

2009 Rural Community Conference Breakout Session Speakers' Biographies

Don Albrecht began his role as the Director of the Western Rural Development Center in July 2008. He received a B.S. in Forestry, an M.S. in Sociology from Utah State University and a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology from Iowa State University. He then served as a member of the faculty at Texas A&M University for 27 years where he worked in the Departments of Rural Sociology and Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences. He has researched and written extensively on the issues confronting the communities and residents of rural America. Among the issues explored are natural resource concerns, economic restructuring, demographic trends, poverty, inequality, and education.

Carol Mulford Albrecht is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology at Utah State University. She earned a B.S. from Utah State, an M.S. from Iowa State and a PhD from Texas A&M University in 1996. She served on the Texas A&M faculty until moving to Utah in 2008. Her research and teaching involves the feminization of poverty, poverty and inequality, community structure and service learning and its impact on educational attainment.

Barbara Andreozzi is the MSU Community Development Extension Agent for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (since 1988). She coordinates the Anaconda Horizons Program and a six county Community Business Matching (CBM) program. Barbara serves on the CBM National Extension Team and presented at the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals conference, Philadelphia, April 2007 and at the Extension National Galaxy III Conference, September 2008, Indianapolis, Indiana. She was an International Local Economic Renewal / Senior Project Analyst 1999 - 2008 working in Poland, Macedonia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia and Armenia on USAID, DOL and World Bank projects.

Ninia Baehr has served as NAPA's Program Manager since 2004. She earned an undergraduate degree in Rural Sociology from MSU-Bozeman and went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in history and to complete a graduate fellowship in public policy. She has two decades of experience working with communities to promote health, human services, and human rights, and she is a Registered Nurse in Montana.

Sandy Bailey is an Associate Professor and Family & Human Development Extension Specialist with MSU Extension. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Montana State University-Bozeman, and her doctorate in family studies from Oregon State University. Her research and specialty areas include parenting in non-traditional family structures, family interactions, family stress, and family caregiving. Bailey is the director of the Montana Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project and coordinates the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program in the state.

Tina Begay was born in Missoula, Montana and raised on the Flathead Indian Reservation among the Salish and Kootenai People. She is a member of the Dine' (Navajo) people and born for the Water Edge and Salt Clan. Tina graduated from the University of Montana in May 1998 with her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management. Tina earned a Master's in Business Administration in May 2005. Currently, Tina serves as the Executive Director for the National American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) Program. AIBL is a non-profit organization designed to support the educational, social, and leadership development efforts of American Indians, while maintaining and incorporating our cultural values.

Jill Belsky joined UM as an assistant professor in Sociology in 1991. In addition to creating new sociology classes in gender, development, and rural and environmental change, she spearheaded the creation of the Rural and Environmental Change emphasis in sociology. Jill's interdisciplinary interests and expertise has been utilized by students and faculty in many departments and programs at The University of Montana including Forestry, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Women Studies and Gender, and the Mansfield Center for Asian Studies. Integrating insights from all of these fields and disciplines allows Dr. Belsky to provide a large number of students and colleagues an understanding of the complex interactions between social

and ecological systems. After serving as chair of the Department of Sociology, she moved her academic home in 2001 to the College of Forestry and Conservation to help develop a new department - The Department of Society and Conservation.

Paula Beswick moved to Bozeman 13 years ago with her husband to raise her two children in a small-town environment. Before joining the Foundation, Paula was a substitute teacher, magazine editor, and freelance writer and editor for many years. She spent seven years with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition as Publications Director and later Communications Director. She also volunteered regularly in the Bozeman School District and for 10 years was a board member of the Friends of the Bozeman Public Library, serving as both secretary and president. Paula currently serves as the Foundation Director for the Bozeman Public Library Foundation.

Laurie Bishop is a board member of Solid Rock Foundation, a small family foundation based in Livingston, Montana. Laurie is a champion of both collaborative work and capacity building and has been the foundation liaison to BSI's Montana Nonprofit Connections, an organizational effectiveness grants program, since its beginning in 2006. In Laurie's day job she's the Executive Director of Manaia Youth Programs, a nonprofit providing personal development, leadership and empowerment programs for teens and young adults in communities throughout southwest Montana.

Gordon Britton - unavailable

Gus Byrom currently serves as Program Manager of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program - Housing and Public Facilities within the Community Development Division of the Montana Department of Commerce. Gus received his Bachelors Degree in History and Political Science in 1972 from the University of Colorado and a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from Texas A & M in 1973. From 1974 to 1978 Gus served as a city planning consultant in Denver, Colorado. In 1978 he and his wife moved to Montana where Gus joined the Lewis and Clark Areawide Planning Organization, the planning department for the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County. In 1979 Gus became the Planning Director and served until 1986. In 1986 he joined the CDBG Program in the Montana Department of Commerce, becoming CDBG Program Manager for Housing and Public Facilities in 1990.

