disaster Services and Senior Advisor to the CEO at the Corporation for National and Community Service, Kelly DeGraff oversees the agency's Disaster Services Office. Under her leadership, the office provides communities with expertise, ongoing support, and access to a network of dedicated, trained volunteers. Since joining the CNCS team in 1994, DeGraff has played a significant role in numerous large-scale response and recovery operations in the U.S. Under DeGraff's stewardship, FEMA and CNCS launched FEMA Corps in 2012 - a 1,600 member service corps program within the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) solely devoted to disaster preparedness, response and recovery



#### Kaira Esgate, CEO - America's Service Commissions



Kaira Esgate serves CEO of America's Service Commissions (ASC). Prior to her current position, Kaira served as the executive director of Reimagining Service, a national multisector 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 and Volunteering.

#### Stephanie Enyart, Disability & Inclusion Advisor – Corporation for National and Community Service



Prior to joining the Corporation, Stephanie was a Skadden Fellow at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, D.C. At the Bazelon Center, Stephanie advocated for integrated housing for individuals with mental health disabilities and were homeless or at risk of homelessness. She also managed a multi-faceted project aimed at increasing the number of federal judges with disabilities. While in law school, Stephanie was cochair of the steering committee that launched the National Association of Law Students with Disabilities and served as the first president of the organization. In 2009, she was awarded the Paul Hearne Award for emerging disability rights leaders and was elected to the board of directors for the Committee on Disability Power & Pride. Stephanie has a law degree from UCLA and while in law school, she worked with Disability Rights California, the Disability Rights Legal Center, and Disability Rights Advocates. She is a

graduate of Stanford University, where she was awarded a Mellon-Mays Fellowship. She helps CNCS develop and implement strategies to increase the number of people with disabilities who participate in national service programs.



## Heather Eilers, AmeriCorps Program Director – Schulenburg Weimar In Focus Together (SWIFT)



Heather Eilers has been the AmeriCorps Program Director for SWIFT (Schulenburg Weimar In Focus Together), an educational tutoring Nonprofit serving two rural Title I school districts in Central Texas, since 2009. She also serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for The Bugle Boy, a music foundation and listening room located in La Grange, Texas which hosts live concerts, supports singer/songwriters, brings music to schools, nursing homes and hosts free Soldier Songs & Voices workshops for Military Veterans. Ms. Eilers is an AmeriCorps Alum and serves on many community advisory boards. She has a BBA in Accounting from Texas A&M University and a Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the Center for Community Based Nonprofit Organizations at Austin Community College and TANO (Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations). She has two grown children and lives with her three large rescue dogs and one very spoiled cat.

## Cyprian O. Ejiasa, PhD, CGFM, CGMA, CPA, Chief Financial Officer – Corporation for National & Community Service



Cyprian O. Ejiasa was appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Corporation for National and Community Service effective December 29, 2014. As CFO, Dr. Ejiasa is responsible for overall financial management of the Corporation and Principal Adviser on financial, budgetary, and grants management functions. Prior to joining CNCS, Dr. Ejiasa served a combined seven years as CFO for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, and Deputy Director of Financial Management at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC from January 2008 to December 2014. Prior to NASA, Dr. Ejiasa served nearly ten years as Regional Comptroller, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, in Chicago, IL.

In each position, he made outstanding lasting contributions. Prior to his Federal career, Dr. Ejiasa held several senior financial management positions in municipal government, and unpaid executive leadership and Board positions in several non-profit and civic Organizations. Dr. Ejiasa's rich background includes roles as Adjunct Faculty, Regis University, Denver, Colorado; Teaching Assistant in Economics and Mathematics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Adviser to Foreign Finance Ministers as part of U.S. Treasury Department's Technical Assistance Program in emerging democracy and market economy countries. His outstanding record of public service also includes roles as Member, GFOA's Standing Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Planning and its Distinguished Budget Award Committee. Dr. Ejiasa is an active member of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), and Illinois Certified Public Accountants Society (ICPAS). He is a recipient of numerous awards and holds the B.Sc. (Hons.) and MBA degrees from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; MA and PhD degrees from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Certified Public Accountant licenses in Illinois and Maryland; Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM); Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), and completed four of five parts of Part 1, Associateship of the Institute of Bankers (AIB), London, England. Dr. Ejiasa was a banker, until



William "Bill" E. Smith of the State of Ohio OBM persuaded him of the dignity of public service. He has not left public service since.

