

VCMC Trainer Bios

Timothy J. Gavin, CPA, MBA: Timothy J. Gavin, CPA, Senior Audit Manager, is both an expert auditor and consultant for John Kasperek Co., Inc., with 12 years of experience leading staff and performing audits, accounting services, financial reporting, agreed-upon procedures, and other consulting engagements for a wide range of clients in the Chicagoland area. Tim is responsible for the firm's governmental audits, including municipalities, villages, park districts, school districts, and other special districts. He serves as one of the firm's quality control leaders, ensuring the company is up to date with the most current standards and best practices. He is directly involved in both staff training and final audit review and has highly specialized skills in accounting/auditing software. Apart from working with some of the best and most financially progressive Illinois governments, Tim continues to be an educator and presenter on various topics related to governmental accounting and financial reporting. He has been featured in industry publications such as Accounting Today and CPA Practice Advisor. Additionally, Tim serves on the Social Media Task Force for IGFOA, as a reviewer for GFOA's Financial Reporting Certificate Program, and has helped a large number of clients obtain both GFOA and ASBO certificates for excellence in financial reporting. Tim earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Northern Illinois University and his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from North Central College.

Gregory T. Kuhn, PhD: Dr. Kuhn is Assistant Director for Public Management and Training at the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University. He has over 34 years of combined experience in government administration, consulting, and academics. In addition to serving at CGS for good portions of his career, Greg has also served in city management assignments as Village Manager in Clarendon Hills and Assistant to the Manager in Skokie, both Illinois communities in the Chicago area. Greg has also provided services to governments on a consulting basis as Director of Local Government Management Services at Sikich, LLP., Managing Vice-President of the PAR Group, and Sr. Associate in Governmental Services at Korn-Ferry International. Dr. Kuhn specializes in organizational development, design and training, strategic planning, leadership, urban management and public policy formulation. He serves as a lecturer/adjunct faculty member in NIU's Division of Public Administration and Northwestern University's Graduate Program in Public Policy and Public Administration. He earned a Bachelor's degree in political science from Marquette University and a Master's degree in Public Administration and Ph.D. in Public Administration and Political Science from NIU.

Bob Marovich, MBA: Bob is an independent grant writer/consultant with 30 years of nonprofit development experience. He has worked with and for organizations representing education, healthcare, animal welfare, youth programs, museums, and public television, and radio. His expertise spans the gamut of giving, from annual and major giving to planned gifts and foundation/corporation relations. During his tenure as vice president with the firm of Ter Molen Watkins & Brandt, Marovich helped complete the proposal that secured the largest challenge grant ever made by the Kresge Foundation to an Indiana nonprofit. Since 2009, he has focused his nonprofit efforts almost exclusively on grant writing. His current clients represent charter and private schools, an after-school program, animal welfare, youth social services, and a workers' rights advocacy group. He holds a B.A. degree in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA degree from the Lake Forest Graduate of Management.

Alicia Schatteman, PhD: Dr. Schatteman is part of NIU's nationally recognized Public Administration program. Dr. Schatteman worked in the government and nonprofit sectors for 12 years, including four years as Executive Director of a community nonprofit. Her research and teaching interests include nonprofit resource management and performance measurement. Dr. Schatteman earned a BSSc from the University of Ottawa, an M.A. degree from Trent University, an M.S. degree from Syracuse University, and her PhD from Rutgers University.

Rita Yerkes, EdD: Dr. Yerkes is Principal of Yerkes Consulting LLC and has enjoyed a distinguished career in education and business. She has been a camp counselor, middle school teacher, university professor, wilderness expedition leader, senior staff to a university president, dean and business entrepreneur. During her many and varied professional positions she has always built successful teams, continued life-long learning, mentored others and held the belief that service to others was paramount in doing meaningful work. She has continued this philosophy at Yerkes Consulting, where "customer satisfaction is the guiding principle in everything we do."