Deborah Chorlton has worked in the banking and lending industry for 30 years. Her experience includes working in both the private and public sectors. She has worked for Citicorp, Wells Fargo Bank, FDIC, and FSLIC. Her experience encompasses consumer, mortgage, investment, and commercial lending. She currently holds a position with USDA Rural Development as the Housing Program Director in the State of Montana. She manages both single family and multi-family housing programs.

Sue Chvilicek is the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Park and Sweet Grass Counties. She was raised in a rural community in north-central Montana. She received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology at MSU in 1998 and has worked in state government for eight of the past ten years. In addition, she has experience with non-profit board development and community networking through her volunteer work around mental healthcare advocacy. Most recently, Sue worked with Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch of Livingston to create a collaborative capable of bringing a nationally recognized best-practice program, Parenting With Love and Limits, to Montana.

Cathy Cooney is Program Director for the Montana Community Foundation and works with local community foundations across the state to support the development of new foundations and to grow existing foundations. Cathy has worked in the community foundation sector for twelve years. She spent eight years as the Director of Grant Programs for The Community Foundation, Serving Riverside & San Bernardino Counties, in Southern California. She has been a Program Director for the Montana Community Foundation for four years. Cathy has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside, and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

Cathy Costakis is the Physical Activity Coordinator for NAPA. She holds a Master of Science degree in Health and Human Development from MSU-Bozeman. Prior to joining NAPA in 2005, Cathy ran Young at Heart, a fitness and health program for older adults. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Society of Physical Activity Practitioners in Public Health and on the Bozeman Planning Board.

Gary Cunningham has worked in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, he was the president and CEO for NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center in Minneapolis where he led a successful reinvention/renewal effort to build human and social capital in one of Minnesota's poorest communities. Gary has also served as a county administrator for Scott County, Minnesota; acting operations administrator and executive director of human resources for the Minneapolis Public Schools; research fellow for the University of the Minnesota Extension Service/Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; and deputy director of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department. He also was a manager/consultant for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. Gary has a bachelor's degree in public policy from Metropolitan State University-Minneapolis and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. Gary presently serves on a number of boards, including the Minnesota Mental Health Action Group, the University of Minnesota Medical Center, and is an advisory board member for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs -- Center for the Study of Politics and Governance and the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development.

Stephanie Daigle has been with the SNAP-Ed program for 5 years. She oversees the federal documentation necessary for conducting the program and is the fiscal manager. Stephanie also contributes to material development and marketing.

Andrea Davis is a native of Western Montana, a University of Montana Alumni, and has been working to secure affordable housing in Montana since 2001 when she started at homeWORD. As the Director of Planning & Development with the Missoula Housing Authority she led the development of five affordable housing projects ranging from housing for homeless veterans to new senior housing. Returning to homeWORD as the Executive Director in October 2008, Andrea cherishes the ability to serve out her mission by creating well built, energy efficient housing for those in need that utilize smart growth strategies and allows for inclusive design.

Jim Davison has served as Executive Director of Anaconda Local Development Corporation since 1982. As ALDC's Executive Officer, Davison is responsible for delivering a full range of economic and community development services to Anaconda and the surrounding areas including the encouragement of new and expanding business, loan and grant programs, technical assistance and recruitment programs. Jim is a founding director and past president of several organizations including Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) and Headwaters RC&D Economic Development District and its' related services. Jim has served on numerous job training and education boards including the State Workforce Investment Board and the Montana School Board Association. Davison is a 1975 graduate of Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Management and ongoing training in finance, management and administration.

Christine Emerson is the Director of School Nutrition Programs for the Montana Office of Public Instruction. She administers eight USDA Child Nutrition Programs, including school breakfast and lunch, as well as a state cooperative purchase program for 260 school districts throughout Big Sky country. Christine has worked in School Nutrition Programs since 1999 with the goals of ensuring that all Montana schools serve the most nutritious meals possible and that they promote healthy lifestyles to student, staff, and families.

Chelsea Fagen, Health Benefits Director of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, coordinates the activities of the Montana Chamber of Commerce's health insurance program, Chamber Choices which provides affordable health insurance to 18,000+ member lives. Chamber Choices is a small businesses association health plan focuses on the prevention of disease and wellness of its members. Prior to the Chamber, Chelsea worked for the Cardiovascular Health Program at the MT Department of Public Health and Human Services where she encouraged employers to provide wellness and health promotion benefits and services. She also administered the statewide Worklife Wellness Conference, Worklife Wellness Coalition and Excellence in Worklife Wellness Award.

Emily Flemming has worked for Student Assistance Foundation for one and a half years, and has spent the last year as the Campus Outreach Manager at Montana State University. As a Campus Outreach Manager, Emily assists college students with loan questions and exit counseling, and also spends significant time working in the community. She enjoys presenting to middle and high school students (and their parents), and is active with the local chamber of commerce.