## Diana Epstein, Senior Research Analyst – Corporation for National and Community Service



Diana Epstein is a Senior Research Analyst in the Office of Research and Evaluation. She leads a portfolio of projects that includes the national evaluation of School Turnaround AmeriCorps, the redesign of the AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey, a nationally representative survey of AmeriCorps alumni, and evaluation capacity building for AmeriCorps State and National grantees. She served in AmeriCorps NCCC for two years at the Charleston campus.

#### Ana Estrada, Chair – AmeriCorps Alums National Advisory Council



Ana is an Independent Consultant working with clients to advance social justice solutions by supporting leadership development opportunities, building capacity and evaluating impact. For over fifteen years, Ana has worked in public, private and social sectors helping individuals, teams, organizations and communities create equitable environments where all people have the opportunity to thrive. Ana's passion for service was sparked through AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps at the Pacific Region as a Corps Member, Team Leader, Assistant Director for Training, and Sacramento Chapter Leader. Ana holds a Master of Public Administration degree from University of Southern California.

## Carla Ganiel, Senior Program and Project Specialist – Corporation for National & Community Service



Carla Ganiel is a Senior Program and Project Specialist in AmeriCorps State and National (ASN), where she focuses on performance management and helping grantees use performance measurement data and evaluation results to improve their programs. Carla joined the ASN team in 2009, after completing two terms of AmeriCorps service, managing a variety of national service programs, and serving on the Maine Commission for Community Service. She holds a master's degree in public policy and management from the University of Southern Maine, where her capstone project focused on developing performance measures for RSVP meal distribution programs.



## Kathryn Gillis, Director, Office of Accountability and Oversight – Corporation for National & Community Service

Kathryn Gillis serves as the Director of Accountability and Oversight at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Kathryn and her team oversee the enterprise risk management program. She and her team are responsible for internal controls, Improper Payment Elimination Recover Act (IPERA) requirements, and facilitation of the grants monitoring program. Prior to joining CNCS in January 2012, she served under the Secretary of Defense Comptroller promoting financial improvement. Kathryn is Certified Public Accountant and holds a master's degree in Science with emphasis in accounting.

## Elisa Gleeson, Senior Grants Management Specialist – OneStar Foundation



Elisa Gleeson is the Senior Grants Management Specialist for the OneStar Foundation, where she has worked since 2006. Elisa currently oversees the grant making process for awarding federal AmeriCorps funds to programs in the state of Texas. Prior to her current role, Elisa served as a Program Officer and Compliance Officer, monitoring and providing technical assistance to a portfolio of AmeriCorps programs. Elisa holds a BS in Psychology from Texas A&M University and a Masters of Public Service Administration from the George H.W. Bush School at Texas A&M University. She completed the Grants Management Certificate Program with Management Concepts in 2012 and she became a Certified Grants Management Specialist in 2013. She is a member of the National Grants Management Association (NGMA) and has served on the Grants Management Body of Knowledge (GMBoK) Training Committee since 2013. In September 2014 Elisa was awarded the Outstanding Commission Staff Award by the American Association of State Service Commissions (ASC).

#### Katharine Gregg, Senior Program Officer - Corporation for National & Community Service



Katharine Delo Gregg is the Senior Program Officer in Senior Corps for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Ms. Gregg manages policy issues and is the lead on implementation of competition. Ms. Gregg previously worked as a Director at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization developing and implementing a national set of educational end-of-life resources for communities. Prior to that Ms. Gregg was Manager of Rallying Points a national initiative focused on end of life care education, funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Ms. Gregg received a BA from Mount Holyoke College and a JD from Lewis and Clark School of Law.



