2019-2020 Civic Leadership Academy Presenter Biographies

Allison Albrecht, BA, currently serves as the Director of Communications & Outreach for the Village of Schaumburg, a position she has held since August 2014. Prior to working in Schaumburg, Allison served as a Communications Specialist for the City of Naperville for three years. Allison also spent time as a Communications Analyst for the Illinois House of Representatives where she worked both in Chicago and Springfield with various members of the Illinois legislature to produce their materials and develop their communication plans. Aside from her time spent in the public sector, Allison has communications experience in the private sector having worked as a Public Relations and Account Executive for a boutique strategic communications firm in downtown Chicago. There she created branding strategies and provided copywriting on web, identity, collateral, advertising and marketing projects for a variety of clients. Allison’s passion for communications started when she worked as a General Assignment Reporter for Liberty Suburban Chicago Newspapers covering several towns in Cook County. As a journalist, she was a recipient of the NAACP Medal of Freedom for presenting fair and accurate coverage of diverse issues in Chicago communities. Allison holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She lives in North Aurora with her husband and two greyhounds.

Jedd Anderson, PWS, CWS, CPESC, Vice President, Head, Environmental Resources Department for Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) has extensive Environmental Resources experience managing more than 8,000 environmental projects and obtaining more than 2,000 USACE Section 404 permits. He has over 30 years of practice in assisting in review of design, permitting and monitoring projects and their impact on wetland and natural areas. Responsibilities include the day-to-day coordination of 17 environmental professionals, coordination and completion of wetland and natural area assessments, delineations, design, permitting, maintenance and monitoring, as well as resolution of USACE/USEPA enforcement actions. In addition, performs mitigation design and development and technical tasks associated with civil and water resources engineering and geological analysis in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. He coordinates with clients on implementation of and compliance with NPDES Regulations. Jedd is a veteran in the design and installation of sediment and erosion control; hydro-geomorphologic studies to assist in stream restoration and re-meandering; soil bioengineering techniques for streambank stabilization. He has expertise in NEPA, Endangered Species Act, and biological assessments for threatened and endangered species.

Jeanna Ballard, MPA, is Senior Research Specialist at the Center for Governmental Studies at NIU. She has a varied background in strategic and comprehensive planning, technical assistance, and performance improvement studies. She has helped facilitate strategic planning workshops, focus groups, interviews, organizational design reviews, leadership development seminars, and compensation analyses. Jeanna has co-facilitated strategic planning for elected officials, non-profits, municipalities, counties, townships, park districts, libraries, council of governments, and institutes of higher education. For the past two years, Jeanna has provided staff support for funded projects for the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN). Most recently, she has worked on local government strategic planning initiatives. These projects included coordinating online surveys, community focus groups, goal development sessions, identifying potential challenges and solutions, and distilling themes from a variety of quantitative and qualitative information to share with key stakeholders. Jeanna earned a dual MPA degree via her joint studies at both NIU and Renmin University in China. She’s holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science from NIU.

Pamela J. Clark Reidenbach, MSSW, has a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana and a Master’s Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has 25 years of nonprofit experience with fourteen years as a nonprofit CEO. Pam is the Co-Founder of the Northern Illinois Center for Nonprofit Excellence and current director. Prior to founding NICNE, Pam worked as a nonprofit consultant. She was the CEO of the YWCA of Rockford, Executive Director of the Northwest Community Center and Executive Director of a domestic violence shelter in Fond du Lac, WI. Pam has been on numerous nonprofit and foundation boards. She is passionate about the power and potential of our community moving the needle on complex social issues. Pam is married to Tom and has two children, Hannah and Zach, her two only children.

Cheryl Fayne-dePersio, BS, is the Communications Manager for the Village of Northbrook. Cheryl has been an active member of the Illinois Chapter and National Chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, in addition to serving as past-Chairman of the Northwest Municipal Conference Communicators Group and member of 3CMA. Cheryl has a background in cable television and television production as she has worked with a variety of Chicagoland cable companies and production houses. She has spent the last 25 years working in municipal government
Cheryl holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications from Illinois State University and received a certificate in E-Government from UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Recently she participated in several table-top and full-scale exercises with the Cook County Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Division and has a variety of “high-profile” experiences dealing with local media. She is also a past presenter with the Northern Illinois Civic Leadership Academy; Center for Governmental Studies.

