Keynote Speakers and Panelists (Listed alphabetically)


Kari Armbruster is the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste project manager for The Kroger Co. In her role, she develops objectives, strategies and metrics to support the company’s Zero Hunger | Zero Waste social impact plan. This includes working closely with key external stakeholders and partners, and identifying and managing projects to help achieve Kroger’s goal to end hunger in our communities and eliminate waste across the company by 2025.

Kari joined Kroger in 2013 as corporate affairs specialist and was promoted to communications manager in 2016. She previously spent time in government advocacy.

Justin Block, Director, Retail Information Services, Feeding America

Justin Block is the Director, Retail Information Services at Feeding America. Feeding America is the nation’s largest hunger relief organization, a network comprised of 200 food banks and their 60,000 partner soup kitchens, food pantries and meal programs.

Justin joined Feeding America five years ago where he leads the team developing MealConnect, a food donation app that has to date connected almost 1 billion donated meals with people who need them. He also oversees the data analytics team that supports network data processing and the charitable reporting needs for the largest grocery store companies in the United States.

Aside from his experiences in curtailing food-insecurity, he worked for several years at ShoreBank and Urban Partnership Bank, community development banks active in commercial and consumer lending in the undercapitalized south and west sides of Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit. Prior to that, Justin owned and operated a casual dining restaurant after managing another high-volume location for many years.

Justin holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin.
Kitty Finn, Senior Account Manager, Manufacturing Partnerships, Feeding America

Kitty Finn has been with Feeding America for 12 years. She’s a Senior Account Manager on the Manufacturing Product Sourcing team, at the organization’s national office in Chicago. Kitty works enthusiastically to uncover nationwide opportunities for donated food to feed hungry families and children. Her portfolio includes the nation’s leading manufacturers and the implementation of creative food rescue programs to secure safe, edible product that was previously incinerated, landfilled or sold as animal feed. Kitty is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2018 Hunger Free Communities Summit. Prior to her tenure at Feeding America, Kitty held sales positions in the printing and paper industries. Kitty has a B.A. from St. Norbert College, DePere, WI.

Feeding America is the nation’s largest domestic hunger relief organization, with a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries & meal programs. Food and services are provided to more than 46 million people each year.

Ambassador Tony Hall, Executive Director Emeritus, Alliance to End Hunger

Three times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Ambassador Tony P. Hall is a leading advocate for hunger relief programs and improving human rights in the world. Ambassador Hall serves as Executive Director Emeritus of the Alliance to End Hunger. As such, Ambassador Hall acts as an emissary at meetings with leading policymakers and international officials, builds relationships with Alliance members, and speaks on issues of food security at conferences around the country. Ambassador Hall meets regularly with Members of Congress to encourage them to become more actively engaged on hunger issues – especially by taking leadership for a Hunger Free Community program in their own district or state.

Ambassador Hall served as the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome, Italy, from 2002 to 2005. Prior to his diplomatic service, Ambassador Hall represented the Third District of Ohio (Dayton) in the U.S. Congress for twenty-four years, their longest serving representative in history. During his tenure, he authored legislation that supported food aid, child survival, basic education, primary health care, micro-enterprise, and development assistance in the world’s poorest countries. A founding member of the Select Committee on Hunger, Hall served as its chairman from 1989 to 1993. In response to the abolishment of the Hunger Committee in April 1993, he fasted for 22 days to draw attention to the needs of hungry people in the United States and around the world. Ambassador Hall founded and chaired the Congressional Hunger Center, a non-governmental organization committed to ending hunger through training and educational programs for emerging leaders.

In 2015, Tony founded the Hall Hunger Initiative in his hometown of Dayton, Ohio, with the goal of building collaboration among community stakeholders to reduce food insecurity and increase food access.

Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Ambassador Hall and his wife Janet live in Arlington, Virginia, where they raised two children.
Louise Iverson, Senior Program Manager, General Mills Foundation

Louise Iverson is Senior Program Manager at General Mills Foundation, where she leads strategy and partnerships within the foundation’s strategic focus area of increasing food security. Prior to joining General Mills in 2017, Louise spent over ten years in the non-profit sector, most recently leading global food security projects as Assistant Director of the Global Food and Agriculture Program at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She has also held roles at American Institutes for Research and the Consortium on Financial Systems and Poverty, and started her career working on poverty alleviation and economic development in Central America. Louise has a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a BA from the University of Minnesota.

Ellie Lucas, CEO, Hunger Impact Partners

Ellie Lucas launched Hunger Impact Partners in 2015 with the sole purpose of closing the meal gap for food insecure children in Minnesota. To date the organization has increased children’s access to meals by 4.6 million, totaling $13.2 in corresponding federal reimbursements. Previously, she served as the Chief Campaign Officer of Hunger-Free Minnesota. This four-year campaign was the first-of-its-kind, cross-sector, all-out statewide effort to help close Minnesota’s 100-million meal gap between 2011 and 2014. Based on a collective impact model, the campaign set out to add 60 million meals and reached 70 million, with a cumulative investment of more than $9.7 million and countless hours in communities across Minnesota.

Ellie has 30 years of experience in senior management positions, where she honed expertise in public affairs, corporate relations and strategic marketing. Her community involvement includes board service with The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), an international human rights organization based in Minnesota, Children’s Defense Fund scholarship program nomination committee and is a founding member of the advisory board for Children’s HealthWatch, a nonpartisan network of pediatricians, public health researchers and policy and child health experts affiliated with Boston Medical Center that conducts primary research to inform public policies that impact children’s health.
Ellen Luger, Senior Vice President, Philanthropic Services,  
The Minneapolis Foundation

Ellen Goldberg Luger is Senior Vice President of Philanthropic Services at the Minneapolis Foundation. Ellen oversees the Foundation’s Philanthropic Services team, partnering with the Foundation’s donors to help them achieve their charitable goals and increase their positive impact in the community. The Minneapolis Foundation administers more than 1,200 charitable funds established by generous individuals, families, and businesses. Last year, the Foundation made $60 million in grants and raised more than $75 million in charitable assets, making 2016-2017 one of the most successful years in the Foundation’s 100-year history.