## Terry Gunnell, Texas State Program Director – Corporation for National and Community Service



Terry is the Texas State Program Director for the Corporation for National and Community Service and had same role in Arizona before coming to Texas. Prior to joining the CNCS staff in 2007, Terry was the Director of Development and Communications at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and the Executive Director of the Cooper Green Hospital Foundation. During his time in Alabama, Terry served on the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism and was Commission Co-Chair. He served on the Birmingham City Planning Commission and in Arizona, was on the City of Phoenix Human Relations Commission. His past community volunteer activity has included board service with the State of Alabama Ballet, Children's Aid Society and Leadership Birmingham. Terry is a graduate of the University of West Georgia as well as the National Service Leadership Institute and received a certificate

in fundraising management from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

#### Megan Helton, Field Coordinator – Texas Conservation Corps at American YouthWorks



Growing up in Central Kentucky, Megan's education began with horses, creek beds and bluegrass. After graduating in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from American University, Megan spent a few years lost among a sea of suits until she packed up in 2010 to serve 2 years as an AmeriCorps crew leader with the Texas Conservation Corps. She spent much of 2011 deployed on disaster response Mission Assignments, which included 2 months responding to the Joplin Tornado and another 2 months responding to the Central Texas Wildfires. After finishing her term of service, she joined the staff at TxCC and began shaping the program's expanded emergency response focus. Since then, she has managed AmeriCorps members in over 12 disaster response assignments across the country,

from New York to Alaska. Megan frequently participates or leads disaster response trainings both locally and nationally. She spends her free time training her dog not to run through her garden beds and trying to find the prettiest spot to watch the sun set in Central Texas.



## Mary Ellen Isaacs, Director – ACE: A Community for Education



Dr. Mary Ellen Isaacs is the Director of ACE: A Community for Education, a nationally recognized AmeriCorps program which is dedicated to providing low-income schools with highly trained tutors to ensure that children advance to grade level in reading before third grade. Under Mary Ellen's direction, ACE has grown from a small program serving 4 schools in Austin ISD to a significant partner with central TX schools, serving 32 schools and over 2200. ACE is a program of the UT-Austin Charles A. Dana Center, and is known as an evidenced-based program that gets results—at least two-thirds of students reach grade level benchmarks in reading each year. Mary Ellen has worked with ACE since 1997. She has over three decades of experience working in the field of reading difficulties as a teacher, diagnostician, and program coordinator, as well as 18 years with AmeriCorps. Prior to working with ACE, Mary Ellen was the coordinator of the Mt. Sinai Hospital Center for Learning Disabilities in NYC and an educational

diagnostician at Duke University Developmental Evaluation Center. She has been the director of ACE since 2002.

## Jennifer Jefts, AmeriCorps Director - Communities In Schools of Central Texas



Jennifer Jefts has been involved with AmeriCorps for over 14 years. She began as a Teach For America AmeriCorps member teaching middle school special education students in the Rio Grande Valley. She has been the Director of two Texas based AmeriCorps programs with programs that each had 100 members. Her first Director position was with AmeriCorps Youth Harvest that engaged 100 high school seniors as tutors and mentors. She is currently serving as the Communities In Schools of Central Texas AmeriCorps Director. She has extensive experience training and facilitating. Within AmeriCorps, Jennifer has presented at many state, regional, and national conferences on topics such as program

management, member management, and much more. Jennifer is also a founding partner of On3Learn, which provides online courses for National Service members and staff. In addition, Jennifer lived and worked in Malawi, Africa for three years where she facilitated professional development for 168 schools and initiated the creation of a disability toolkit for teachers which was distributed to all Malawi primary schools.