Sam Ferguson, MsEd, retired Municipal Director of Information Technology: Village of Palatine; Village of Schaumburg; Interim CIO for the City of Joliet has over 30 plus years of governmental Information Technology experience. Starting in 1983 as an Army Data Processing officer, Sam saw the rise of the PC and the Microsoft genesis along with the shift from “dumb terminals” and main frame systems to the PC on the desktops. He was one of the first IT directors in the Northwest suburbs with his first position being at the Village of Palatine in 1989 and retiring from the Village of Schaumburg in 2012. His experience includes: building IT departmental teams to service municipal customers, and specifically, working on projects dealing with GIS, E911, Asset Management, ERP implementations, phone systems, topology changes, office automation and data security and overall IT management including governance practices. Recently, Sam has been involved in consulting engagements helping municipalities assess their IT departments and hire new CIO’s.

Sam is an emeritus member of Illinois and International GMIS, an organization of governmental IT leaders from across the globe who share best practices so all can benefit. Sam graduated from Monmouth College in Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education and Biology and received his Master’s degree in Educational Administration from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale and got the majority of his early IT education from the US Army.

Timothy J. Gavin, CPA, MBA, is both an expert auditor and consultant for Lauterbach and Amen, LLP, with over 13 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 serves on 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.

Logan Gilbertsen, PE, CFM, specializes in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering for HR Green. He has led a variety of projects ranging from stream bank stabilization and naturalization to the design of storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) in urban and rural settings. He has worked to update and prepare the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permits for municipalities and serves as the coordinator between the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and municipalities. He has worked on many projects for IDOT, road districts and municipalities located in DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Winnebago Counties. Logan earned a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois.

Julie Gommel Bailey, MPH, has been a Research Specialist with NIU’s Center for Governmental Studies for 12 years and has 15 years of survey research experience, designing and managing custom research projects with governmental and public service organizations, including schools, libraries, park districts, and health organizations. Her focus is on conducting research which provides actionable information to be used in decision-making and planning processes by these entities. She has expertise with multiple modes of survey research, including telephone, internet, mail, focus groups, and multimodal research. Ms. Gommel Bailey holds an MPH with a focus in health promotion from Northern Illinois University.
Jim Halverson, AICP, has an extensive background in urban planning, economic development, growth management and brownfield redevelopment. He has been responsible for planning and economic development activities for both governmental agencies and private organizations. As the former Director of the Cedar Rapids Department of Development and the Linn County Regional Planning Commission. Jim’s responsibilities and experiences have included oversight of city and regional long-range planning activities, economic/land development efforts, as well as grant and program initiatives including administration of federal entitlement programs. Additionally, Jim helped develop alternative service delivery models that have provide increased efficiencies in community development operations. Jim also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Cedar Rapids IA, City Planning Commission. Jim earned an MUP in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois and a BS in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin.

Tim Hartnett, Practice Leader, for more than 30 years Tim has provided ongoing municipal engineering services for dozens of municipalities in Northern Illinois. His experience includes the overall management of municipality operations including subdivision and site improvement review and approval process from concept plan through the final plat in accordance with the municipality’s Municipal Code, Engineering Standards, applicable development agreements and annexation agreements. Tim has also helped develop alternative service delivery models for efficiently providing plan review and inspection services for local governments. These models and templates have been used by numerous cities to improve efficiencies and reduce costs. Tim is the Vice President and Practice Leader for HR Green’s Governmental Services – Midwest and holds a BS in Civil Engineering Design from Northern Illinois University.