Luger has 25 years of philanthropy experience in Minnesota, the country and around the world. From 2006 to 2015, she served as Vice President, Global Philanthropy and Volunteerism at General Mills and as Executive Director of the General Mills Foundation. In that role, she oversaw an annual charitable budget of $150 million and led the General Mills Foundation’s strategic partnerships and signature programs, as well as its grant-making and community outreach. She also has a long record of community involvement in which she has played significant fundraising leadership roles in higher education, the arts, and global philanthropy.

Dorothy McAuliffe, National Policy Advisor, Share Our Strength

Dorothy McAuliffe is a committed advocate for women’s health, public safety, social justice, and equal opportunity. As First Lady of Virginia, she engaged stakeholders across the Commonwealth to expand opportunities for national service, increase support for military-connected families, and empower community efforts linking locally grown food, education, health, and nutrition.

Mrs. McAuliffe’s advocacy resulted in nearly $5 million over five years in the Governor’s budget to help schools adopt ‘Breakfast After the Bell’ programs. This historic investment, in conjunction with her partnership with the No Kid Hungry Virginia campaign, led to an increase of over 10 million school breakfasts served to Virginia students each year.

Mrs. McAuliffe is a graduate of The Catholic University of America, and received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She recently completed a Fellowship at Georgetown's Institute of Politics and Policy at the McCourt School of Public Service and serves as Share Our Strength’s National Policy Advisor.
Rebecca Middleton, Executive Director, Alliance to End Hunger

Rebecca Middleton is the Executive Director of the Alliance to End Hunger. She is responsible for implementing the Alliance’s vision of bringing together diverse organizations to build the public and political will to end hunger. This role brings together Rebecca’s many years of professional experience in policy, strategy and advocacy with her lifetime commitment to anti-hunger initiatives.

Rebecca joined the Alliance to End Hunger in 2013 after more than a decade in government relations where she advocated on a wide variety of issues before the U.S. federal government on behalf of Fortune 500 companies, hospitals, universities and other not-for-profit entities.

Between 1997-2002, Rebecca was a senior legislative assistant for Representative Frank R. Wolf (R-VA). In this position, Rebecca worked closely with constituents, local, state and federal officials, university leaders, and representatives of major corporations on a variety of appropriations and other public policy initiatives.

Rebecca serves as an advisor for the Community for Zero hunger, Co-chair of Vote to End Hunger, and a member of the SDG2 Advocacy Hub bridge.

Rebecca has a B.A. with a double-major in Political Science and English from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She lives in Arlington, VA, with her husband, Dennis, and their two children.

Julie Mikkelson, Division Director, Special Nutrition Programs,

Midwest Region, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Julie Mikkelson is the Director of the Special Nutrition Programs (SNP) for USDA Food and Nutrition Service’s Midwest Region. In this role, Julie oversees the administration of 13 nutrition and food distribution programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC), National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. Julie has 31 years of experience in administering FNS programs. Prior to joining SNP in January 2008, Julie directed the MWRO WIC program for four years, she supervised retailer investigations in the Food Stamp Program for two years and she coordinated regional operations for the Child and Adult Care Food Program for over 10 years.

Julie has a degree in Dietetics from Iowa State University and she is a graduate of the FNS Leadership Institute.
Ela Rausch, Project Director, Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis

Ela Rausch is a Project Director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. In her role in the Community Development department, she conducts research and outreach on a wide range of issues that impact the economic health of low-income households, and leads the Minneapolis Reserve Bank’s collaborative efforts to build healthier communities. Ela has worked in the fields of housing and community development in the Twin Cities region for nearly 20 years, and has extensive experience with designing research studies and measuring program performance.

Past positions include employment with Wilder Research, HousingLink, Minnesota Housing Partnership, and Seward Redesign. She holds a Ph.D. in Housing Studies from the University of Minnesota, a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and a B.A. in Sociology, also from the University of Minnesota. She presently serves on the board of the Minnesota Homeownership Center.

Katie Clark Sieben, Director, The Cargill Foundation

Katie Clark Sieben serves as the Director for the Cargill Foundation, focusing on K-12 education and childhood nutrition initiatives to minimize the opportunity gap for students of color in Cargill’s Minneapolis- Saint Paul headquarters community. Katie also oversees Cargill’s corporate partnerships in the Twin Cities, manages relationships with key community stakeholders and helps connect and align Cargill’s philanthropic, civic and employee engagement activities. She is the co-lead of Cargill’s employee engagement partnership with the “ONE- Poverty is Sexist” campaign also leads the Cargill Global Scholars program, working in partnership with Cargill’s Corporate Affairs and Human Resources team members around the world.

Prior to joining Cargill, Katie served as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office. Katie also worked in the private sector for Target Corporation and as Director of Community Relations for a start-up wind energy developer, National Wind.

Katie currently serves as a District Commissioner for the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). She was also a founding member of the University of Minnesota Carlson School Global Institute Advisory Board, member of the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee and the Itasca Project, a community partnership that addresses regional economic vitality, quality of life and improved prosperity. Katie graduated from the University of Minnesota and attended the Young American Leaders Program at Harvard University.
Lori Silverbush, Filmmaker, Activist, A Place at The Table

Lori Silverbush is an independent director and screenwriter who uses fiction and non-fiction film to ignite dialogue about critical issues of our day. Silverbush’s documentary, A Place at the Table, produced by Participant Media, examined the shocking paradox of hunger in the wealthiest nation on earth. Since its release, Silverbush has used the film as a launch-pad for a national movement for food justice, and become a leading voice advocating for citizen activism and food policy reform as linchpins of a just society.