## Judd Jeansonne, Executive Director - Volunteer Louisiana, Office of Lt. Governor



Judd Jeansonne has served as Executive Director of the Volunteer Louisiana Commission in the Office of Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne since April 2014. Volunteer Louisiana supports 14 AmeriCorps programs that engage over 1100 AmeriCorps members in service and supports volunteer engagement in rural parishes through a Volunteer Generation Fund grant. The Commission is active in disaster services and is responsible for coordinating unaffiliated volunteers statewide in times of disaster. Prior to joining Volunteer Louisiana in April, Judd spent 12 years as Program Director of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette AmeriCorps Program. He was there in 2005 when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast and, his Corps members helped provide disaster services to affected populations over the next 9 years. In addition to national service, Judd has a great passion for engaging students and

youth. He has taught Political Science and Public Policy courses to over 1000 students at LSU, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and Remington College. Judd is a Louisiana native and an alumnus of LSU and UT Austin.

#### Councilmember Jungus Jordan - Fort Worth City Council



First elected to the City Council in June 2005, Jungus Jordan represents District 6 in the far south and southwest portions of Fort Worth. He was re-elected to his fifth term of office on May 14, 2013. Jordan – a Fort Worth native born at Carswell Air Force Base – attended local public schools and earned a bachelor's degree in economics from TCU and a master's degree in management from Webster University. He is also a graduate of the Management Executive Program at Cornell University. Jordan enjoyed a distinguished career in the United States Air Force that included tours of duty in Vietnam, in Germany and in force management and personnel for the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. He is the recipient of more than 15 medals and commemorations, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. Upon his retirement from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel, Jordan returned

home to work as a development officer at TCU, then as vice-president of Marketing and Business Development for the Eurpac Service Company. He served as a financial advisor with two national financial services companies and now works part time for Cook Children's Hospital. Jordan represents Fort Worth as a board member of the North Texas Commission. He is the past president of the Texas Municipal League, the North Central Texas Clean Air Steering Committee, and is the former chair of the North Central Texas Regional Transportation Council.



## Crystal Kelley, Assistant Program Director – AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)



Crystal Kelley currently works as an Assistant Program Director with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) in the Southwest Region. Her work focuses on working with project partners in the states of Texas and Oklahoma. Prior to working with NCCC, she served as a Youth Development Facilitator with the United States Peace Corps in Azerbaijan. Crystal also worked with Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan in Community Relations and Development and with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Hampshire as a Community and Youth Coordinator. In addition to her Peace Corps service, Crystal served as a Corps Member with AmeriCorps NCCC

and as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Tri-County Community Action Program (TRI-CAP) in Berlin, New Hampshire. She has her Bachelors of Arts degree in English, is certified in Nonprofit Leadership and is currently pursuing her Masters of Science degree in Adult Education and Training.

#### Jaclyn Kolar, Grants Officer – OneStar Foundation



Jaclyn Kolar serves as a Grants Officer-Program providing oversight and program design and development coaching to 12 programs in the AmeriCorps Texas portfolio. Prior to joining OneStar, Jaclyn spent four and a half years working for Travis County 4-H CAPITAL, where she gained experience coordinating an AmeriCorps program. Jaclyn is a two-time AmeriCorps Alum, serving first as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Burlington, Vermont; and then as a VISTA Leader in Austin, Texas. Additionally, Jaclyn served as a chapter leader for Austin AmeriCorps Alums from 2009 to 2011. Jaclyn has her B.A. from University of Michigan and is currently pursuing her MBA in

Sustainable Systems from Pinchot University.

#### Michael Laverty, Area Manager, Southwest Cluster - Corporation for National & Community Service



Michael recently rejoined the CNCS Southwest Cluster as the Area Manager. Prior to taking the helm as Area Manager, Michael served as a State Director in Kansas, Missouri and Tennessee. Prior to becoming a state director he served as a Program Officer for two years in the Alabama and Florida State Offices of CNCS and an AmeriCorps Program Officer with the Arkansas Service Commission. Michael, his wife, Teri and their two daughters are happy to call Kansas City, MO their home.



