

## PHILANTHROPY WV 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS

### David Grant

David Grant served as President and CEO of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in Morristown, New Jersey from 1998 to 2010. Now based in Vermont, he consults with people and organizations around the world that have a social or educational mission, specializing in strategic planning, design of assessment systems, and the creation of high-functioning Boards. David is a member of the Leap Ambassadors Community, a group of over 100 people nation-wide who have come together to inspire and support nonprofit leaders in creating high-performance organizations for greater societal impact. David's career has centered on innovative teaching and learning. In 1983 he and his wife, Nancy Boyd Grant, co-founded The Mountain School of Milton Academy, a highly-regarded, semester-long, interdisciplinary environmental studies program in Vermont for high school juniors from throughout the country. From 1994 to 1998 David was a national consultant to schools and leader of workshops on topics of curriculum and program design, professional development, assessment practices and school climate. His public service includes having been Town Moderator of Vershire, Vermont and a Board Member of the Vermont Council for the Humanities. He served as Chair of the Board of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers from 2006 to 2008 and on the Board of Directors of The Surdna Foundation in New York City is from 2005 to 2011.



He is currently a Trustee of The Children's Initiative in Portland, Maine and the Institute for Sustainable Communities in Montpelier, Vermont. David's avocation since 1976 has been performing as Mark Twain in a one-man theatrical show, including, in 1982, a performing/lecture tour around the world. His essay "In Pursuit of Sustainability" was included in *The Coming Transformation: Values to Sustain Human and Natural Communities*, published in 2010 by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Issues. His book *The Social Profit Handbook: The Essential Guide to Setting Goals, Assessing Outcomes, and Achieving Success for Mission-Driven Organizations* was published by Chelsea Green in March, 2015. David graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University with an A.B. in English, and he holds an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Michigan. In 2008, he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Drew University (Madison, New Jersey).

### Brandon Dennison

Brandon Dennison, born and raised in West Virginia, is the founder and current Chief Executive Officer of the Coalfield Development Corporation working in Lincoln, Mingo, Wayne, and Cabell Counties, West Virginia. Dennison holds a Master of Public Affairs in Nonprofit Management from Indiana University. Social enterprise is his passion, as evidenced by his holding a certificate in Social Enterprise from the Indiana University Kelly School of Business. He recently completed the Community Progress Leadership Institute at Harvard University Law School, and is certified by National Development Council as an Economic Development Finance Professional. Dennison is the 2015 winner of the J.M. Kaplan Social Innovation Prize and was recognized in 2016 by the Chronicle on Philanthropy's "40 under 40 leaders who are making their mark on the nonprofit world."



### Lee Oxley

Leon K. Oxley is a partner in the Huntington, WV law firm of Frazier and Oxley Legal Corporation. He has practiced in the areas of taxation, estate planning and business law for over forty years. He received his BA degree from Marshall University, in 1971 and his law degree from Emory University in 1975. Mr. Oxley was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in West Virginia in 1978. He is a member of the West Virginia State Bar, American Bar Association, Georgia Bar Association, and the Association of Attorney-C.P.A.'s. He has been an instructor at Marshall University and in the MCTC Community College paralegal program.



### Tarabeth Brumfield

Tarabeth Brumfield is the Chief Program Development Officer for Marshall University's June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development and Director of the Early Education STEAM Center on the MU campus. She grew up in Kenova, WV and graduated from Spring Valley High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a specialization in early childhood and a Master of Arts in Reading from Marshall University. After joining the Harless Center as a graduate intern in the spring of 2005, Tarabeth has held various positions and performed a number of duties for the Center. Currently she oversees the development and implementation of programs and projects on campus and in a number of WV schools and districts related to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics). Since the fall of 2014, she has taken a lead role in directing the CREATE Satellite program on Marshall's campus, working with students and teachers to implement high quality technology infused programming. Her career has also included experience in teaching university classes, both on



site and online. Tarabeth has participated in a study abroad tour to the world-renowned early childhood programs in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The purpose of this program is to connect educators from public and private pre-k, higher education, and the arts to create a taskforce to assist in the implementation of the Reggio approach. This experience has directly impacted the early childhood, pre-service and in-service programs at Marshall University.