Steve Gilbert has been the state non-motorized trails specialist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for about ten years. As such, he helps administer the federally-funded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and inspects trails projects funded by the program from border to border and through wilderness and backcountry areas. The RTP funds about 60 groups, agencies and communities annually with about \$1.2 million. Part of his work at FWP also involves periodic inspections of the several hundred projects across Montana paid for in part by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Sarah Glover is the founder of One Book-One Bozeman. In 2008, its first year, One Book-One Bozeman hosted 22 events over six weeks. Nearly 2000 community members read the book and over 500 participated in the activities. Professionally, Glover is a facilitator and education policy consultant who works with school boards and other non-profits nationally. She has spent over 15 years involved in education reform, research and policy issues. Glover holds a B.A. in political science from Tufts University and an M.B.A. and a M.A. in public affairs from The University of Texas at Austin.

Lynn Hellenga is the Nutrition Co-Coordinator for the Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program (NAPA). The majority of her time is spent working with partners on steps to improve the initiation, duration and exclusive breastfeeding rates in the state of Montana. Lynn graduated from MSU-Bozeman with an undergraduate degree in Food & Nutrition and she has been a Registered Dietitian for close to 25 years. She has worked in healthcare, business and healthcare management and now public health. She holds a Master of Science degree and is a Certified Lactation Counselor. Lynn has worked with NAPA since 2005.

Roman Hendrickson practices Family Medicine and Geriatrics, and is currently the Medical director of the Ruby Valley Clinic in Sheridan, Montana. He is on the Clinical Faculty of the University of Washington School of Medicine. Having served as the President of the American Medical Directors Association, on numerous committees of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Geriatric Association, he remains active in the research community having published over 40 articles and presenting before National and International professional groups and in the media.

Richard Horn attended and graduated from Blackfeet Community College in Browning, MT. Richard was a featured artist at the "Museum of the Plains Indians", in Browning, MT. He was selected as a participant in the World Trade Center Program out of the Montana Arts Council and the University of Montana, so he traveled to Louisville, KY for a major art show. Richard works with the International Traditional Games Society. He also is a participant in the Hopa Mountain Program. He has worked with a variety of organizations and volunteers his time to youth activities and preserving the past by passing it down to young people within the community.

Kristin Juliar is the Director of the Montana Office of Rural Health and the Montana Area Health Education Center in the Division of Health Sciences at Montana State University. In 2007, Ms. Juliar was appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at Montana State University, and she was also the recipient of a multi-year grant from HRSA to establish Montana's AHEC system. She is the Chair of HealthShare Montana, the Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee, and participates in many other healthcare committees.

Coleen Kaiser coordinates the two federally funded nutrition education programs: the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program operating in Missoula and Yellowstone Counties, and the federal food stamp program's education arm under its new name of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP-Ed. The overall goal of the programs is to promote healthy lifestyles for adults, youth and families in Montana. Coleen is a Registered Dietitian and has been with the programs for a little over 2 years. She coordinates a team of 6

state staff and 18 Nutrition Educators providing programs in 14 counties and on six reservations. The SNAP-Ed program has been underway in Montana since 1997.

Kirk Keller is currently serving as the Wellness and Innovative Product Coordinator for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana. He describes his services as those of a "Health Strategist" providing worksite health promotion consultation to groups doing business with BCBSMT. He has 25 years experience in human resources, employee benefits and worksite health promotion. Kirk provides support to employers engaging in worksite health promotion via Well With Bluesm. Well With Bluesm is a suite of products and services that allow BCBSMT groups the voluntary opportunity to use best in class resources. Consultation includes; training, evaluation, risk identification, consumer engagement, communication and reporting. He teaches at Montana State University Bozeman as an Adjunct Instructor in the Health and Human Development Department.

Susan V. Kelly, program director for the Center Pole, was a picture editor for Time Life Books and National Geographic for more than twenty years. She founded the Kelly Foundation, providing mentoring and other assistance to underrepresented youth working toward college. Susan is instrumental in raising funds and awareness for The Center Pole and now resides on the Crow Reservation.

Cindy Kittredge, Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist for the Montana Arts Council, has deep roots in Montana and its folk arts. A fourth generation Montanan, she and her husband ranch in the Cascade area, and she is a fiber artist herself. In her current position, she works with Montana's folk and traditional artists, developing programs to help them become market ready. She founded and directed the TRACE/Creative Arts Enterprise program at MSU-Great Falls, a program help artists build business skills. Prior to that, she served as director of the High Plains Heritage Center in Great Falls. She has taught in colleges in Arizona and Wisconsin, and was the Assistant Director of Campus International Programs at Marquette University in Wisconsin. Recipient of the Governor's Humanities Award in 2003, she has a doctorate from MSU, a masters degree from Arizona State University and a B.A. from the University of Montana. She is a founding member of Hands of Harvest, active in CraftNet, and currently serves on the board of the Montana Preservation Alliance.

Linda Krantz received her BS in Health & Human Performance and her MS in Health Sciences from the University of Montana, Missoula. She was a certified Athletic Trainer for several years and has worked in a variety of positions in health, education, and private industry. She is now the Health Education Specialist with the Montana Cardiovascular Health Program, a branch of the Department of Public Health & Human Services.