Mike Smith, Vice President, Public Relations & Communications, Schwan’s Company

Michael S. Smith, vice president, public relations, corporate communications and corporate events and sponsorships, brings more than 24 years of public relations experience to Schwan’s Company, one of the nation’s leading food companies. For Schwan’s, Smith oversees the company’s internal and external communications strategy and execution, as well leading its community relations and corporate sponsorship initiatives.

Over the course of his career, he has planned and implemented difference-making PR campaigns in agency and corporate positions for high-profile brands, companies, events, programs, products, services and personalities in North America, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Prior to joining Schwan’s, Smith served as vice president of corporate communications for OptumInsight, the health information technology subsidiary of United Health Group. He joined OptumInsight after leading corporate communications for four years at ADC, a global telecommunications network infrastructure company. Before ADC, he served the Visa USA and Fair Isaac Corp. accounts as a senior vice president for the international public relations firms, Fleishman Hillard and Golin/Harris International for four years. His prior experience includes work with Metris Companies Inc., Target Corp. and NordicTrack, Inc.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of California at San Diego and a Master of Arts degree in public relations from the University of Southern California.
Sandra Hoyt Stenmark M.D., Physician Lead of Health Equity, Kaiser Permanente

Sandra Stenmark is a pediatrician and Clinical Professor at the University of Colorado Medical Center. Presently she directs Kaiser Permanente Colorado’s Healthy Food Access and Clinic and Community Integration work.

A Health Affairs blog and a JAMA Pediatric article she coauthored, highlight lessons learned from implementing food insecurity screening and referral processes in a variety of medical and clinical settings. She presents at state and national conferences on hunger as a health issue and the role of the health system in promoting food security.

In 2014 she developed the Healthy Beginnings Kaiser Permanente collaborative, which worked to promote family health and resiliency by maximizing prevention, connecting families to community resources and providing clinical interventions to meet the social and psychological needs of pregnant women and their families. She served on the Colorado State Infant Mortality Task Force.

Sandra has testified and advocated for state and federal policies which improves nutritious food access. Currently she serves on the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger, Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, Hunger Free Colorado Board of Directors, Nutrition and Obesity Policy and Evaluation Network’s Hunger Linkages Subcommittee, Project Angel Heart Medical Advisory Board and Co-Chairs the Denver Food Assistance Task Force.

In 2007 she was received the Kaiser Permanente Colorado Award for Outstanding Physician. She received the Kaiser Permanente National Community Service Award in 2011 and the University of Colorado Department of Pediatrics Career Teaching Scholar Award in 2012.
Workshop Speakers (Listed Alphabetically)

Liz Accles, Executive Director, Community Food Advocates (NY, NY)

Liz Accles, Executive Director of Community Food Advocates has spent her career in pursuit of social and economic justice and brings over 25 years of leadership experience at the city, state and national levels. She is the architect of the Lunch 4 Learning Campaign that successfully fought for universal free school lunch for all of New York City's 1.1 million public school students.

Prior to joining CFA Liz served as the Senior Policy Analyst at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies where she led the policy and advocacy work in the areas of income security and early childhood education. Liz conceptualized and built the Access to Assistance Campaign, a multi-faceted, coalition-based policy advocacy campaign designed to eliminate structural barriers to public assistance for low-income New Yorkers living in deep poverty.

Previously Liz served as the National Outreach Coordinator at Lambda Legal, the nation’s oldest and largest legal organization serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV community. In this capacity she was responsible for developing and overseeing national educational and advocacy campaigns related to Lambda Legal’s priority issues.

From 1991 to 2004 Liz served as policy analyst at the Community Food Resource Center (CFRC) and worked on welfare and food stamp policy issues on federal, state and city levels.

In 1999, as a project of CFRC, Liz founded the Welfare Made A Difference National Campaign, a social marketing and legislative action campaign to reframe the debate over social programs for poor families. By engaging diverse voices of former and current welfare recipients in the policy debate the campaign challenged stereotyped images of poor women in both the public opinion and the policy-making arenas. Liz organized 250 former and current welfare recipients from around the country into a national speakers’ bureau and advocacy network and built a broad coalition of 400 national and local organizations to develop and promote public education and policy initiatives.

Since 2003 Liz has served as a Trustee for the Patsy Takemoto Mink Education Foundation for Low- Income Women and Children. She previously served as a member of Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s National Board of Directors.
Betty Balan, SNAP Outreach Manager, Second Harvest Heartland

Betty Balan manages the day to day operations of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at Second Harvest Heartland. She manages a team of 9 SNAP Specialists, working in both MN and Western Wisconsin. Betty has more than 12 years of nonprofit experience with extensive experience in project management, community engagement, promotions, marketing and fostering a creative and innovative work environment. Betty also enjoys managing teams, overseeing projects and operationalizing strategies.

Jennifer Banyan, CEO, R-Evolution Consulting

Jennifer Banyan has 18 years of human services experience and is the CEO of R-Evolution Consulting, LLC. In this capacity, she has worked with Colorado foundations, counties, the Colorado Department of Human Services, and large nonprofits on issues of basic human needs, public benefits integration into nonprofit operations, systems improvement and high-level efforts to end hunger in Colorado. Jennifer lead the statewide effort to develop The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger.

Prior to consulting, she was the Division Director for Self-Sufficiency and Community Support for Boulder County Housing and Human Services. In this role, she was responsible for multiple programs including Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment, SNAP, CO PEAK Statewide Training team, CCAP, TANF, Housing Family Self-Sufficiency, and strategic initiatives. She implemented nationally recognized outreach and enrollment projects (NACO awards) and innovative policy work to promote service integration for increased access to public benefits. She has helped lead local and state efforts to improve county business processes, overall system and program improvements, and promote benefits access and program outcomes through policy change. Jennifer is a national subject matter expert on anti-hunger strategies and Federal Food Programs.