Melissa Henriksen, MPP, is Assistant Director for Public Management and Training at the Center for Governmental Studies at NIU. Mel has a diverse background including economic and community development, technical assistance, strategic and comprehensive planning, and grant writing. She has provided staff support for several projects including strategic planning facilitation, focus groups, wage and benefit studies and asset/needs assessments. Melissa has co-facilitated strategic planning for elected officials, school districts, boards of directors, municipalities, foundations, and institutes of higher education. For the past eight and half years, she has managed funded projects for the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN), the National Association of Development Agencies (NADO), the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as state and local organizations focused on economic and community development and healthcare. Most recently, she has worked on city and countywide economic and community development planning. These projects included coordinating surveys, community focus groups, strategic planning to identify potential challenges and solutions, and distilling themes and findings from a variety of qualitative information to share with key stakeholders. Mel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Communication/Public Relations and a Master’s degree in Public Policy from the University of Northern Iowa. Melissa is a board member for the Illinois Rural Health Association and is the chair of its Research and Education and Conference Committee. In addition, she is a Kettering Foundation Research Fellow and recently received the ICAHN Service Award for her research in rural health care and its economic impact on rural communities.

Jason Holcomb, MSW, is a Project Development Manager at Transform Rockford which is a community-led initiative that seeks to dramatically improve our social and economic well-being. Prior to joining the staff team at Transform Rockford in 2018, Jason worked nearly 10 years as a disability advocate both in the non-profit and private sector. Throughout his career, Jason has used innovative approaches to solving social problems. He has been trained in multiple collaborative approaches, including Collective Impact, and brings a collaborative innovation lens to project development and community building.

Betsy Hull, CPA, MPA, joined the DeKalb County Community Foundation in 2016 as their inaugural Finance Director, bringing over 25 years of experience in both the public and nonprofit sectors. Betsy is a proud NIU Huskie - she earned her Bachelors of Science degree in Accountancy and her Master’s in Public Administration, both from NIU. In addition to her role at the Foundation, she is also the Finance Lead for NIU’s Division of Information Technology. Serving in dual roles provides Betsy the opportunity to connect and serve her community and her alma mater.

Ravi Jayaraman, PE, ENV SP, brings 29 years of project management experience from a variety of public and private sector utility infrastructure projects. These projects have included design and construction of water treatment and distribution systems; wastewater collection and treatment systems; sewer collection system improvements and sewer rehabilitation projects; and other municipal infrastructure projects. He has managed high-profile water projects for the Villages of Mundelein and Antioch and the Cities of Wood Dale and Marengo, among others. He has extensive experience working with contractors, elected officials and other community stakeholders involved with infrastructure construction projects.
Ravi received his MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He received an MS in Biological Sciences and a BS in Civil Engineering from Birla Institute of Tech and Services.

Gregory T. Kuhn, PhD, is Associate Director at the Center for Governmental Studies at NIU. 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.

Sean La Dieu, PE, joined HR Green in 2011, bringing 20 years of transportation and environmental experience to the company. As a pre-qualified Environmental Lead with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), he has managed the environmental portions of multiple roadway and rail projects. As environmental lead, he oversaw the projects' environmental evaluation, including resources such as socio-economic, agricultural, air quality, biological, cultural, noise, special waste, vegetation, water quality, special lands, and wetlands. His involvement in the environmental aspects of the project included participation in the public involvement process, including being part of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). He also served as project manager for the IDOT Statewide Noise Contract from 2003 to 2011. Sean earned his BS in Civil Engineering from Purdue University.

Jeana Gowin PE, CFM, is a Water Resources Project Manager at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) and is responsible for water resources engineering project analysis and design. She has 17 years of experience in water resources engineering and is responsible for hydrologic and hydraulic engineering related to roadway drainage, watershed studies, dam safety, floodway and floodplain determination and delineation, sewer separation, and design of conveyance systems. She has prepared, submitted, and obtained IDNR floodway construction and dam safety permits, FEMA LOMRs, LOMR-Fs and LOMAs in addition to permits in multiple jurisdictions in the Chicagoland area. She has worked many Comprehensive Plans, including New Lenox and Rolling Meadows and several drainage improvement projects including Franklin Park, Elmwood Park, and Lombard. Jeana currently is Vice Chair of American Society of Civil Engineer’s Environment and Water Resources Institute Technical Division.