### Jake Lynch

Jake Lynch comes to the Hub following a 15-year career in community journalism and nonprofit communications. West Virginia's trail and recreation community may know Jake from his previous role with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, where from 2010 until 2014 he led the national trail development organization's media and marketing efforts. Telling the stories of America's trail communities was a natural progression from his work as a journalist and newspaper editor here in the United States and in his native Australia. At the Hub, Jake's experience in tapping into what interests and motivates community members and leaders is being put to good use in our efforts to generate a broad and powerful narrative about the terrific community development work being done in West Virginia. Jake's focus is very much on boosting the communications capacity of the wide network of Hub partners across the state, and creating new and innovative ways to help the community development sector use communications to expand their impact. Though he has called Washington, D.C. home for the past few years, Jake is a country boy at heart, having grown up and worked in rural communities and fishing villages of New South Wales.



### David Biemesderfer

David Biemesderfer is President and CEO of the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers, a role he began in January 2016. Based in Washington, DC, the Forum is a national network of 33 regional philanthropy associations representing 5,500 organizations, making it the largest network serving philanthropy in America. The Forum is currently embarking on a new vision to create an expanded network of regional and national philanthropy-serving organizations; being the place where philanthropy's infrastructure comes together. David has worked in the philanthropy sector for more than 20 years. Prior to his role at the Forum, David served as President and CEO of Florida Philanthropic Network (FPN), a statewide network of philanthropic organizations working to strengthen and grow philanthropy in Florida. He joined FPN in 2009 as Vice President and served as FPN's President & CEO starting in June 2010. Under David's leadership, FPN's membership grew sevenfold, its budget grew fourfold and its statewide presence increased significantly. He served on the Forum's Board of Directors for six years. David's past experience also includes working for 10 years at the Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF). He left MCF in 2004 as its Vice President of Communications and Information Services. David has also served as a consultant for a variety of foundations and other philanthropic clients in the areas of communications, public policy and accountability. David has a bachelor's degree in communications from Gustavus Adolphus College and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota.



### Susan Landis

Susan has served in this leadership position since 1994. Prior to that she served on the BAF Board of Directors as treasurer and then president. She is a graduate of the College of William & Mary (BA in Psychology) and Old Dominion University (MA in Guidance and Educational Testing). She is a former high school English teacher and guidance counselor. A member of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts for over a dozen years, Landis currently serves as its chair. Susan is a past president of the Theatre West Virginia Board of Directors and recipient of their *Bravo Award* for ongoing support of the arts in the Mountain State. A long time member and former officer of the Beckley Concert Association, she has worked to bring quality, affordable arts experiences to the members of her community. Currently Susan serves on the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation as a member of the Executive Board and Chair of the Living Legacy American Jazz Award Committee; the National Assembly of State Arts Associations as Chair of the Development Committee and the CEO Search Committee. She is the current secretary of the board of Philanthropy West Virginia. Other organizational interests include serving and taking active roles with the WV Humanities Council, WV Commission for National and Community Service, Friends of WV Public Broadcasting, Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce, Concord University Foundation Board, Raleigh County Make It Shine Committee, and Beckley Rotary Club. She is a member of Woodcliff Garden Club, Beckley Presbyterian Church and a life member of the Friends of the Raleigh County Library.