Previously, Jennifer was the Director of Quality Improvement for the State of Vermont Department of Mental Health and was a Senior Management Analyst in Child Welfare in California. She specializes in integrated services, systems redesign, policy analysis, and data driven process improvement. She creates innovative and collaborative projects to improve the public human services delivery system to promote self-sufficiency, family stability, and healthy communities. Jennifer holds a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Indiana University.
Marna Canterbury, MS, RD, Director of Community Health, HealthPartners

Marna brings more than 30 years of experience in community health leadership, nutrition programs and health message design to her leadership role as Director of Community Health, HealthPartners and Lakeview Health. Marna leads the development, implementation and evaluation of PowerUp, a regional community initiative to help kids eat better and move more. She also provides leadership for other HealthPartners community health initiatives.

With a focus on healthy food access for low-income children, Marna spearheaded the Better Shelf for Better Health project in partnership with Valley Outreach Food shelf successfully transforming the food shelf environment and food sourcing methods to increase access and appeal of healthy foods. This successful work evolved into the SuperShelf partnership where she serves on the leadership team. In addition, Marna is working within HealthPartners on food insecurity screening for patients for food insecurity and refer through Hunger Solutions Minnesota.

Marna received her bachelor’s degree in nutrition and biology from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and completed her training as a Registered Dietitian at the University of Iowa. She received her Master’s in Community Health from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Julia L. Carboni, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Public Administration and International Affairs, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

Julia L. Carboni (Ph.D. Management, University of Arizona) is an Assistant Professor in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where she teaches courses on nonprofit management and fund development. Her research focuses on collaborative arrangements designed to address large-scale social issues and social media use and management by nonprofit organizations. Dr. Carboni serves on national committees for several professional associations including the Academy of Management, the American Society for Public Administration, and the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the Indy Food Council. Prior professional experience includes managing youth mentoring and graduate education programs and alumni fundraising for academic units. She was previously an Assistant Professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University.
Caitlin Caspi, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota,

Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

Caitlin Caspi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota, where she is a faculty member in the Program in Health Disparities Research. Dr. Caspi conducts evaluation research on policies and interventions to reduce food insecurity and improve the food environment. She is currently the Principal Investigator on two NIH-funded studies relevant to food insecurity: (1) an evaluation of an intervention to improve nutrition and dietary outcomes in food shelves (SuperShelf) and (2) a study of the health effects of the Minneapolis Minimum Wage Ordinance (WAGE$).

Richard Comeau, Program Director, Hunger Free Oklahoma

Richard Comeau is a native Texan who now calls Tulsa home. He brings an extensive background in food and regulatory policy having worked in Congress on agricultural and food policy and in trade associations as a Regulatory Policy Analyst. Most recently, Richard served as the Regional Director of the Texas Hunger Initiative’s Fort Worth Office where he translated his technical background in food production to issues of food access. Richard holds a BS in Agriculture from Texas A&M, an MPA from the Bush School of Government and Public Service, and a graduate certificate in Regulatory Affairs from Texas A&M.

Kirsten Craft, Manager, Program Innovation,

Share Our Strength

Kirsten Craft designs and manages innovation pilots, ideation sessions and internal events focused on empowering others to use human centered design to solve messy social problems. She has a track record in both designing and launching new programs, and in implementing evaluation metrics across departments. Before joining the innovation team, Kirsten was at the University of Maryland, where she was the Assistant Director at the Center for Social Value Creation, and a Lecturer at the Smith School of Business. Kirsten also has experience as a social entrepreneur, as a founder her own social enterprise that was honored as the winner of a large-scale innovation challenge focused on “doing good.” She has a MBA in general management and MPP in nonprofit management, both from the University of Maryland.
Esubalew Dadi, Sr. Manager, Policy Analysis, Share Our Strength

Esubalew Dadi is Senior Manager of Policy Analysis at Center for Best Practices, Share Our Strength. Prior to joining Share Our Strength, Esubalew was a public policy analyst at the Florida Policy Institute in Lake Mary, Florida, working on human services issues such as TANF and SNAP, health care issues specifically Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, criminal justice reform, and state budget analysis on these policy areas. He has had an extensive and varied career including program manager for refugee services at Lutheran Services Florida, volunteer expert for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, research coordinator and consultant at Legal Atlas, and Assistant Lecturer and Head of the Department of Law at Mizan-Tepi University in Ethiopia. Esubalew holds masters degrees in Rule of Law for Development (Loyola University Chicago) and Public International Law (University of Oslo).

Minerva Delgado, Director of Coalitions and Advocacy, Alliance to End Hunger

Minerva Delgado is an accomplished nonprofit professional in the areas of hunger, poverty and civil rights. An experienced policy analyst, organizer, and program manager, Ms. Delgado has over twenty-eight years striving for social and economic justice. She has appeared in print media, radio and television news and is a frequent presenter at national conferences.

Ms. Delgado is currently the Director of Coalitions & Advocacy at the Alliance to End Hunger in Washington, DC. In this position, she builds the public and political will to end hunger at home and abroad. She oversees the organization’s work to strengthen Hunger Free Community coalitions and champion legislative solutions to hunger.

She is formerly the Executive Director of Manna Food Center, the food bank of Montgomery County, MD and Director of Agency Resources at the Food Bank For New York City. Ms. Delgado has also held senior positions at the Children’s Defense Fund, LatinoJustice and in NYC government. She has consulted for UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza) and Re:Gender. She taught at New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, where she co-founded the Women of Color Policy Network. She advised on the UN Commission on Human Rights US fact-finding report in 2006. She is the author of 2015 Profiles of Latino Health: A Closer Look at Child Nutrition.