#### Rita Massey, RSVP Director – University of Louisiana at Monroe



Rita Massey was born and raised in Homer, LA, a small town northeast of Shreveport, LA. After completing her BA degree from Louisiana Tech University, she was employed by the University of Louisiana Monroe as the RSVP Director for Ouachita Parish. Under Rita's reign RSVP has expanded to three more parishes (Union, Lincoln, and Bienville). During the 25 years Rita has been RSVP Director, the program has grown very diverse in programming. Rita has been a peer reviewer for AmeriCorps grants, Louisiana Learn and Serve, and part of the RSVP Re-Compete Team. She is a certified CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Trainer. She has served on the American Red Cross Board, and the Ouachita Council on Aging Advisory Board. She is a member of the LA Senior

Corps Directors Association (past treasurer), State Citizens Corps Council, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), and the Union Parish CERT Search and Rescue Team.

#### Walt McFadden, Project Director – RSVP of Southeast Texas



Walt is the Project Director of RSVP of Southeast Texas, a national service program that engages adults aged 55 and over in volunteer service to address critical community needs. The project serves an 18-county region of Southeast Texas and has a volunteer corps of over 750 older adult volunteers. Walt serves as president of the Texas Senior Corps Association, representing RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion projects located throughout the state. Walt has worked in senior services for over 23 years, 9 of which have been with RSVP, and was recently honored by the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston with the 2015 Jerry Wische Award for Staff Excellence.

#### Susan E. Meche, Owner - Meche Consulting



Susan E. Meche is the owner of Meche Consulting, a woman and minority-owned small business. She has more than 30 years of experience working in financial management and accounting as a grants officer, accountant, auditor, and management analyst. Throughout her career, Susan's focus has been working with recipients of federal government, foundation, and corporate funds. As an auditor with two federal agencies, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) she audited recipients of grants and contracts; as an employee of non-profit organizations she managed grant and contract funds for American National Red Cross and Meals On Wheels, Inc.; and as a federal grants manager with the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) she awarded, monitored, and

trained grant recipients. As an independent consultant since 2004, she specializes in designing and teaching



financial and grants management topics at national and regional training conferences for audiences of up to 600, and recently delivered training for the state service commissions of New York, Illinois, and Colorado. Ms. Meche holds a B.S. degree in Accounting. She and her husband live on Lake Granbury, Texas where she is currently a disaster relief volunteer for American Red Cross, and a construction volunteer and the volunteer accountant for Habitat for Humanity of Hood County, Texas.

#### Amanda Miller, AmeriCorps Project Coordinator – Travis County 4-H CAPITAL Project



Amanda Miller moved to Austin after finishing her Masters at Texas Tech University. An informal science educator by trade, Amanda's interests in science and education led her to serve with the 4-H CAPITAL AmeriCorps project from 2012 to 2013. After her term of service ended she became a project coordinator, responsible for recruiting, training, and mentoring members who provide hands-on project-based learning in the afterschool environment. An advocate for service and lifelong learning, Amanda has experience managing interns and volunteers in both museum and research settings and now uses those skills to help facilitate the professional development of AmeriCorps members in her project.

#### Ted Miller, Chief of External Affairs – Corporation for National & Community Service



Ted Miller serves as the chief of external affairs at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Social Innovation Fund. Ted 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. In 2014, Ted oversaw the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps, a nationwide effort that culminated with a White House event with President Obama and former President Clinton and swearing-in ceremonies in all 50 states on the same day. Before joining CNCS in August 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. Department of Agriculture. Ted has appeared on or been quoted in numerous media outlets, from the *New York Times* to NPR to MSNBC. Ted is a proud Jayhawk who holds a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas.



## Damian Morales, Program Specialist - Disaster Services - OneStar Foundation



Damian is a Program Specialist – Disaster Services for the OneStar Foundation. In this role Damian is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating OneStar's activities related to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Prior to this he served as Director of Disaster Programs for Volunteer New York!, during which time he was responsible for recruiting, training, and mobilizing highly-skilled volunteers to assist with Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. Previous to this Damian worked as a Community Recovery Specialist for the American Red Cross in Greater NY in response to Hurricane Sandy. Damian holds a Bachelor of Arts from Vassar College and Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management with a concentration in Emergency Preparedness from New York Medical College.