### Jim Denova

Jim Denova is Vice President of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, and has primary responsibility for the Foundation's Education agenda in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania. In addition, he directs several economic development projects in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Jim holds a Ph. D. from the University of Pittsburgh with a concentration in social research, and has over 35 years of experience in nonprofit administration and philanthropy. Prior positions include: Program Director for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Research Director for the Community College of Beaver County, Vice President of Research & Planning for the United Way of Allegheny County, Senior Program Officer for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and Executive Director of The Forbes Fund. Over the years, he has served on the boards of Philanthropy West Virginia, Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania, the Women's Center and Shelter, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, the Remake Learning Council, and the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics. He also lectures at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Publications



include working papers and journal articles on school-based health services, adult and STEM education, workforce development, and nonprofit management. As chair of the Workforce Development Committee of the Institute of Politics, Jim commissioned a white paper and mobilized a cross-sector working group on career & technical education reform in Pennsylvania. He is frequently asked to speak before Pennsylvania public officials and the West Virginia Board of Education on career education, teacher quality, and school leadership. Jim has received awards from the Children's Defense Fund, the Harless Center for Rural Education Research and Development, the Mon Valley Initiative, and the Association of Educational Service Agencies.

### **Cynthia Drennan**

Cynthia Drennan is the Executive Director of Sisters Health Foundation, a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, serving three rural counties in SE Ohio and eight in West Virginia. SHF promotes healthy and sustainable communities by providing resources, strengthening collaborative relationships, and supporting initiatives that impact people in the Mid-Ohio Valley. Current focus areas are: Oral Health, Healthy Lifestyles (impacting on chronic disease), and Health Equity. Cynthia has broad experience on "both sides of the desk", founding/leading two non-profit organizations before entering philanthropy 20 years ago, first with a conversion foundation, then a family foundation and presently a public grantmaking charity. As is common in small foundations, Cynthia wore different hats providing a rich environment to learn and ply leadership and philanthropic skills in process, content and collaboration.



### **Audy Perry**

Audy M. Perry, Jr. practices Of Counsel at Dinsmore Law Firm advising individuals on matters involving their personal wealth, including estate planning, trust, charitable giving, business succession planning, asset protection. He also assists commercial clients with project financing and complex real estate matters. In addition to his legal career, Audy serves as Executive Director of Heritage Farm Museum and Village. Established by his parents, A. Michael and Henriella Perry, the Smithsonian Affiliated, award-winning Heritage Farm Museum and Village inspires the people of Appalachia to recognize their potential greatness by understanding the creativity and ingenuity of their forefathers. Audy also co-authored and published a book based on his life at the farm, titled "Faith, Family, Friends & Farm (Stories of and from Heritage Farm Museum & Village)." Audy is very active in the community and State. He is a Board member of the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce, Cabell Huntington Convention & Visitors Bureau, and The Marshall University Foundation. Audy is also a past member of the West Virginia Law Institute, West Virginia University College of Law Development Council, Communities in Schools of Cabell County, West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and a past President of the Greater Huntington Area Estate Planning Council. Audy enjoys sharing life's grand adventure with his wife, Laura, and their two daughters, Rebekah and Beth.



### **Major General James A. Hoyer**

Major General James A. Hoyer assumed the duties as The Adjutant General, West Virginia Joint Forces Headquarters-West Virginia on 1 February 2011. As the Adjutant General, State of West Virginia, he provides command guidance and vision to the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard of more than 6,500 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. He provides the overall supervision of the day to day operations and management of the readiness, fiscal, personnel, equipment and the real property resources of the agency. General Hoyer received his undergraduate degree from the University of Charleston and was commissioned in 1983 through a joint Reserve Officer Training Corps program with West Virginia State University. General Hoyer began his military career in the West Virginia National Guard as a Cavalry Officer. He attended the Special Forces Officer Qualification course and spent over 14 years with the 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. General Hoyer led the development of the West Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force and the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center and its Center for National Response; a national level operational and training capability for critical infrastructure protection and consequence response. General Hoyer's most recent assignment was Director, Joint Staff, West Virginia Joint Force Headquarters.



