

# 2015 SOUTHERN REGIONAL TRAINING

## *Speaker Bios*

### **Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps – Corporation for National and 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. Bill began his national service career as a VISTA volunteer in 1970-1971, and founded the first state-wide youth service initiative in the nation. 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.

### **Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President – Florida Chamber Foundation**

Tony Carvajal serves as Executive Vice President of the Florida Chamber Foundation, the solutions development arm of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. Working in partnership with state business leaders, the Foundation advances initiatives that envision a vibrant and sustainable economy in the Sunshine State. Previously, Tony spent 20 years managing and consulting with trade and professional associations across the country. His consulting practice specialized in strategic planning, Board and staff development, and the design of innovative leadership systems.

### **Prita Chhabra, Canadian Recording Artist and AmeriCorps Alum – Public Allies**

Prita Chhabra is an award-winning Canadian recording artist based in Orlando, Florida. She has released 5 music videos and has been featured at shows across North America with the likes of Priyanka Chopra, Jay Sean and Russell Peters. Prita was the first South Asian recording artist to sing both the Canadian and American National Anthems for the NBA and NHL leagues, and made DesiClub.com's annual "Top 50 Coolest" List alongside Miss America Nina Davuluri. Prita has a huge passion for giving back. In September 2013, Prita was accepted as one of 30 out of 500 applicants for the 10 month long intensive Public Allies program as an AmeriCorps volunteer. She now serves at Community Based Care of Central Florida as the IL Education Project Specialist where she uses her talents to empower foster youth in the Central Florida Community. Her latest project titled "Unstoppable" is set to release in May 2015 and is based on her experience serving foster youth as a Public Allies member.

### **Buddy Dyer, Mayor – City of Orlando**

Buddy Dyer has served Orlando's residents since 2003. As Mayor, he serves as the City's chief executive and also helps govern and oversee the operations and growth of its city-owned utility and the Orlando International and Executive Airports. Mayor Dyer's commitment to bolstering police protection helped bring about the most dramatic reduction in crime in Orlando history. This focus on safety has also helped make the Orlando Fire Department one of the elite departments in the entire country. Mayor Dyer is leading the effort to diversify Central Florida's economy and create a new breed of high-tech, high-wage careers for residents in cutting edge industries such as digital media, life sciences and biotechnology, modeling, simulation and training, and aviation and aerospace. Prior to being Mayor, Buddy Dyer served for a decade in the Florida Senate. His colleagues elected him as their Democratic Senate Leader, a position he held for three years.

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### **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.

### **Bryan Koon, Director – Florida Division of Emergency Management**

Bryan Koon has served as the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management since 2011. Prior to joining the Division, he worked with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc for five years as Operations Manager and Director of Emergency Management. Koon's experience within emergency management includes the private sector, federal government, and state government. He worked at the White House Military Office for seven years, where he was a Watch Officer in the President's Emergency Operations Center while on active duty with the U.S. Navy. He then spent two years as Training Officer for Presidential Contingency Programs, conducting training and exercises for the White House Military Office, United States Secret Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and others.

### **Jack Levine, Founder – 4Generations Institute**

After a 25-year tenure as president of Voices for Florida's Children, a statewide advocacy network, Jack Levine founded 4Generations Institute to promote intergenerational policies and programs that benefit the young, their parents, and grandparents. In addition, Jack is President of Advocacy Resources, a consultancy specializing in communications strategies, public policy initiatives, and creative resource development.

### **Tarsha Monk, Senior Emergency Management Program Specialist for Region IV – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Tarsha Monk has over 15 years of experience in Emergency Management and currently works as a Senior Emergency Management Program Specialist for Region IV of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Atlanta, Georgia. She joined the Recovery Division of FEMA in 2005 at the onset of Hurricane Katrina in Montgomery, Alabama. Prior to joining FEMA, Tarsha served as a Medical Specialist in the U.S. Army for 10 years in active duty and reserve, in numerous military assignments.

### **Alex Price, Community Relations Manager – The ADT Corporation**

Alex Price leads Community Relations & Corporate Responsibility for ADT Corporation. Over the past two years, Alex has helped build the corporate citizenship function at ADT and recently launched ADT Always Cares, a nationwide community service program promoting volunteerism for its 16,000 employees. Price previously served in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

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### **Lesli Remaly-Netter, Voluntary Agency Liaison for Region IV – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Over the past fourteen years Lesli Remaly-Netter has worked in emergency management with special emphasis on recovery and voluntary agency partner engagement while responding to disasters across the country, from Alaska to Puerto Rico. Previously, Lesli served as Senior Officer for Community and Deployment Support with the American Red Cross (ARC) and the Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN), providing leadership for a network of over 1400 agencies.

### **Chester W. Spellman, Chief Executive Officer – Volunteer Florida**

Chester Spellman was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Volunteer Florida in 2012 by Governor Rick Scott. At Volunteer Florida, Spellman oversees \$25 million in federal, state and local funds supporting AmeriCorps and volunteer programs to meet critical needs in Florida's communities. Spellman also leads the statewide coordination for volunteers and donations in a disaster for the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Additionally, Spellman is the Executive Director of the Volunteer Florida Foundation, a nonprofit charity that serves as a direct support organization to Volunteer Florida.

### **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 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. Previously, she served as CEO of Volunteer Florida. 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.

### **Erwin Tan, M.D., Director of Senior Corps – Corporation for National and Community Service**

Erwin J. Tan, M.D., serves as Director of Senior Corps at the Corporation for National and Community Service. In this capacity, Dr. Tan oversees the RSVP, Foster Grandparent (FGP) and Senior Companion (SCP) programs that engage adults age 55 and 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 served as a White House Fellow serving as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Tan was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. He received a BA from Brown University and graduated from New York University School of Medicine.