Mike Liska, GISP, is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Practice Advisor and sets the standards for templates and databases for all HR Green GIS projects. He has served as the GIS Specialist for scores of projects that integrate all types of data into a GIS database. Mike’s extensive experience in GIS has helped develop geodatabases for recording and capturing asset information from the office and field. He has developed and managed geospatial databases for water, wastewater, storm water, gas, electric, and fiber utilities. Mike has performed over 10,000 Level 1 NASSCO inspections on manholes and has performed QA/QC on CCTV Inspections using NASSCO Grading. He is an Administrator for HR Green’s ArcGIS Online Organization, which provides Web Maps and Web Applications to HR Green staff. Mike earned his BS in Information Systems-GIS from American Sentinel University and holds an FAA license for operating unmanned aircraft systems.

Russ Loebe, ICMA-CM, Russ has vast experience in City Management and is Vice President Governmental Services for HR Green. Before joining HR Green, Russ spent 33 years in local government serving 25 years as the Village Administrator and 8 years as the Director of Public Works. As Administrator he was responsible for the management of all aspects of municipal government including major capital projects, budgets, labor contracts and scores of annexations and development projects. Since joining HR Green, Mr. Loebe has led numerous projects and studies for local government including organizational and staffing studies, an analysis of multi-government Shared Services/Joint Purchasing opportunities, Alternative Service Delivery efficiency and cost reduction analysis of Public Works and Building Department operations. Russ also spearheaded the effort in development of the first of its kind “Handbook of Alternative Service Delivery for Local Government” in conjunction with Northern Illinois University. He has published numerous professional
articles and has been a frequent instructor/presenter on local government issues. Russ is a Credentialed City Manager and holds a BS in Environmental Technology from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

**Robert Marovich, MBA**, is an independent grant writer 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, Mr. 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.

**Andra Medea** is the author of Conflict Unraveled and the developer of C3 De-escalation®. C3 was sponsored by public health agencies in Iowa, and has been taught to public employees of entire cities. She developed her system while teaching conflict management at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Articles and interviews about her innovative techniques have appeared in The Washington Post, Entrepreneur, and National Public Radio.

**Darren Olson, PE, CFM, D.WRE**, is the Assistant Department Head of the Water Resources Department at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL). He has 21 years of experience in water resources engineering and is responsible for engineering studies and design that include complex roadway drainage projects, watershed studies, floodplain/floodway delineation studies and permitting, steady and unsteady urban hydraulic analyses, stormwater management studies and permitting, and flood control project feasibility, design, and funding. He is the Stormwater Consultant for several municipalities including Crystal Lake, Cary, Oak Brook, and Hawthorn Woods. Darren is recognized by ASCE as a Diplomate Water Resources Engineer (D.WRE) and holds many certifications including Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), and Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ). He is actively involved in ASCE as a Region 3 Governor and recently appointed to the Committee on Americas Infrastructure. He is also a recipient of the 2014 IAFSM Stormwater Management Award.

**Chad Pieper, PE**, guides area municipalities with all phases of infrastructure projects. He has served as Village Engineer and provides municipal engineering services for numerous Illinois communities. Chad assists Chicago area Cities and Villages with planning their Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) by identifying projects, providing budgetary cost estimates and identifying funding sources. He has used GIS as an integral toll in CIP development, fee cost analysis, construction improvements for wastewater treatment plants, construction of a new water treatment facility, construction of new roadway infrastructure and various roadway resurfacing projects. He recently completed a 16-year project in Lake in the Hills that replaced 5,000 feet of water main annually. The project received the APWA Fox Valley Branch 2019 award for Management Innovation. Chad earned a BS in Civil Engineering from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