Minerva was born in The Bronx, NY. She attained a Master’s Degree in Urban Affairs and Policy Analysis from The New School, a Bachelor’s Degree from Cornell University and attended Bronx High School of Science. She is a founding Board Member of Community Food Advocates, Inc.
Christina Esteban, Senior Director of Program, NourishKC

Ms. Esteban is an experienced community and social services professional with a demonstrated history of working with civic and direct service nonprofit organizations. She will utilize her skills in fundraising, coaching, program development, event management, communications, project management, and public speaking to advance NourishKC’s mission as the Senior Director of Program. Ms. Esteban holds a BA in Sociology from Rockhurst College, and her previous positions with area nonprofits such as Harvesters, Guadalupe Centers, Local Investment Commission (LINC), Cristo Rey Network, and the Institute for Human Development at UMKC provide her with a unique skill set tailored to leading NourishKC’s programmatic efforts to success.

Henry Fetta, Director, Hunger Resource Network

Crystal FitzSimons, Director of School and Out-of-School Time Programs, Food Research & Action Center

As director of school and out-of-school time programs, Crystal directs FRAC’s work on the child nutrition programs that serve school-age children. She analyzes policy to advocate for legislative and regulatory improvements to increase low-income children’s access to the nutrition programs. She helps develop strategy and direct field efforts to achieve program improvements. She provides technical assistance, conducts training, and develops materials for national, state, and local organizations. She frequently speaks at national afterschool conferences and meetings. Crystal is the author or co-author of numerous publications, including Hunger Doesn’t Take A Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report (2009). Her previous work experience includes the Center for Community Change as a policy analyst on transportation issues and Housing Comes First, Missouri’s statewide low-income housing coalition, as director of tenant organizing. She holds a B.A. in philosophy and sociology from Carroll College and an M.S.W. from Washington University.
Ann Fix, Food Business Incubator Program Manager, Northside Economic Opportunity Network

Ann was originally introduced to the Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) as a participant in 2006. Ann went on to run the award winning and nationally recognized Local D'Lish, a small gourmet grocery store that sourced every product from local farmers and food artisans. Ann and her store earned numerous local awards including the “Best Of” from City Pages, Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine, Minnesota Monthly and Metro Magazines every year between 2008 and 2015. She earned a national Tastemaker award in 2012, the Thomas McBurney Community Impact Award and Small Business of the Year in 2011. Through her 10 years of ownership, Ann helped hundreds of small farmers and food businesses launch and succeed. Ann was hired by NEON in March 2017 to create the Northside Food Business Incubator Program as well as expand food business resources including NEON Catering. Ann's background includes teaching Health Education and Business courses for the University of Northern Iowa, Coe College, and Wuhan University of Science and Education.

Katherine Grannon, Project Manager, Project BreakFAST,
University of Minnesota

Kate Grannon MPH, RD, is a project manager in the University of Minnesota Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. The research she manages focuses on healthy hunger relief, obesity prevention, and nutrition policy. She has more than three years of experience in project management on research studies that are community-engaged and health equity-focused.

Melanie Heckt, Northside Fresh Program Facilitator, Full Lives Initiative

Melanie Heckt is the Northside Fresh Coalition Program Facilitator at Appetite for Change. Her work focuses on engaging community around food related work and building collaborative partnerships to share resources and advocate for policies that work towards building a self reliant food system in North Minneapolis. Before coming to Northside Fresh, Melanie had experience working in local food policy at Waite House and doing garden and nutrition education with children through the MN Landscape Arboretum. Melanie has a degree in Food Systems and Nutrition from the University of Minnesota where she also had the opportunity for leadership within the student organization Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Related Sciences. When she's not working Melanie loves experimenting with making different soup, swing dancing, and hanging out with her two younger brothers.
Michelle Heerey, Director of Field Services, Second Harvest Heartland

As Director of Field Services, Michelle Heerey leads a number of Second Harvest Heartland teams engaged in community partnerships to end hunger in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. A social change artisan by calling, Michelle has led education, public health, and international humanitarian assistance programs offered by federal government agencies, universities, international and local community based non-profits.

Megan Hoag, Regional Director, Houston Regional Office, Texas Hunger Initiative, Baylor University

Megan Hoag is the Regional Director of Baylor University's Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) Houston office. At the Texas Hunger Initiative, Megan serves on the Advisory Committee that guides THI's Hunger Free Community Coalition work across the state, as well as supporting coalitions in multiple capacities across the region.

She graduated from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota with a Master's in Public Policy, received a Master's of Social Work from the University of Minnesota, and is a licensed social worker in the State of Texas.

Prior to joining THI, Megan worked with several nonprofits in Minnesota focused on addressing domestic violence, including Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse, Battered Women's Justice Project, and Sojourner Project. She stays connected to this work by providing research support to the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's Adult Violent Death Review Team. She has also worked with individuals and families experiencing homelessness and spent some time as a school social worker.
Michelle Horovitz, Executive Director, Appetite for Change

Minnesota native Michelle Horovitz is one of the co-founders and Executive Director of Appetite For Change (AFC), a nonprofit social enterprise organization dedicated to using food as a tool to build health, wealth and social change. AFC works with residents to build strong families and healthy, equitable communities around food. They also own and operate a food business incubator kitchen and Breaking Bread Café and Catering.

Michelle graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Bioethics and Spanish and earned a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School. She worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Miami-Dade County before working for James Beard Award winning Chef Michelle Bernstein as a prep cook, line cook and assistant to the pastry chef. After returning to Minneapolis she co-founded Appetite For Change. Michelle serves on the Board of Directors of Jewish Community Action and is passionate about social and racial justice. She advocates for criminal justice reform, and equity across all cultural, religious, and geographic communities. Michelle enjoys yoga, biking and spending time with her family and friends. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband, two children and two dogs.

Marc Jacobson, Regional Director, Dallas Regional Office, and Statewide Organizing Director, Texas Hunger Initiative, Baylor University

Marc Jacobson is the Dallas regional director and the statewide organizing director for Baylor University's Texas Hunger Initiative. He leads the THI Dallas office and supports THI's work statewide in the areas of organizing and coalition-building. Prior to joining THI, Marc served as Public Policy Associate for the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Dallas, where he spearheaded the establishment of the Anti-Poverty Coalition of Greater Dallas. Marc has also served as Director of the Texas Fair Trade Coalition and as a community organizer in Texas, California and Massachusetts. He holds a B.A. in History from Yale University and a Master in Public Policy from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.