### **Erin Hurst**

Erin is the Executive Director of United Way of Greenbrier Valley serving Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties. Since the June 2016 flood, Erin has served as an active member of the Greater Greenbrier Long-Term Recovery Committee and on the Unmet Needs Subcommittee. Erin lives in Lewisburg, WV with her husband and dog.



### Stacy Raffo

Stacy Raffo took over as Executive Director of Nicholas County Community Foundation in 2013, prior to coming to the foundation she worked at New River Community and Technical College in Workforce Education. Growing up in Nicholas County she was always involved in community service, even earning a community service based scholarship at Concord University where she obtained a B.S in Travel Industry Management and minor in Marketing, Promotion and Development. Stacy is a lifelong member of 4-H, currently serving as a club leader and Leader Association Treasurer, board member of Summersville Rotary, Grand Order of the Royal Leprechaun, active in the Chamber of Commerce, Create Richwood, Craigsville Little League Board of Directors, and a dedicated volunteer at her children's schools, serving on School Improvement Committee, Advisory Board, PTA President, Band Booster and Read Aloud volunteer.



### Sue Sergi

Sue Sergi retired as President of the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences of WV, Inc. in 2007. Sergi served the Clay Center for over ten years. During her tenure as President, over \$120 Million was raised to design, build, equip and endow the Clay Center. Sergi was responsible for overseeing the design and construction of the facility. She also was responsible for hiring and training staff to open the Center. Sergi managed the Clay Center for three years after it opened. She led negotiations to implement strategic alliances between the three resident organizations located at the Clay Center. After she announced her retirement, Sergi participated in negotiations that led to the merger of the Clay Center and the Avampato Discovery Museum. Before joining the Clay Center, Sergi was Commissioner of the Bureau for Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Resources during the administration of Governor Gaston Caperton. Her responsibilities included adult and children's services, child support, and public assistance. During her tenure, the determination of eligibility for public assistance was automated. An automated system to manage the record keeping for children services was also initiated. Legislation to implement welfare reform was the culmination of a year of analysis of the public welfare system. Her position at DHHR was the culmination of 27 years of human service experience in the public and non-profit sectors. Sue Sergi is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Philanthropy WV, FestivALL Charleston, Hunters Ridge Homeowners Association, and on the Advisory Council for the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences and Recovery Point Charleston. She chairs the Board of Directors of the Charles and Mary Fayne Glotfelty Foundation. Sergi is a native West Virginian. She is married to Joseph A. Sergi and has a daughter, Megan.



### Courtney Smith

Courtney Smith has served as the Executive Director for the Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation (GVCF) since 2009. During her tenure, GVCF became an independent foundation and has nearly tripled both its assets and number of funds they administer. Courtney thoroughly enjoys meeting and working with people in all three counties that GVCF serves. She is especially proud of the work that she has done to promote cooperation and improve communication among the nonprofits in her area. Prior to working for GVCF, she created and ran a specialty toy store in downtown Lewisburg for twelve years and taught Advanced Placement US Government as well as World Geography for seven years in Richmond, VA. In her spare time, she writes historical fiction. Her first novel, *Lies: Based on True Stories*, set in Greenbrier County during the Civil War, will be published this fall by Quarrier Press.



**Jimelle Bowen**

*When adversity challenges a community's future, it requires innovation, energy, and dedication to form a new vision and approach. There is no better example of a community/region on the rise than Huntington, WV as they work locally and complete nationally for the America's Best Communities Award hosted by Frontier. The panel of local leaders will discuss their approaches to revitalize the community and leverage a national partner for funding and investment to advance new community development plans.*



**Lisa Chamberlin** Vice President of Strategic Marketing, Planning and Business Development, Cabell Huntington Hospital



**Joyce Clark** City of Huntington, City Council member for District 1



**Margaret Mary Layne** Layne Consulting



**Joe Murphy** President, Trifecta Productions



**Mary Witten Wiseman** President, Foundation for the Tri-State Community