Al Kurki is an agriculture and energy program specialist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). He is manager of the NCAT-sponsored Oilseeds for Fuel, Feed and the Future project. Since late 1994, he has also worked for the USDA Western region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grants program He co-manages one of the grants programs, and he designs and coordinates major program evaluation efforts for Western SARE. He has a Master's in Public Administration (with an emphasis on program evaluation) from Montana State University. He lives and works in Helena.

Victoria (Vickie) LaFromboise is the 11th child out of 12 and is from the Blackfeet Tribe. Vickie has been involved with working on Native American health disparities for over the past 12 years. She graduated from Montana State University with a BS in Community Health Education and a MS in Health and Human and Development focusing on health promotion and education. During the time she worked on her Masters degree, she worked with the community-based participatory research project Messengers for Health. After receiving her MS, Ms. LaFromboise went to work at the Yellowstone City County Health Department where she worked on a number of projects with American Indians throughout Montana. It was through this position that Victoria got involved in suicide prevention and went to work for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, (SPRC). While employed at SPRC Vickie worked with seven tribal nations and organizations throughout the US not only in suicide prevention but a number of health disparities that affect AI/ANs.

Ted Lange joined the Gallatin Valley Land Trust staff in 2002 where he has worked for both GVLТ's Community Trails and Land Conservation programs. GVLТ believes that "By building trails we build community" and since the early 1990's has spearheaded the growth of Bozeman's 50-plus mile "Main Street to the Mountains" trail system. Through policy development, subdivision review, planning and coordinating trail projects, grant writing and GIS mapping, Ted works with local government, developers, neighborhoods and many other partners to ensure that the community trails network grows as the community grows. Ted graduated in 1988 from Williams College in Massachusetts with a Bachelor's degree in geology and a concentration in environmental studies.

Deborah LaVeaux is the Program Coordinator for the Center for Native Health Partnerships based at Montana State University. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from the University of Montana and a Master's of Science in Health Promotion and Education from Montana State University. After obtaining her BS degree, she worked for twelve years as a Medical Technologist for the Indian Health Service in South Dakota and Montana, and returned to complete her Master's degree in 2001. Deb worked for two and a half years as a graduate student with the Messenger's for Health program, a community-based participatory research project focusing on cervical cancer prevention among Native American women in Montana. She is a first-generation descendant of the Salish tribe of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Northwestern Montana.

Nancy Leifer is the Homeownership Program Manager for the Montana Board of Housing. From 1992 to 2002, she was the Housing Policy coordinator for the City of Missoula, and from 1981-1984 she was a bureau chief and division administrator working with housing programs in the Montana Department of Commerce. Nancy worked with numerous non-profit organizations in and around her years in state government, including AERO, Northern Lights, and the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project. Nancy was born and grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, and has called Montana home since 1972. She participated in the Kellogg Extension Education Project for leadership development through Montana State University in the mid-1970s. She earned a B.A. in Sociology, a Masters in Political Science, and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Montana. Nancy also earned a Masters of Public Affairs from Princeton University.

Gene Leuwer serves as Executive Director of Rocky Mountain Development Council and as such has been active in affordable housing issues for several years. Mr. Leuwer is currently involved in community planning as it relates to affordable housing, homeownership projects, first time home buyer efforts, efforts to preserve older subsidized multi-family projects, and efforts to develop new multi-family rental projects. A 1970 graduate of Carroll College, Gene and his wife Berdie have made Helena their home since 1972. Other areas of Agency focus include Head Start, child care, weatherization programs and energy assistance, a variety of programs which provide services to senior citizens, and efforts to implement community based behavioral health services. Gene currently serves as Vice- Chair of Energy Share of Montana.

Dan Lloyd is serving with AERO to develop and implement a neighborhood organizing model to help households of all income levels throughout Montana become more energy self-reliant. Dan joins AERO from the plains of the Midwest—he grew up in Iowa and received his education from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Before coming to AERO, Dan worked with renewable energy and sustainable construction at Sage Mountain Center, near Whitehall, Montana.

Liz Mack is the Youth Programs Coordinator for the Bozeman nonprofit organization, Hopa Mountain. Liz coordinates two Youth Leadership Programs (one in the Gallatin Valley and one in Park County) serving teenagers ages 11-18. She also assists with Hopa Mountain's Native Science Field Centers, a project that incorporates Native ways of knowing and western science in informal educational programs. Liz has six years of experience coordinating programs for youth. She has also worked as an outing guide and teambuilding facilitator and is especially interested in creating engaging outdoor experiences for youth that facilitate leadership development and personal growth.

Ann Marshall is a teacher and parent, whose greatest desire is to aid in the development of the individual behaviors that will enable children, and their caregivers, to find inspiration in their surroundings and together master their environment through play full, integrated, sensory activities, using "found objects" available in the home and in nature. Ms. Marshall has extensive training, education and experience in both mainstream and special education as a teacher and

administrator in the US and overseas. She encourages parents to develop the understanding that they are their child's first and best teacher and works with parents to use their strengths, energy and imagination to enhance their children's sensory skill development prior to formal schooling. She is the director of "BRIGHT LIGHTS" tutoring for young children and their parents.