# Jeffrey Morales, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations – Office of Inspector General

Jeff Morales joined the OIG in 2004 as a Senior Special Agent and was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations in 2009, supervising the OIG investigative sections. The investigative section is responsible for detection and investigation of fraud, waste, and abuse within Corporation for National and Community Service programs and operations. His agents conduct various criminal, civil, and administrative investigations. Morales has over 25 years in the law enforcement field.

#### Rosa Moreno, Senior Advisor for Partnerships & Advancement – Corporation for National & Community Service



Rosa Moreno, Senior Advisor for Partnerships and Advancement at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), works on efforts to support the expansion of national service through public and private partnerships. Her work primarily involves efforts that align with the Kennedy Serve America Act and the President's Task Force on Expanding National Service. The Task Force is an Administration-wide effort to create public-private partnerships that create more opportunities for Americans to participate in national service. Rosa joined CNCS in 2010 as Deputy Director of AmeriCorps, a program that supports and places over 70,000 individuals in results-driven community service in communities in every state. Prior to coming to Washington, D.C., she served as Vice President of Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility with the OneStar Foundation in Austin, Texas. Rosa is a proud AmeriCorps Alumnus.



## Jennifer Ney, Vice President for Public Policy - City Year and Managing Director - Voices for National Service



Jennifer Ney is the Vice President for Public Policy at City Year. Jennifer oversees City Year's congressional engagement strategies and is responsible for maintaining current knowledge of national service legislation and directing policy initiatives that expand and strengthen the nation's volunteer sector. Jennifer provided technical support to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the House Education and Workforce Committee, and negotiated new provisions authorized in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009. Jennifer is also the Managing Director of Voices for National Service, a coalition focused on positioning national service as a viable policy solution to tackle unmet needs,

expand opportunity and leverage social capital. Prior to City Year, between 1993-2001, Jennifer worked in the office of United States Senator Charles Robb (VA), where she helped pass federal legislation to protect the civil rights of minority farmers. Jennifer is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

#### Barbara Reynolds, AmeriCorps State/National Training Specialist - Corporation for National & Community Service



Barbara Ellen Reynolds is the AmeriCorps State and National Training Specialist at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Barbara joined CNCS in 2013. In her role, she designs, delivers, and manages training and technical assistance for State Service Commissions and AmeriCorps program staff. Prior to joining CNCS, Barbara was the Director of the Maryland State Service Commission for four years and served as the Program Director of Volunteer Maryland, a state-based AmeriCorps program, for 10 years. At Volunteer Maryland, Barbara helped strengthen volunteer management systems at 400 nonprofits and trained and supervised 400 AmeriCorps members. She has a Master's in Public Administration from American University in Washington DC and a Bachelor of Arts from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia.

#### Chris Rooney, Vice President - Willis of Seattle



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 2 other national service experts called On3Learn where she and her co-owners are developing web based courses for the AmeriCorps field.

### Jodi Schulz, Extension Educator - Michigan State University



Jodi Schulz is an Extension Educator at Michigan State University Extension. She has worked off-campus in the Bay County office for the past thirteen years. Volunteer management and resource development are her focus areas. Jodi serves the state as a resource for building capacity in the areas of youth life skill development, program delivery models and family enrichment opportunities. Jodi has earned a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Child, Youth and Family Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



## Tracey Seabolt, Grants Management Specialist - Corporation for National and Community Service



Tracey Seabolt is a Grants Management Specialist with CNCS's Office of Grants Management, where she manages a portfolio of AmeriCorps State and National awards. Since her 2006 CNCS arrival, she was also a Learn and Serve America Program Coordinator and State Program Specialist for Senior Corps and VISTA programs in the District of Columbia and Maryland. Prior to joining the federal government, Tracey managed service-learning and volunteer programs in community-based and government settings for nearly 15 years. Tracey volunteers with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Maryland Chapter and national headquarters, as well as the U.S. Naval Academy's Sponsor Program.