A scientist by training, but a community organizer at heart, Cheryl Jogge brings a fresh perspective to her role as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the South Washington County School District. Serving as a central connection point between the community and the schools, Cheryl matches needs with resources while building relationships to create a community that is engaged in helping its students succeed. Cheryl is also the founder/director of SoWashCo CARES (Community Action Reaching Every Student), a community-led organization helping to meet basic needs of students and their families in South Washington County.
Julie James, Instructional Coach, Excell Academy

Julie James is a lead teacher and Instructional Coach at Excell Academy in Brooklyn Park. She holds a B.S. in Elementary Education and a M.S. in Elementary Education. She has been working in the education field for 12 years. During those 12 years she has taught Title I, ELL, Special Education, 2nd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade. She has also been a part of Excell's Instructional Leadership team for five years.

Dan Jariabka, President and Founder, Hunger Resource Network

Cheryl Jogger, Community Engagement Coordinator, South Washington County Schools

A scientist by training, but a community organizer at heart, Cheryl brings a fresh perspective to her role as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the South Washington County School District. Serving as a central connection point between the community and the schools, Cheryl matches needs with resources while building relationships to create a community that is engaged in helping its students succeed. Cheryl is also the founder/director of SoWashCo CARES (Community Action Reaching Every Student), a community-led organization helping to meet basic needs of students and their families in South Washington County.
Lela Klein, Executive Director, Co-op Dayton

Lela Klein is the co-founder and executive director of the Greater Dayton Union Co-op Initiative (GDUCI), an incubator for worker-owned businesses that broaden economic opportunities and strengthen blue-collar communities. Prior to co-founding GDUCI, she was general counsel of the IUE-CWA, a 45,000-member manufacturing union, where she led major strategic projects, advocated on behalf of working people, and created a mentorship program to foster leadership among young manufacturing employees. Lela was also an organizer and later an attorney with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Lela is proud to live and work in her hometown of Dayton, Ohio, in 2012 with her partner and their two children.

Summer Kriegshauser, Senior Manager, Center for Best Practices, Share Our Strength

Summer Kriegshauser is Senior Manager of School Breakfast program at Center for Practices, Share Our Strength. Summer focuses on all elements of school breakfast expansion strategy and implementation at Share Our Strength. Prior to joining Share Our Strength in 2016, Summer worked at AASA: The School Superintendents Association, where she provided technical assistance and support to school districts that were seeking to improve their Breakfast After the Bell programs, and support to districts implementing the Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines. Summer has a MPH from George Washington University, a B.A. in Speech Communications from Iowa State University, a chef certification from The Natural Gourmet Institute and a holistic health counseling certification from the Academy of Healing Nutrition.

Derrick Lambert, Senior Manager, Summer Meals, Center for Best Practices, Share Our Strength

Derrick Lambert leads the summer meals strategy within the Center for Best Practices. Prior to joining Share Our Strength in 2016, Derrick worked as a Program Manager with Hunger Free Vermont, where he worked with state agency staff, school districts and statewide partners to initiate and expand implementation of a range of federal child nutrition programs, with a special focus on summer meals. Derrick has a Master’s Degree in International Political Economy from the University of Kent (England) and a B.A. in Political Science from Union University. Derrick is also a former educator, having spent four years in France teaching at public secondary and post-secondary institutions.
Katie Loth, Assistant Professor, The HEAL Center, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School

Katie Loth, PhD, MPH, RD is an Assistant Professor in the University of Minnesota Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. She is a behavioral epidemiologist and an associate director the HEAL (Healthy Eating and Activity Across the Lifespan) Center. Her research explores social and environmental influences on child and adolescent weight status and disordered eating behaviors. Specifically, she is interested in identifying ways that parents can work to help their children develop and maintain a healthy weight and a healthy relationship with their bodies.

Meighen Lovelace, Farmer & Hunger Free Communities Network Advisor

Meighen Lovelace lives and farms with her two daughters on Colorado’s Western Slope. She founded the Mountain Harvest Coalition- building a community farm and four season greenhouse for the Vail Valley Salvation Army and providing year round fresh produce for the food bank. She has since passed that work along to community leaders to pursue a deep dive into Food and Farm Policy. She is committed to growing accessible and thriving food systems through equitable policy, advocacy, and action.

Meighen serves on the National Advisory Committee for the Alliance to End Hunger, the Policy Committee for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, the Advisory Board for the Colorado Food Policy Network, the Steering Committee for the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger, and serves as the Western Slope Producer Representative and Vice Chair of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council as appointed by the Governor. She recently completed an internship with National Farmers Union in Washington D.C.
Noelia Mann, Communications & Operations Coordinator, Building Movement Project

Noelia Mann joined the Building Movement Project team in 2015, providing comprehensive operational, financial, and programmatic support. She has contributed to the development and promotion of the Race to Lead report series and website, and oversees Tools to Engage: Resources for Nonprofits, BMP’s interactive, online database that connects people and organizations looking to align the values and principles of their work to the best tools, research, and resources from across the social sector. Her work and interests center around supporting service providers seeking to integrate meaningful constituent engagement and policy advocacy into the individual advocacy they already do, to address root causes of suffering.

Prior to joining the BMP team, Noelia served as Assistant Artistic Director at Girl Be Heard (GBH), a non-profit theatre company and social justice organization that seeks to develop, amplify, and celebrate the voices of young women through socially conscious theatre-making. Noelia also served as Development Manager at Climate Wise Women (CWW), a global platform for the promotion of women’s leadership on climate change.

Tee McClenty, Project Manager, CPPM, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc.

Theresa “Tee” McClenty holds certification in Project Management from the University of St. Thomas.