Pat McGlynn moved to Montana for MSU in November of 2008. She received her PhD in Education, with a focus on Agriculture, from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY in 2005. Subsequently, Pat worked for the New York Farm Viability Institute as the development coordinator where she increased the institute's budget for agriculture research from \$3 million to \$8 million. As coordinator, she designed grant writing workbooks and held grant writing workshops for extension educators and the public across New York State. Pat has attended additional grant writing training with the Grantsmanship Center in Las Angeles and the Rensselaerville Institute in Rensselaer, NY. Pat has written successful grants for The Capital District YMCA, The Cayuga Nature Center and the Erie Canal Museum and the Agriculture in the Classroom program for Cornell University.

Minkie Medora is on the board of the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN), and has worked for many years on hunger issues in the state. She chairs the Food Security Council of MFBN. The Food Security Council works on multiple approaches towards creating long-term, sustainable food security through public policy at the state and national level, as well as through research, education and community level engagement. The council strives to increase access to healthy food for all Montanans. Minkie also serves on the Public Policy Committee of the Montana Dietetic Association and has worked to impact legislation in the current state session. She has served on the Governor's Council on Economic Security for Montana Families. She is a registered dietitian and worked for over 27 years at Community Medical Center in Missoula.

Rachel Meech, Preventive Health Strategist with TwoMedicine Health and Financial Fitness, has a Master of Education degree in Health Promotion, Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. Rachel is truly passionate about wellness and is excited about the opportunity to work with employees in a variety of settings. Rachel's current position with TwoMedicine allows her to work with a variety of both public and private entities throughout Montana and Wyoming, providing them with the best possible Preventive Health Strategies

Heather Miller is a member of the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma. Although she did not grow up on her reservation she was always passionate about Native American Issues. She graduated with her Masters in Native American Studies from Montana State University in 2006. She currently works for Hopa Mountain, a nonprofit organization, as the program coordinator for the Native Nonprofit Leadership Program.

Shalina Mirza is the Project Coordinator for the Montana Office of Rural Health and the Montana Area Health Education Center in the Division of Health Sciences at Montana State University. Ms. Mirza is a recent graduate from Montana State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Health and Human Development.

Robin Mochi is a Nutrition and Physical Activity Co-Coordinator with NAPA. An important part of her job is working with communities to find ways to improve the availability, pricing and promotion of healthy items (especially fruits and vegetables) in restaurants and grocery stores. Robin holds two Master of Science degrees, one in Health and Human Performance from Montana State University and one in Nutrition.

Kevin Moore has worked as a member of Grow Montana's FoodCorps, and helped pilot the University of Montana Western's Farm to College program. This experience helped him learn to work through the complexities of institutional food system change, which allowed him to go on and help organize Farm to Cafeteria Connections, which is a statewide network that provides resources to help further develop local food in Montana's institutions. Kevin is also currently pursuing a graduate degree from the University of Montana with an emphasis on sustainable food and farming.

Lynn C. Paul, Professor and MSU Extension Food and Nutrition Specialist, has doctoral degree in Adult and Higher Education, M.S. in Public Health Nutrition, B.S. in Community Nutrition, and is a registered dietitian. These educational experiences have provided her with valuable knowledge and experiences in health promotion and disease prevention in a variety of settings, with a focus on food and nutrition. In her current position, she provides leadership for extension educational activities in food and nutrition which have been utilized by county Extension agents in worksites. Additionally, she is currently providing leadership for the MSU Extension Worksite Wellness Initiative. Lastly, she has attended many of the excellent Worksite Wellness conferences held the last several years in Montana.

Mary Peterson, board president of the Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits, has raised money for national, international, regional, statewide and local nonprofits. Currently development director for Bozeman's Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, she has worked with the Museum of the Rockies, MSU's College of Nursing, and directed planning and development for NAFSA: Association of International Educators in Washington D.C. Her publications range from cross-cultural ethics, to fundraising. Mary maintains a consulting practice and has led fundraising workshops on four continents. She also helps local organizations fundraise, develop strategic plans, design programs and structure themselves for sustainability.

Ray Rasker has written widely on rural development and the role of environmental quality in economic prosperity, and is well known in policy circles in the U.S. and Canada. He has a Ph.D. from the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, Masters of Agriculture from Colorado State University, and Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Biology from the University of Washington. Ray also holds an affiliate position at Montana State University in the Department of Ecology.

Linda Reed moved to Montana in 1992 to become the president of a Helena bank. She subsequently joined the administration of Governor Marc Racicot as his economic development adviser. She also worked for US West (Qwest) in its Policy and Law division before joining the Montana Community Foundation as its executive officer. Linda has served on the boards of many arts and economic development nonprofits and now fulfills her community responsibilities by writing checks. She is a strong supporter of downtowns as centers of community life and recently purchased a retail building on Last Chance Gulch (Helena's main street) and converted the second-story warehouse to her residence.