**Judy Santacaterina, MA**, has served as the coach of the award winning NIU Forensics team for the last 37 years. In that time she has coached numerous national and state champions. Ms. Santacaterina holds both a BA and MA in Communication Education from Northern Illinois University. She has conducted workshops for student, faculty, and staff on the NIU campus as well as other universities throughout the country and has served as a communication consultant for both public and private businesses and organizations. She is the current Executive Director of the Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association as well as a past president of the Illinois Communication and Theater Association. She is the recipient of numerous awards including NIU’ College of LA&S Golden Alumni Award, the American Forensics Association’s Distinguished Service Award, and the Illinois Communication and Theater’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Santacaterina also serves as the Director of NIU’s College of Liberal Arts & Sciences’ Bachelor of General Studies baccalaureate degree program.

**Alicia Schatteman, PhD**, is an Associate Professor of nonprofit management and the Acting Director of the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies at Northern Illinois University (NIU). She 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 her PhD in Public Administration from Rutgers University.

**Mindy Schneiderman, PhD**, is an Assistant Director of the Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) and is responsible for the survey research team. Mindy has over 25 years of survey research experience. She has experience managing projects using telephone, mail, Internet, and mixed-mode survey data collection methodologies, as well as focus group and in-person interviewing experience. She has managed numerous community survey projects for municipalities, libraries, school districts, park districts, county health departments, and nonprofit organizations. She was the Associate Director of NIU’s Public Opinion Laboratory from 2008-2013. Previously she worked at the American Medical Association for 18 years, the last 11 years as the Director of Survey Research overseeing all health care and strategic issue research. Mindy received her doctorate in Cognitive Psychology from Rutgers University in 1990. She has numerous publications on survey research methodology. Her survey research has been cited in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal and has been used in U.S. Congressional testimony.

**Ann Elizabeth Tennes, MPA**, began her tenure as the Village of Skokie’s Director of Marketing and Communications in October 1998. For six years prior to that, Ann served as the Assistant Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Ann holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College, Chicago and a Master of Public Administration degree from Roosevelt University, Chicago. In April 2013, Ann was elected to a six-year term on the Board of Trustees of Oakton Community College and currently serves chairman of the board. She has served on Oakton’s board since 2007.

Ann also serves on the boards of the Chicago’s North Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Skokie Festival of Cultures, the Independent Merchants of Downtown Skokie, the Centre East Metropolitan Exposition Authority and the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Foundation. She is the immediate past-chairman of the Northwest Municipal Conference Local Government Communicators Committee, and previously served on the boards of the City-County Communications and Marketing Association and the Glenview Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Skokie Kiwanis Club and a founding board member of the Skokie Tennis Association. From 2002 to 2010, Ann served as chairman of the Park Ridge Zoning Board of Appeals. Ann and her family moved to Skokie in 2010 after more than 30 years of living in Park Ridge. Ann also is a past presenter with the Northern Illinois Civic Leadership Academy, Center for Governmental Studies.

**Marc Thorson, MBA**, is the Executive Director of Regional Technology Services in the Division of Information Technology (DoIT). He oversees all aspects of NIU’s broadband, Internet service, and technology service offerings to communities, school districts, and other government and nonprofits organizations. Prior to joining NIU, Marc has worked in the local government Information Technology field in just about every capacity for over 20 years including desktop support, application developer, network administrator, network engineer, compliance lead, and director. He is passionate about Information Security and data-driven decision making in environments with resource challenges. Marc is also an adjunct instructor for the nationally-ranked Northern Illinois University Master of Public Administration program. The course focus is educating future local government and nonprofit leadership on what Information Technology does, why it is a critical competency for public organizations, and how to utilize it to its greatest potential in an era of shrinking budgets. Marc has a Master of Business Administration from Northern Illinois University with a focus on Management of Information Services and Marketing. He is the Marketing Director GMIS International, Committee Chairperson for GMIS Accreditation, and Past President for GMIS Illinois.