# Jill Sears, Program Officer – Corporation for National and Community Service



Jill Sears works as a Program Officer in the New Mexico State Office where she manages a portfolio of Senior Corps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs. She has been with the Corporation for National and Community Service for 5 years, starting in the Pacific Cluster. Prior to serving with the Corporation, she helped families recover in post-Katrina New Orleans with the American Red Cross; she served in Peace Corps Botswana; and did a stint in risk management technologies in Chicago. Jill spends her free time hiking and plans to teach her son to snowboard next winter.

# Emily Shryock, Assistant Director, Office of Services for Students with Disabilities – The University of Texas Austin



Emily Shryock is the Assistant Director of the Services for Students with Disabilities office at The University of Texas at Austin where she oversees assessment, education and outreach initiatives. With a background in Disability Studies and a Master's of Science in Social Work Emily is passionate about promoting disability as an aspect of diversity and helping people to recognize how they can improve access and increase inclusion for people with disabilities. Emily helped develop and implement the disABILITY Advocate Program at The University of Texas at Austin, which has trained over 1,500 faculty, staff and students and was presented at the Association of Higher Education and Disability National Conference in 2012. Originally from Indiana, Emily and her service dog Morey have lived in Austin for the past 5 years and they both enjoy

participating in the many outdoor activities Austin has to offer.

# 2015 Southwest National Service Conference June 8-10, 2015 • Fort Worth, TX

# **Speaker/Presenter Bios**

## Wendy Spencer, CEO – Corporation for National & Community Service



On April 9, 2012, the U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Wendy Spencer to serve as CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service (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 1760 Mayors express their appreciation for Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and volunteerism in general. Spencer's management career spans 32 years and includes leadership roles in government, non-profit, and private sectors. She has served in both Democratic and 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 2004-2005. 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 and legislative. Among other honors, Spencer has received the prestigious Governor's Award from Gov. Jeb Bush for her disaster work.

### Emily Steinberg, Director of National Service Programs – OneStar Foundation



Emily serves as Director of National Service Programs with OneStar Foundation, Texas' state service commission based in Austin, TX. In her role, Emily oversees a portfolio of \$13 million in AmeriCorps\*State grants and works to ensure the success of Texas AmeriCorps programs and their members across the state as well as OneStar's Volunteer Generation Fund and Statewide VISTA Intermediary projects. Before coming to OneStar, Emily served as Executive/Program Director of an Austin-based AmeriCorps college access and success program where she helped raise over \$5 million to expand from serving 30 students to 3,000. Emily was named a 2011 "Profile in Power: Woman of Influence" by the Austin Business Journal, and continues to be a proud AmeriCorps Alum who believes in the power of service for social change.

# June 8-10, 2015 • Fort Worth, TX

# **Speaker/Presenter Bios**

Tasha H. Stewart, Director of Office of Civil Rights and Inclusiveness (OCRI) – Corporation for National and Community Service



Tasha Stewart is the Director of CNCS's Office of Civil Rights and Inclusiveness. Tasha and her team are responsible for processing complaints of discrimination and harassment, and for leading efforts to foster an environment that values diversity and promotes inclusiveness throughout the CNCS network including employees, grantees, and service participants. Before joining CNCS in July 2012, Tasha was an entrepreneur who provided EEO services to many federal agencies and local governments. Tasha, a proud "Pirate," holds a degree in Business from Hampton University and a Juris Doctorate from American University School of Law.

## Ben Stoltenberg, Grants Management Specialist - Corporation for National and Community Service



Benjamin Stoltenberg joined CNCS in 2004 as a Program Assistant for the CEO, then as Program Officer in the MD/DE State office, and currently, Ben is a Grants Management Specialist at the FFMC in Philadelphia, overseeing Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, and Utah. From 2001 to 2004 he served as an AmeriCorps and VISTA volunteer with the Legal Aid Hawaii and with Harvard's MLK Program. He has volunteered abroad as an EMT in Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan and Ghana, and most recently served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Albania. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College in 2001.