Mandie Reed has been the County Extension Agent in Wheatland County for nearly 5 years. Being the single agent in Wheatland County, she has responsibility in all areas of extension, with a focus in economic and community development. Privileged to live in Wheatland County Montana for nearly 11 years, Mandie was excited at the opportunity to work on the Smoking Boomer Rail Trail in Harlowton, helping the community develop a great asset and showcase their history.

Mark Rehder started his farming career in the Sonora Desert, where he attended the University of Arizona. Upon graduation, he then went west to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he received his M.S. in Agriculture. With the Rockies calling his name, Mark returned to his home state of New Mexico, where he worked as the Agriculture Director at the Tesuque Pueblo for five years, and eventually purchased his own farm on the Rio Grande River. For the next seven years, he grew acres of organic vegetables on his own farm, worked as a part-time farm consultant, organic crop inspector and as the director an outdoor environmental program at the Santa Fe Children's Museum. His interests in community organizing and farming, eventually led him at the University of New Mexico, where in 2000, he received a Masters Degree in Community and Regional Planning. In 2001, Mark and his family moved north, seeking a small town, shorter summers and bigger Mountains. They settled in Livingston, Montana and founded Farms for Families. For over 25 consecutive years, Mark has fed his friends and family from his farming ventures and his passion for local food production. As Director of Farms for Families, Mark hopes to share his knowledge and experience, and provide people with an opportunity to reconnect with their food, their land and their communities.

Sheila Rice has been Executive Director of NeighborWorks Montana since 2003 and serves on several national housing committees and organizations. Prior to NeighborWorks Montana, Sheila was employed for 24 years at ENERGY WEST, a energy company serving three states. Sheila's volunteer work includes NeighborWorks Great Falls, United Way of Cascade County, the Rotary Club of Great Falls, the Benefits Healthcare and the Center for Mental Health Foundation. Sheila

earned a BS from the University of Great Falls and holds an MBA from the University of Montana. She has three children and two grandchildren. She is a native of Anaconda.

Tawnya Rupe is the program director for the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund located in Emigrant, MT. The Mountain Sky Fund is an affiliate of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation based in Atlanta, GA. Tawnya assisted in the development of the Park County Community Foundation and is currently the organization's board chair. Tawnya serves on the board of the Montana Outdoor School and is also a member of the Philanthropy Northwest Montana/Wyoming grantmaker group.

Michael D. Schechtman has been Big Sky Institute's full-time executive director since January of 2001. Prior to accepting this position, Mike was the president and owner of Eaglecliff Associates, a Helena-based consulting firm specializing in organizational development and fundraising for nonprofit organizations. Mike has over 34 years of professional experience in nonprofit program development, administration and fundraising, including 24 years as a consultant to nonprofits in the Northern Rockies. Mike has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Chicago and an M.S. in natural resources from the University of Michigan.

Shirley Schermele joined the SNAP-Ed state team in December 2008. Shirley brings to the program expertise in youth and elementary education.

Joel Schumacher is an extension economics associate specialist at Montana State University. He has a Masters degree in agricultural economics from Montana State University. His research and outreach programs focus primarily on bioenergy production opportunities through the adoption of small, medium and large scale oilseed crushing facilities, biodiesel plants and biofuels policy. His current appointment also includes research in the estate and financial planning arenas. Previously, as a pension analyst in the private sector, Joel worked extensively with small business owners to find retirement plan solutions in a wide array of business situations.

Liz Shanahan attended Dartmouth as an undergraduate student before earning her doctorate at Idaho State. Shanahan's specialty is land issues, which she believes are lightning-rod concerns in the American West. Local land conservation initiatives, snowmobile access to Yellowstone National Park, and the difference in land-use policy across the region are all issues Professor Shanahan addresses. She hopes to link politics and natural science by helping policy makers stay informed and ensuring that scientists' voices are heard.

Gerald Sherman is an Oglala Lakota from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He graduated from Oglala Lakota College and was the founding Executive Director of the Lakota Fund, a microenterprise loan fund. Gerald worked with Norwest (now Wells Fargo) Bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and First Interstate BancSystem of Montana. He focused on bank management, community development and finance for Indian communities. Currently, Gerald is President and CEO of Indian Land Capital Company, a national financial institution that finances Tribal governments to consolidate and increase their land bases. He is president of the Indian Nonprofit Association.

Bruce Smith was born and raised on a farm and ranch in northeastern Montana and has been involved in commodity agriculture for the better part of his life. After spending a year in France, he returned to the family farm in 1980. After five years of drought and grasshoppers, he returned to school and from 1987 to 1994 spent seven years out of state working for large food companies freezing broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, and Brussels sprouts in California; making margarine in Illinois; and frozen French fries in Idaho. He's been actively involved in all levels of the food chain from field to table. He currently lives and works in Glendive, Montana as an Extension Agent with Montana State University.