**Roxana M. (Crasovan) Underwood, JD**, is a partner at Clark Baird Smith. She counsels employers regarding traditional labor and employment law matters. She assists clients with collective bargaining, grievance and interest arbitrations, unfair labor practice charges, and representation issues. Roxana also advises and represents employers in matters under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Illinois Military Leave of Absence Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act. In addition, Roxana has experience conducting neutral workplace investigations on behalf of public and private sector employers in various industries. Roxana is also a regular contributor to the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association Legal Corner Newsletter and to The Developing Labor Law (BNA). She has also recently authored a chapter on the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments in the Municipal Law Deskbook published by the American Bar Association. Roxana received her law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law where she earned a
Certificate from Chicago-Kent’s Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program. She was selected as a Student Editor of the Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal. Roxana was also selected as a member of the Chicago-Kent Labor and Employment Law Trial Team, which competed in the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law Regional Competition. Roxana earned a CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Legal Writing for receiving the top grade in the class, and was on the Dean’s List for several consecutive semesters. Roxana was also a finalist in the Charles Evans Hughes Moot Court Competition.

David Van Vooren, MBA, has been the Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, “SWANCC”, since September 2011. SWANCC is a regional solid waste agency comprised of 23 municipal members serving a population of approximately 750,000 residents. SWANCC provides solid waste disposal services to its member communities along with specialty collection services for: e-waste, sharps, non-controlled medicines, batteries, mercury, fluorescent bulbs and document destruction. In additional SWANCC provides educational support for residential recycling programs.

Mr. Van Vooren, has worked in numerous local government positions over the course of his 39 year career with highlights being he was the village administrator in Plainfield, Illinois, executive director for the northwest water commission and most recently the public works director for the City of Naperville, Illinois. He holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Eastern Illinois University with a BA in Finance and BS in Economics also from Eastern Illinois.

Anna Mary L. Walker, MAM, is a native of Louisiana who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana State University and a Master of Arts Management degree from Columbia College Chicago. She began her consulting business AM/PM Solutions & Services in 2013, which provides expertise in administration, management, and fundraising. She believes the most valuable asset anyone can bring to the table is being coachable and accepting of new information. To that end, she is always eager to learn more, because “You don’t know, what you don’t know!” Anna Mary resides in Geneva, IL with her husband and their two boys.

Norman Walzer, PhD, is Senior Research Scholar in the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University, where he researches local economic development, state and local government finance, entrepreneurship, and related issues. He is a past-president of the Community Development Society and is a Distinguished Fellow of the Regional Science Association, Mid-Continent Section. He is widely-published with many authored or edited research books and refereed publications and reports on local development issues with several research volumes in the Community Development Research and Practice Series published by Routledge, Taylor and Francis. During the past several years, he has managed grants from the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development to study community owned businesses in rural communities. In 2018, he completed a guidebook for use by local groups in organizing these ventures in their communities.

P. Kay Whitlock, PE, D.WRE, F.ASCE, Vice President, manages multi-disciplinary water resource projects for Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL), a full service civil engineering firm specializing in municipal, water resources, traffic, construction, environmental, and mechanical engineering with eight offices in Illinois and Indiana. Ms. Whitlock was the water resources lead for the Master Civil Engineer team for the O’Hare Modernization Program (OMP) from 2003-2019. She now handles drainage and permitting for the new terminal development. Ms. Whitlock is a proud Illini and holds a B.S. and M.A. from the University of Illinois and is a graduate of the Management Training Institute at the University of Mississippi. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in Illinois and a Diplomate Water Resources Engineer.

Walter S. Willis, MPA, has been the Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County since 2007 and is responsible for overseeing the Agency’s solid waste and resource management programs, and implementing the Lake County Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Willis is a board member of the Illinois Chapter of SWANA, an honorary board member of the Product Stewardship Institute, and was selected as Chairman of the IL Food Scrap Coalition for 2016 and 2017.

Prior to joining SWALCO, Mr. Willis worked in the waste industry as a consultant for approximately 20 years developing solid waste management plans and assisting with solid waste facility development projects throughout the United States. He began his solid waste career with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in 1987 after receiving his Masters in Public Administration from Southern Illinois University.