

## **Serve Idaho' Inland Northwest Conference National Trainers / Presenters**

### **Subject to Change**

#### **Stephanie Almeida**

Stephanie Almeida works as the Membership Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator for the Boise Art Museum in Boise, Idaho. A former member of the for-profit world, Stephanie worked as a Technical Writer and Instructional Designer as well as an award-winning volunteer leader for a Fortune 500 company for several years prior to moving in Boise in 2006. Stephanie has also worked as a freelance writer for several magazines and newspapers and received her Bachelor of Arts in English at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay with a specialization in Technical Writing and Web Design. Stephanie enjoys spending her free time with her husband Jeff, daughter Emily and dog Berg.

#### **Susan Cairy**

Susan Cairy has a degree in Sociology and has worked at Spokane County Juvenile Court for 23 years. She began as a volunteer on a Neighborhood Accountability Board working with 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-time offenders and later as a probation aide with more serious offenders. Susan facilitated various classes for all levels of offenders, including anger management, substance abuse and refusal skills and has served as the Volunteer Program's Coordinator for 17 years, recruiting for three major programs.

#### **Shirley Conger**

Shirley Conger served as Director of Volunteer Services at West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell for over 17 years. She is a volunteer administration consultant and trainer in the United States and Canada. She continues her lifetime commitment to volunteerism currently by working with Rotary International, Morrison Center for the Performing Arts, Women's Fitness Celebration, and others. She is past chair of the Serve Idaho Commission. Shirley holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Colorado State University in General Science.

#### **Martin J. Cowling**

Martin J. Cowling, CEO of People First –Total Solutions possesses over 20 years of management experience with organizations including UNICEF, AFS Intercultural Programs, The Smith Family, and Victorian Relief. He has been CEO of People First –Total Solutions since October 2003. Martin believes that people are the key to an organization's success or often the very reasons for failure and he is passionate about ensuring organizations and staff (both paid and unpaid) have mutually beneficial relationships. Martin is an entertaining and dynamic speaker and a skilled presenter. He provides public speaking, consultation and training services for a wide range of public and private organizations in the United States, New Zealand and Australia, as well as individual coaching.

#### **Dr. Nancy Deringer**

Dr. Deringer has over 11 years of experience at the University of Idaho (UI) writing grants and administering programs impacting children and families. Before moving to Idaho, Nancy managed commercial real estate in Minneapolis for seven years. Currently, Nancy is the program manager for the UI's statewide Building Sustainable Communities Initiative (BSCI). Prior to managing the BSCI program, Nancy was the Associate Director for the U of I's Center on Disabilities and Human Development where she directed many projects such as IdahoSTARS, Parents as Teachers, and Even Start. A previous appointee to the Serve Idaho Commission, Nancy has directed many AmeriCorps members and VISTA Volunteers. Nancy received her Ph.D. in Adult Education from the UI in December 2005 focusing on leadership, program development and evaluation.

### **Trent Derrick**

Trent Derrick teaches at Lakeland High School (LHS) in Rathdrum, Idaho. This is his twelfth year at LHS teaching science. During this time he has been involved in initiating service learning projects internationally as well as locally. He is currently involved with a student movement at LHS, which focuses on raising social consciousness on local, regional and global issues. He is working on his Master's Degree from Gonzaga University in Educational Leadership, currently writing his thesis on the essence of a constructive engagement with the "other".

### **Michelle Dunstan**

Michelle is currently the Community-Based Service Learning Director at ANSER Charter School. Michelle received her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in the spring of 2006 with an emphasis in Reading. She is currently being certified in Service-Learning. She has worked closely with young people over the past 15 years through mentorship programs, Native American outreaches, and administering youth activities. Michelle has been married for over twenty years, has three fabulous children, and her other "child" is her miniature dachshund. Michelle enjoys reading, riding a Harley with her husband, and enjoying a good cup of coffee with friends.

### **Martha Escandon**

Martha Escandon is Serve Idaho's Grants Officer. Martha has over 30 years of experience in management in both the corporate and non-profit sectors. As the Statewide Community Organizer for Idaho Women's Network, she traveled throughout the state recruiting and organizing women to plan and sponsor political priorities conferences in their communities. Each year the identified priorities were presented to the Idaho State Legislature. Her work as the Executive Director of Nampa Neighborhood Housing Services included recruiting and organizing large numbers of neighborhood residents, community leaders, business owners and city officials to work together on community revitalization projects in North Nampa. In addition, Martha has raised over two million dollars of support for a variety of non-profits in Idaho. She has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Boise State University.