Mary Jane Standaert has been the Montana Head Start Collaboration Director for nearly 12 years and for the last 3 1/2 years has also been the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant. Her work centers on early childhood policy at the state level and how that is translated into practice at the local level. She works closely with all 28 Montana Head Start and Early Head Start programs, with other early childhood professionals in Montana on numerous issues regarding professional development, services for children with disabilities, children who experience being homeless, child welfare, health, mental health, oral health,

literacy, quality issues for children, providers and parents. She works as a private contractor for the state and her office is within the Early Childhood Services Bureau of DPHHS who oversees all childcare in Montana.

Mary Stein earned an M.S. in Nutrition Science from Colorado State University and a B.S. in Biology from Tufts University. Since 1991, Mary has been with the Department of Health and Human Development at Montana State University as a Nutrition Education Specialist and Adjunct Instructor. Most recently, Mary's work has focused on sustainable food systems work throughout Montana. She served on the steering committee for the 2007 Governor's Summit on Food and Agriculture, from which the recently formed Montana Food System Council was created. Mary works on projects related to promoting Farm to School programming through her work with Montana Team Nutrition. She serves on the steering committee for the Grow Montana Coalition and on the boards of both Eat Right Montana and Gallatin Valley Farm to School. As Program Coordinator with the Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems Program, Mary provides direct guidance to prospective and current SFBS students through advising, internship placement, and teaching.

Annette Sutherland is the Center for Native Health Partnerships Community Organizer on the Rocky Boy Reservation. She is an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. Annette makes her home at Rocky Boy and has coordinated several health-related programs from start to finish. She holds an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, KS, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Montana State University-Billings. She is an experienced grantwriter and program coordinator and has worked for the Rocky Boy Health Board in different areas for over 12 years in several positions including Tribal Management Grant Coordinator, and Assistant Planner for the Health Board. In 2005, Annette applied for and received a one-year pilot project for Tobacco Cessation at Rocky Boy. The program was successful in distributing educational information regarding the health hazards of tobacco to the people at Rocky Boy.

Shelly Sutherland is NAPA's Evaluator. She earned an Ed.D. in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in program evaluation, and she provides evaluation services in various settings including tribal colleges and public health programs. Shelly has played a key role in NAPA's efforts to plan, pilot and evaluate affordable, sustainable strategies to promote healthy eating and physical activity in Montana worksites.

Diana Taylor has always been an advocate for eating nutritious local food. As a child, she was raised on a homestead in Alaska where her family grew a truck garden or market garden in newer terms. She has been the Big Timber Farmers' Market master for the past 13 years, encouraging local food vendors to participate by matching gardeners with land and landowners with gardeners. During her tenure as Mayor of Big Timber created a City committee to develop Dornix Park, a 57 acre urban park that will include a Growing and Environmental Learning Center. In this place, students and the community will test different food crops and grow food for the school cafeteria. Diana is a member of the Montana Food Systems Council, an exciting group of people from across the state working to re-create a viable system of food production, processing and distribution for all Montanans, partnered with the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Labor and Industries, and Corrections. Big Timber's participation in the Horizons Program produced, among others, a food group, known as Sweet Grass Food. Sweet Grass Food's mission is to create a sustainable food system in Sweet Grass County. The first step was to start a Community Garden, no small feat in Big Timber, known for its boulders. All plots are spoken for in this, the second year. A second step is to start a food cooperative, a project in its infancy that will take shape this season.

Karen Thomas has been the director of Child Care Link, the child care resource and referral program for Hill, Liberty and Blaine counties since December 15, 2005. Prior to that, she was an educator in an Early Head Start classroom in Havre and also worked as a Head Start/Home Based teacher in Plains. For two years she was the manager of a Missoula based infant center for parents who were finishing high school. Her career includes but is not limited to employment and training work in Superior and Havre and extensive domestic violence work in Superior, Helena, Havre, and Ogden, UT. Also, as a mother she was a consumer of child care. In 1979, she obtained her degree in Home Economics with a concentration in Early Childhood Development from the University of Montana.

Dana Thompson has been with the SNAP-Ed program for the past 8 years. She is in the Butte office and her area of expertise includes nutrition and adult education.

Mike Todd works for the Center for Native Health Partnerships through MSU Bozeman and the Ft. Peck Tribal Health Department. He is from the Red Bottom clan of Assiniboine on the Ft. Peck Indian Reservation. He got involved in community health projects while being a student at Ft. Peck Community College. While there the state hired him to run the Ft. Peck chapter of the Safe On All Roads (S.O.A.R.) program, which became a very successful influence on the people there. He learned how to run the program through grass roots ideology and gained attention statewide. The highlight of that work was when Governor Schweitzer and his aid Jim Lynch commended him on the work he was doing. Ft. Peck will also be the first in Montana to have a primary seatbelt law as it passed at tribal board level and will be put into effect in the near future. While he is with the CNHP he plans to use the same formula for success and apply it to all areas of building a healthier community. The culture of the community is full of positive teachings when presented to the community in non-forceful, non-threatening manner. Todd hopes someday to retire in a community free of health disparities, violence and abuse. He knows this is a pretty tall order, yet feasible if we all work together.