Tee is a project manager from NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center, providing medical, dental, behavioral health and human services in North Minneapolis for 50 Years. Tee’s responsibilities include project coordination of NorthPoint Health and Wellness Fruits, Veggies and More project funded by the Greater Twin Cities United Way’s Full Lives Initiative, strengthens food security in North Minneapolis through incentive-based food access model development, pilot testing, and scaling opportunities to enhance proximal and economic access to sufficient healthy, culturally-appropriate food on a year-round basis.

NorthPoint’s Fruits, Veggies and More Project seeks solutions to transportation challenges through limited updating of information reported in a North Minneapolis food system transportation study commissioned by Northside Fresh in 2011 and gathering new information. It will further test up to three options for reducing or removing transportation barriers to use of financial incentives for healthy food access, and explore options for scaling these models to larger populations, varied geographies, and/or varied community-based settings. The project will identify transportation solutions to increasing low-income residents’ access to healthy, nutritious foods, when paired with incentives for purchase.
Adair Mosely, President and CEO, Pillsbury United Communities

Adair Mosely currently serves as the president and CEO of Pillsbury United Communities, where he stewards five neighborhood centers, eight social enterprises, and the authorization of twenty-one charter schools. He is a proactive and visionary leader with vast experience in strategy, economic development, and innovation. Mr. Mosley leads strategic and divergent thinking in the pursuit of innovative solutions to address multi-dimensional social issues. Mr. Mosley’s most recent work is leading a $7 million dollar capital campaign for the development of a unique grocery store and wellness center, North Market, in North Minneapolis that revolutionizes the intersection of economic development, food and health care access. Prior to this, Mr. Mosley served as Pillsbury United Communities’ Chief Innovation Officer and Chief of Staff. Mr. Mosley has been a fervent advocate for children and families as a Guardian ad Litem for Hennepin County, and advancing equity as a Commissioner for Civil Rights with the City of Minneapolis.

He attended the University of Minnesota and the University of Michigan’s Executive Leadership Institute. In 2014, Mr. Mosley was an American Express Leadership Fellow, and he recently completed a certificate in human centered design at Stanford’s prestigious Institute of Design aka d.school. Mr. Mosley serves on the boards of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities CEO Council, an executive committee member of Hennepin County’s Community Health Improvement Plan, International Federation of Settlements, and the University of Minnesota’s Masonic Cancer Center.

In 2017, Mr. Mosley was awarded the respected Local Legend Award from the General Mills Foundation for the embodiment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision and legacy.

Mr. Mosley was also named one of Grist’s 50 Fixers in 2018 – a nonprofit that pursues in-depth stories on under-covered topics of clean energy, sustainable food, livable cities and environmental justice.

Katie Nye, Regional Director, Austin Regional Office, Texas Hunger Initiative, Baylor University

Katie Nye has served with the Texas Hunger Initiative for 5 years. She is currently the Regional Director for the Austin office. Katie works at the local level to convene stakeholders in creating an efficient system of accountability that increases food security in Central Texas. She received her B.S. in Family Social Science from the University of Minnesota – Twin cities, and has a Master’s of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin. She also serves as a steering committee member for Texas Action for Healthy Kids.
Emily Piltch, PhD, MPH, Project Coordinator, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Emily Piltch, PhD, MPH, was the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetic’s Project Coordinator for a year-long pilot project whereby five communities tested out various aspects of a Hunger Free Communities prioritization manual and data collection tools.

Emily has over a decade of experience working at the federal, university and local levels on childhood obesity prevention and food security projects in urban, rural, and suburban settings. The majority of her work has focused on collaborating with community groups on built environment and local policy change strategies for increasing access to healthy food and places to be physically active. Emily holds a PhD from the Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and an MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Leah Driscoll Porter, Director, Twin Cities Mobile Market,
Wilder Foundation

Leah Driscoll Porter co-founded and now leads the Twin Cities Mobile Market, a program that increases access to healthy, affordable foods for people living in “food deserts” and other low-wealth neighborhoods. Launched last year, the program has already served more than 2,000 people and received the Ramsey County Public Health Award in 2015. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Northwestern and a Master’s in Nonprofit Management from Hamline University.

Todd Post, Senior Researcher, Writer, and Editor, Bread for the World Institute

Todd Post is a senior researcher, writer, and editor with Bread for the World Institute. Since 2004, he has been the main writer and editor of the Institute’s annual Hunger Report. The 2018 Hunger Report, The Jobs Challenge: Working to End Hunger by 2030, addresses the challenges faced by low-wage workers and their families in the US. Earlier Hunger Reports have covered global development issues such as trade and climate change, gender equality, and health. The 2016 Hunger Report on the relationship between hunger and health produced a study demonstrating that food insecurity in the US was costing the country an additional $160 billion in health care expenditures. Mr. Post has been a professional writer and editor his entire career. Before joining Bread for the World Institute, he was editor of ASK Magazine, a bi-monthly magazine on project management for NASA, collecting stories from current and retired NASA project managers. He also co-wrote a book on project management at NASA, Shared Voyage: Learning and Unlearning from Remarkable Projects. Mr. Post has published dozens of articles on a range of subjects in newspapers, magazines, and academic journals, and has also taught in the Professional Writing Program at the University of Maryland. He spends his free time with his family and dogs at his home in Gaithersburg, Maryland.
Jason Reed, Director of Strategy & New Ventures, Second Harvest Heartland

Jason Reed is a strategy and innovation executive with Second Harvest Heartland, a non-profit organization that advances creative, multi-sector solutions toward ending hunger in our local communities. At Second Harvest, Jason has guided the launch and growth several successful new ventures, including an industry-leading health care social enterprise called FOODRx. He also designed and led several large-scale systems change initiatives for Hunger-Free Minnesota, which added millions of new meals for Minnesotans in need.