#### Lisa Tatum, Senior Manager Disaster Preparedness – VolunteerNow



Lisa Tatum's service began in 1997 with AmeriCorps NCCC in Texas. She is now the Senior Manager of Disaster Preparedness at the Volunteer Center of North Texas. She coordinates volunteer recruitment and management for a local high-impact collaboration called the Mass Care Task Force. Her exposure to this began when she did logistics for an American Red Cross disaster response during her AmeriCorps term. She currently liaises with local VOAD, COAD, Citizen Corps, and Regional Emergency Managers to ensure that collaboration extends across all networks. Additionally, she has maintained her standing as a Red Cross volunteer for 17 years and serves in a leadership role with the American Red Cross North Texas Region's Diversity Leadership Council. She has responded to major disasters including Hurricane Katrina and Super Storm Sandy and provided professional consulting and support to communities



nationally. Lisa is wholly committed to service, and she helps others continue their lifetime of service as a chapter leader for the AmeriCorps Alums of North Texas and as a key member of the North Texas AmeriCorps Alliance.

## Nate Treffeisen, National Mobilization Manager - Voices for National Service



Nate Treffeisen is the National Mobilization Manager for Voices for National Service and City Year, Inc., where he is responsible for providing operational support for the Voices for National Service coalition. This includes the management of online and social media campaigns, Capitol Hill outreach, nationwide mobilization strategy, annual fundraising drives, board management, and event planning for national service policy forums, conferences, congressional awards receptions, and Capitol Hill Days. Prior to joining City Year, Nate worked as the Communications Director on a congressional campaign in upstate New York for the 2012 election cycle, and has held various advocacy and policy internships at organizations including The Sheridan Group in Washington D.C., as well as the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America in New

York. Nate earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology and Society from Cornell University in 2012.

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



# Lori Warren, Keep Austin Housed Coordinator – Front Steps - Keep Austin Housed



Lori Warren has a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from Southwestern University. She completed a term of service with AmeriCorps Keep Austin Housed from 2011 to 2012, after which she worked as a Housing Stability Specialist with Caritas of Austin. In 2013 Lori became the Keep Austin Housed Program Coordinator, where she combines her interests in affordable housing and national service.

## 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.

#### Jonathan West, Senior AmeriCorps Program Manager – St. Bernard Project



Jonathan West is the Senior AmeriCorps Program Manager with St. Bernard Project (SBP), and has been with the organization since January 2013. An AmeriCorps alum, he served as a Client Services Coordinator at SBP, after which he joined the staff as the AmeriCorps Program Manager for SBP's New Orleans operations. He has since become Senior AmeriCorps Program Manager, which expanded his role to include the standardization of AmeriCorps Program management across SBP affiliates in New York and New Jersey. His commitment to serving disaster-impacted communities emerged during his years of graduate research in urban studies and anthropology at the University of New Orleans and Tulane University. At SBP, he lives out that commitment

by recruiting and supporting passionate AmeriCorps members who serve to bring disaster-impacted families home.



#### Judge Glen Whitley - Tarrant County Judge



Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley presides over the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. He is a leader on transportation, sustainable communities, efficient government, air quality, higher education, support for veterans and military families as well as youth and children's issues. Judge Whitley earned an accounting degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1983, he co-founded the accounting firm Whitley Penn with offices now in Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston. He was elected a Tarrant County Commissioner in 1996 and Tarrant County Judge in 2006. Judge Whitley is a past president of the National Association of Counties and of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, organizations that help local government develop policy, recognize regional opportunities and make joint decisions. Judge Whitley is a past chairman of the Regional Transportation Council, the Texas Conference of Urban Counties, and the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative, which manages public employee and retiree benefits. Judge Whitley and his wife, Brenda, live in Hurst, Texas, have three grown

children and six grandchildren.

# Sam Wilson, Assistant Vice President of Customer Support and Reporting - TG



Sam Wilson is a 26 year veteran of the student loan industry and is currently the assistant vice president of Customer Support and Reporting at TG, where he oversees the operations of the Customer Assistance, Business Integration, Product Support, and NSLDS Data Reporting functions. Sam was the non-federal negotiator for Teacher Loan Forgiveness at the inception of the program and contributed significantly to the development of Teacher Loan Forgiveness regulations.