Gene Townsend started the Headwaters Trail System in 1996 and built the first segment of the trail in 1997; the Headwaters Trail System now has 8.75 miles of paved trail, including 2 bridges. The trail goes from Three Forks to the Headwaters State Park and from Three Forks to the Drouillard Fishing Access area. Mayor Townsend is currently working on a 12 mile connecting trail between Three Forks and Manhattan. They have completed a trail project to link the city to the Luzenac Baseball Fields. Townsend has been mayor of Three Forks for 24 years and has been employed as a boiler operator for 36 years at Rio Tinto Minerals in Three Forks.

Adam Vauthier is the co-owner of Vauthier | Ferguson Design currently based in Montana with clients all over the United States. He graduated from the International Academy of Design and Technology with a degree in Web Development. Adam currently lives in Anaconda, Montana where he serves as an Outreach Coordinator and Web Developer for EPA's Smelter NPL Superfund TAG grant. He also teaches adult education courses in business applications and private violin, viola & cello lessons there.

Dan Villa is Anaconda's House District 86 Representative and a 3rd term legislator. He is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and Chairman of the Rules Committee. He is also the Assistant Technical Advisor for the Anaconda Environmental Education Institute.

Mike Vogel – unavailable

Christiane Von Reichert joined the Department of Geography at The University of Montana over 15 years ago. She earned a B.S. in Economics from the Bayerische Julius Maximilians Universität (Würzburg, Germany); an MS in Economics and Regional Science from the Christian Albrechts Universität (Kiel, Germany); and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Idaho (Moscow, Idaho). Her research focuses on migration and population change, economic geography, and socio-demographic restructuring in rural America. Previously, she explored migration to high-amenity areas in the Mountain West, and attachment to place and the desire to stay in communities of the Northern Great Plains. Her current research project, which is funded by CSREES/USDA, focuses on return migration to rural communities in geographically isolated regions. The different projects directly tie to her interest in and commitment to rural people and rural places.

Jean Wallace is an employee of Wheatland Memorial Healthcare (WMH), a critical access hospital located in Harlowton Montana that is concerned with finding innovative ways to meet the needs of the community it serves. In an attempt to meet the day care needs for hospital employees and the community of Harlowton, the Hospital runs the Honey Bear Day Care Center which Ms. Wallace supervises. Through a grant from the Office of Rural Health, WMH also provides education and self-management skills through telemedicine for residents who have diabetes, hypertension, and/or depression. Telemedicine has allowed Harlowton residents to access counseling, specialist consultations, and educational programs that otherwise would not have been available in a rural area.

Peggy White Wellknown Buffalo, Executive Director, founded The Center Pole in 1999 on her family's land, the very land where women and children hid during the Battle of Little Bighorn. Peggy grew up on the Crow reservation and worked for the Crow Tribe for over twenty years as a community health representative. She is a recognized community and spiritual leader. Peggy designs programs and activities according to the needs and goals of the children and traditional Crow values.

Cary Byers Wilson is a Physician Assistant with a Masters Degree from A.T. Still University, Mesa, Arizona. He is currently employed part time by Ruby Valley Hospital and clinics in Sheridan and Twin Bridges, Montana. He has been a resident of Big Sky for the past 17 years. He lives with his wife Colleen and their 3 young children Myles, Charlotte and Alice. Cary also works at the Big Sky and other clinics and the family operates a commercial apple orchard. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with an English and Film degree. Cary's career in the National Park Service got him involved in emergency medicine as a medic which he also used in many years of ski patrolling, including international work. He is an avid traveler and speaks Spanish and Japanese.

Kristi Wilson owns a Licensed Group Daycare in Whitehall, MT. She is a former Assisted Living Administrator. Kristi left the healthcare field in January 2008 when she could not obtain childcare for her newborn. At that time there were no licensed childcare facilities in Whitehall and the Horizons Study Circles had recently identified childcare as a major need in Whitehall. Kristi decided to use this business opportunity to provide quality childcare for not only her own child but for children of other families in need in the Whitehall area.

Dave Young is a Community Resource Specialist with the MSU Extension Service and a Research Professor with the MSU College of Nursing. David joined the MSU faculty in 1977 and has served in several administrative positions overseeing institutional grants, biomedical and health-related programs. David currently directs the Community Resources Program which is designed to provide information, education, resources, grant writing assistance and other technical services to help create healthier Montana communities. The Community Resources Program fosters and encourages community renewal and transformation that results in communities that are healthy, safe, thriving, vibrant and resilient.

Laurie Yung is an assistant professor in Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana. Her teaching and research focuses on the social and political aspects of conservation, with an emphasis on rural communities in the Northern Rockies. She serves as the Director of the Wilderness Institute and as a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Society and Conservation. She also teaches courses in conservation social science and policy in the College of Forestry and Conservation and in the Wilderness and Civilization program. Her curricular home is the Resource Conservation program.