### **Kent Griffitts**

Kent Griffitts is the Idaho State Program Director with the Corporation for National and Community Service. He is an Idaho native, and a graduate of Idaho State University with over 25 years of professional experience in developing AmeriCorps\*VISTA and Senior Corps Programs throughout Idaho.

### **Amy Herzfeld**

Amy Herzfeld serves as the executive director of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, builder of the Idaho Anne Frank human Rights Memorial. A native Idahoan, she has been active in statewide progressive movement building for over ten years. Her work experience ranges from nonprofit advocacy and community organizing to electoral management and award-winning journalism. Amy graduated Cum Laude with a degree in American History and Gender Studies from Boise State University and is also a graduate of Western State Center's Western Institute for Organizing and Leadership Development. She is former board president of the Idaho Women's Network and a current board secretary of the Portland-based Western States Center. She was named the 2005 Progressive Youth Leader of the Year by United Vision for Idaho and honored as a 2008 Woman Making History by the BSU Women's Center.

### **Lynn Hoffmann**

Lynn Hoffmann is the Executive Director of the Idaho Nonprofit Development Center (INDC) and has extensive experience in business planning and board membership. INDC is the only statewide

organization dedicated to the success of Idaho's communities by strengthening the nonprofit sector. Our mission is to provide a toolbox (resources) to build strong and accountable nonprofits and a soapbox (platform) to rally public involvement and gain support for the nonprofit sector. INDC trains nonprofit organizations on effective management practices, works to increase public awareness of nonprofit contributions and issues, and creates opportunities for collaboration between the social, private and public sectors.

### **Kelly Houston**

Kelly Houston is the Executive Director of Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, where she administers Idaho's AmeriCorps Programs and Idaho's Promise: The Alliance for Youth. Kelly has led the Commission for 13 years and in 1997, she was the lead Idaho State Delegate to the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. Kelly graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and French with an emphasis in Business and Economics. She has over 20 years of experience in the fields of non-profit and corporate leadership, training and fund raising. Kelly is also an entrepreneur who co-owns a small business with her twin sister.

### **Shelly Houston**

Shelly Houston is the Community Communications Coordinator for the City of Meridian. In this role she works full time from the Mayor's Office, directing the growing city's internal and external communication efforts. She is a Boise native with more than twenty years of experience in the fields of media relations, corporate communications, PR and event planning. She graduated with honors from the University of Puget Sound with a major in Communications and Theatre Arts and a minor degree in Politics & Government. She is also an entrepreneur who co-owns a small business with her twin sister.

### **Becky Martin**

Becky Martin has been working for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Emergency Management & Response for nearly three years and has accumulated numerous hours of training in emergency preparedness, as well as experience on incidents. Governor Risch appointed Becky to the Serve Idaho Commission in 2006. She is currently the Vice-Chairman of Region 5 Local Emergency Planning Committee and serves as the Secretary on the Native American Church board for her tribe.

### **Ericka Medalen**

Ericka Medalen is the Community Services Director for Community Action Partnership in Lewiston Idaho, where she serves as the Program Director for the CARE for KIDS AmeriCorps program. She received her MS in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis on early childhood development and family theory. Prior to working for Community Action Partnership, she worked as a Reading Specialist for the Houston School District. Ericka also worked with Houston Area Women's Center focusing on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

### **Dennis Neibaur**

Dennis Neibaur spent 12 years at the Boise Police Dept & Ada County Sheriff's Dept. (Patrol, Detective & SWAT Officer), eight years as an Ada County Paramedic, and four years as an Idaho Back Country Medical Rescue Team Specialist. He also spent four years as an Idaho Emergency Medical & Poison Control Communications Specialist. Dennis served 20 years as a full-time Idaho Army National Guard Medevac Flight Medic, culminating in 2004-2005 as First Sergeant of the Company C, 145<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion, Forward Support Medical Company. He supervised three forward support combat clinics, 15 Combat Ambulances, and 102 Combat Medics, Doctors,

Nurses, and support personnel in Kirkuk, Iraq. Currently Dennis is a Regional Consultant for the Idaho Dept of Health and Welfare's Emergency Medical Services Bureau in Boise.