Before transitioning to the social sector, Jason was a consultant in the New York City offices of McCann Erickson and Ogilvy & Mather, where he was an advisor to global Fortune 500 companies. Jason is currently a Fellow with the Aspen Institute in social innovation & philanthropy, and serves on the board of directors for the Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Adelante Healthcare System in Phoenix, Arizona. Jason holds a master’s degree from Harvard University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He has also been honored as an American Express NextGen Fellow by Independent Sector.

Jess Roberts, Lead, Culture of Health by Design, University of Minnesota

Jess Roberts leads the CULTURE OF HEALTH BY DESIGN initiative, an initiative of the Minnesota Design Center (University of Minnesota, College of Design) that offers expertise, guidance, applied learning and on-going support to health organizations, government agencies, non-profits and communities looking to build and embed a competency and structure for human-centered design, involving empathetic engagement, radical collaboration and rapid prototyping. His research activities primarily focus on the cross-sectored relationships and efforts needed to deliver increased value and health to all communities, especially those that have not been served well by the current systems.

Roberts holds a B.S. and Master’s degree in Architecture from the University of Minnesota and is currently an Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health and Affiliate Faculty at the School of Nursing.
Treba Shyers, Hunger Outreach Program Specialist, Hunger Free Oklahoma

Treba Shyers, Hunger Outreach Program Specialist, is a native Tulsan with experience in social services and advocacy within the Tulsa non-profit sector. Treba’s education and experience allows her to easily connect with community partners addressing Oklahoma’s food insecurity. She has served on both local and state committees including Oklahoma Healthy Transitions Initiative and Tulsa Partnership for Children’s Behavioral Health. Treba has a Bachelor’s Degree in Education, a Master’s Degree in Human Relations, and is currently working on a Master’s Degree in Organizational Leadership.

Wendy Tai, Strategic Director, Early Childhood Nutrition, Hunger Impact Partners

Wendy directs early childhood nutrition programs and partnerships, including The Special Supplemental Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). She works closely with the Minnesota Department of Health, child care provider networks and early childhood experts to design and fund innovative programs for retention and expansion of nutritious meals for our youngest learners.

Wendy has 30 years of experience across the communication field: journalism, PR, and corporate and global communications. In 10 years at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Wendy covered a broad range of topics that won local, regional and national honors. She was a core team member in a series that was a finalist for the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. Wendy managed Cargill’s public policy publication and supported other public affairs activities, including a leading role in shaping and executing a corporate trade education campaign.

Before Hunger Impact Partners, Wendy managed issues and crises, internal communications, executive and leadership communications, digital and corporate social responsibility communications at General Mills.
**Trent Tucker, Director, Stakeholder Engagement, Hunger Impact Partners**

Trent Tucker is director of Stakeholder Engagement at Hunger Impact Partners. In his role he oversees the Student Champion Scholarship Program and serves as the primary liaison with school districts on federal child nutrition programs serving school-age children. He supports field efforts to achieve program enrollment and expansion in school breakfast and after-school meal programs. As an athlete who played basketball for fifteen years at both college and professional levels, Trent understands the value of being well fed in order to perform at a high level. Since finishing his pro career with the Chicago Bulls following their 1993 championship season and 10 seasons with the New York Knicks, Trent has worked as a broadcast analyst for Minnesota Timberwolves basketball games and for five years as the Director of District Athletics for the Minneapolis Public Schools. In the latter role he managed budgets, facilities, fundraising, and stakeholder engagement while fostering an environment where academic integrity, competitive athletic excellence, social responsibility, and respect for others are highly valued. The district community consisted of more than 6,000 student athletes in 29 schools cooperating with over 700 professional coaches and administrators. From 2007 to 2011 Trent served as a coordinator for community outreach and youth development at his alma mater, the University of Minnesota. During this time he launched a successful on-campus program for diverse youth in middle school; the goal for these Trent Tucker University Scholars was promoting college readiness.

**Bertrand Weber, Director, Culinary & Wellness Services, Minneapolis Public Schools**

Swiss-born Bertrand Weber career span over than 40 years of combined management experience in the hospitality industry and school food service. Trained in hotel management in Switzerland, Bertrand has managed some of the finest hotels and resorts on the east coast. His compassion for the well-being and future of our children and our environment led Bertrand to the Hopkins School District, Minnesota in 2003. Bertrand’s progressive thinking at Hopkins received national recognition. His efforts were the focus of several University of Minnesota research papers, including Analyzing Health Innovations in a School Lunch Program and The Power of Three: A Whole Grain Intervention. In 2004 he initiated one of Minnesota first Farm to School Program which led to another research paper in 2005 “Making the Farm to School Connection” From 2006 until 2011, Bertrand worked for Taher, Inc. as Director of Wellness, Nutrition and Culinary Standards and was responsible for the implementation of the Food for Life initiative.

Now, as Director for Minneapolis Public School Culinary and Wellness Services since January 2012, Bertrand wasted no time rethinking MPS School Lunch. Market Cart Salad Bars have been introduced in 60 schools, all 7 high schools, 5 Junior High Schools and 21 elementary schools have returned to scratch cooking with 4 more scheduled for the 2018-2019 school year. MPS is on the leading edge of the Farm to School movement contracting forward with over 14 local farms and he introduced MN Thursday in 2014 which features lunch sourced 100% from Minnesota.
Alexis Weightman, Senior Policy Officer, Colorado Health Foundation

Alexis Weightman is the Senior Policy Officer at the Colorado Health Foundation. In this role, she works with stakeholders to influence and implement public policy solutions to improve the health of Coloradans. Over the past decade, she has been actively engaged in a range of state health policy issues. Most recently, Alexis has had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of partners to develop the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger.

Prior to joining the policy team, Alexis led the Foundation’s evaluation department from 2008 to 2010. Before returning home to Colorado, Alexis worked for the Science and Technology Policy Institute, a federally-funded research and development center based in Washington, D.C. and consulted on domestic and international health programs at Abt Associates Inc. in Cambridge, MA.

Alexis holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Middlebury College and a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Denver. She is a proud fourth generation Colorado native.