### **Sister Janice Otis**

Sister Janice Otis is the principal for The Franciscan Cre-Act School, a small, independent private school that offers an arts-enriched education to Pocatello area children in pre-kindergarten through grade 5. She is a member of the Serve Idaho Commission and was the RSVP Director in Pocatello, Idaho for many years.

### **Dr. Dan Prinzing**

Dr. Prinzing is the Education Director for the Idaho Human Rights Education Center. Managing education partnerships and projects in China, Mexico, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Kenya, and Jordan. Dr. Prinzing directs efforts to increase the global perspective of Idaho's students through curriculum integration that focuses on global cultures, global connections, and global issues in the belief that "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." Dr. Prinzing has a Bachelor of Arts in History Secondary Education, an MA in Curriculum and Instruction, an MA in History and Government, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration. Prior to his current position at the Center, he was the Idaho State Department of Education's (SDE) coordinator of civic and international education, the former SDE coordinator of social studies and curricular materials, and a language arts and history teacher in the Boise School District.

### **Haley Rich**

Haley Rich is the South Region Coordinator for Citizen Corps. Haley spent the past eleven years implementing emergency management programs to track their outcomes on the individuals and the community. She found the best response was from the youth and she began developing programs focused on emergency management and leadership with schools. Haley has helped numerous schools as an Adjunct Instructor for the Emergency Management Institute's Multi-Hazards Emergency Planning for Schools Train the Trainer Course and has also recently become an Instructor for the Community Emergency Response Team Train-the-Trainer Course in the State of Colorado. Her current goal is to have all future educators learn about emergency preparedness and response for their personal information, as well as it becoming a requirement for higher education graduation.

### **Paula Sotnik**

Paula Sotnik, currently at the Institute for Community Inclusion UCEDD, has over twenty-five years of experience working as a director, curriculum developer, trainer, and diversity and disability specialist. She oversees the National Service Inclusion Project, the national T&TA center on disability inclusion funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. She also coordinates Community Capacity Building activities designed to support underrepresented communities and individuals to access mainstream services. Paula has served as a lead - training consultant and author on culture brokering for the Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information and Exchange at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. Prior to this project, she developed and coordinated several projects to develop the disability inclusion capacity of grassroots organizations and examine the experiences of individuals with disabilities from diverse cultures related to person-centered planning and assistive technology. Paula has served on several consumer advocacy boards, consulted nationally, and conducted presentations and published on topics related to diversity and disability, accommodations, responsive outreach strategies, and developing the capacity of organizations to include individuals with disabilities. Paula has

undergraduate degrees in social work and psychology and has taken graduate courses in business and nonprofit management. She is currently a member of the AUCD's Multicultural Council.

**Judi Watkins**

Judi Watkins is the Program Director of Canyon County RSVP.

**Dr. Linda Webb**

Dr. Webb is a youth development specialist in Idaho with 25 years of experience in volunteer management. She has a MEd in General Counseling and a Ph.D. in Adult Education. Linda has worked extensively at the state, regional and national level providing volunteer management and leadership development education programs.

**Russ Weedon MAOL, PhDC**

Russ Weedon is currently employed as a Community Education Representative with Idaho Power Company headquartered in Boise, Idaho, where he develops and delivers energy-related educational programs for and to schools, businesses, and other various organizations in the Boise and Meridian areas. He is also an adjunct faculty member at George Fox University - Boise, teaching Organizational Communication & Negotiation and Organizational Change courses in the graduate leadership programs. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Communication from Boise State University, a Masters Degree in Organizational Leadership from George Fox University, and is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Idaho in the Adult and Organizational Learning program. He recently obtained certification in character education from the Josephson Institute of Ethics. Russ was awarded the "2006 Outstanding Friend of Business Education" by the Idaho Business Education Association and was the United Way of Treasure Valley's 2003/2004 Outstanding Loaned Executive. He serves on the board of directors for the Idaho Foundation for Private Enterprise and Economic Education Association and "LAUNCH" Idaho Business Week.