



2020 Nebraska Nonprofit Conference Presenter Bios

Keynote Speaker - Steve Zimmerman, Spectrum Nonprofit Services

Steven Zimmerman, CPA, MBA is the Principal of Spectrum Nonprofit Services where he provides training and consulting in the areas of finance and strategy for community-based organizations, foundations, and government agencies throughout the country. Steve is a co-author of two books on nonprofit sustainability published by Jossey-Bass, *The Sustainability Mindset: Using the Matrix Map to Make Strategic Decisions* with Jeanne Bell of Compass Point published in 2014 and the best-selling book *Nonprofit Sustainability: Making Strategic Decisions for Financial Viability* with Jeanne Bell and Jan Miyaoka of Cal Nonprofits published in 2010. The books highlight Spectrum's integrated approach to nonprofits which balances mission impact and financial viability. Steve's writing has also appeared in *The Nonprofit Quarterly*, the Finance and Strategy column for *Blue Avocado*, and various Board Source publications. Prior to starting Spectrum, Steve was a Projects Director with Compass Point Nonprofit Services, one of the nation's leading nonprofit consulting, training and research providers. Steve's extensive nonprofit experience includes serving as a Chief Financial Officer, Development Director and Associate Director at community-based nonprofits where he performed turnarounds resulting in increased financial sustainability and programmatic reach. He is a Certified Public Accountant and earned a BA from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from Yale University.

Leah Whitney Chavez, World Speaks Omaha

Leah Whitney Chavez is the Founder and Executive Director of World Speaks Omaha a nonprofit whose mission is to connect our city despite language barriers and the cultural differences that tend to separate communities. With a bachelor's degree in Foreign Language and Literature in Spanish, she is bilingual and from an early age had an appreciation of Latino culture. She hopes one day that Omaha will not be one of the top 50 most segregated cities in the US.

Patrick Falke, Field Day Development

Patrick has served over the past 10 years as the Director of Operations for Project Harmony and Field Day Development. He is passionate about helping organizations reach their full potential, by creating innovative and data focused approaches to maximize impact. Patrick's experience includes the growth and development of various operational departments, including Finance, IT, HR, Facility and Security Management, and Data & Quality Management. He believes that no social problem is too big to solve, if a diverse and dedicated team is allowed to collaborate in a meaningful way and fully implement their ideas to create real change.

Dr. Laura Garrett, Tulsa Community College

Dr. Laura Garrett has Doctorate of Education in Family Studies and Child Development from Oklahoma State University with a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. She holds a Master of Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelors in Consumer Affairs with a Secondary Major in Gerontology from Kansas State University. She is a certified Dementia Practitioner, a certified Eden Associate and a Certified Family Life Educator. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tulsa Community College. She served as an administrator for a non-profit retirement community in Oklahoma City. Dr. Garrett currently serves on the board of the Putnam City Foundation.

Taylor Gehringer, Category One Consulting

Taylor Gehringer is an Organizational Effectiveness Consultant at Category One Consulting, a consulting firm focused on helping organizations maximize their effectiveness through research, analytics, and evidence-based practices.

Prior to joining Category One Consulting, Taylor served as a Research Assistant at the University of Nebraska, as a Program Leader at Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska, and as a Community Services & Development Intern at the Lied Center of Performing Arts.

Taylor earned her PhD and MA in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and her BA in Psychology with Minors in Mathematics and Spanish from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She is also a member of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

Brenda Helget, Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha

Brenda has 26 years of experience in nonprofit work and received her Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) status in 2004. Prior to her position as Director of Development & Communications at Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha, she served as a major gifts officer for UNMC's College of Medicine, director of annual giving at Methodist Hospital Foundation and the Omaha Home for Boys. She has been a speaker at many events, including the AFP International Conference in New Orleans to over 300 attendees and she was co-speaker at a Chronicle of Philanthropy online Q&A with direct mail guru Mal Warwick.

Rosey Higgs, Nonprofit Association of the Midlands

Rosey earned her BSW and MSW degrees from the University of Nebraska Omaha, where she also serves as an adjunct instructor in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work. She has extensive and varied experience in Omaha's nonprofit community, including work in child welfare, domestic violence, homelessness, intellectual and developmental disability, HIV prevention, and mentoring as well as development, program evaluation, and strategic planning. She has a passion for collaborative work and capacity building.

Brandi Holys, Omaha Symphony

Brandi Holys has nearly 20 years of experience as a fundraiser, director, and management consultant, helping organizations and causes generate financial resources to do great work and change the world. Her educational background includes a BA in Business Administration and a MA in Public Health Education (which provides an interesting perspective to doing her work during the pandemic.) Currently the Director of Development for the Omaha Symphony, she enjoys live music, good food and wine, her rescued dog and cat, and serves as a board member for Felius cat café.

Kelly Koepsell, Nonprofit Association of the Midlands

Kelly earned a B.A. in Earth Sciences from the University of Northern Colorado, when he also received a commission in the Air Force. As an air traffic control officer, he has lived or worked in 24 states, 22 countries and on 5 continents. He earned a Master of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1999, and graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas in 2005. He is a U.S Army-certified strategic planner, and has led the air combat operational planning for many trouble areas that are in the news today. Kelly has been a graduate teaching assistant and adjunct faculty in the Geography Department at the University of Nebraska Omaha, teaching physical geography and geographic information science. He earned an M.A. in Geography from University of Nebraska Omaha in 2013, and a Master of Public Administration degree in Nonprofit Management from University of Nebraska Omaha in 2019. He is a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church (WELS) in Omaha.

Amy McFeely, Category One Consulting

Amy McFeely is a Co-Founder and Principal Consultant at Category One Consulting, a consulting firm focused on helping organizations maximize their effectiveness through research, analytics, and evidence-based practices.

Prior to starting Category One Consulting, Amy served as a Customer Insights Data Analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, as a Talent Analytics Project Leader at ConAgra Foods, and as a Talent Assessment Analyst at Sprint Nextel Corporation.

Amy earned her PhD in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and her MA in Social Psychology from the University of Toledo. She is also a member of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

Dominique Morgan, Black and Pink

Dominique Morgan is an award-winning artist, activist, and speaker. As the National Director of Black and Pink, Morgan works daily to dismantle the systems that perpetuate violence on LGBTQ/GNC people and individuals living with HIV and AIDS. Partnering their lived experience of incarceration as a youth (which included 18 months in solitary confinement), with a decade of change making artistry, advocacy, and background in public health, they continue to work in spaces of sex education, radical self-care, and youth development with intentions of dismantling the prison industrial complex and the impact it has on our community.

Morgan is an NAACP Freedom Fighter Award recipient, Young, Black, and Influential Award recipient for Advocacy and Omaha Chamber Young Professionals Changemaker Award recipient. They are currently completing their capstone project for studies in the Georgetown University – System Involved LGBTQ Youth Scholar Program.

Find out more about Dominique Morgan at www.dominiquemorgan.com.

Cassie Paben, Tetrad Property Group Sandeen

Coming Soon!

Ryan Strawhecker, Paul J. Strawhecker, Inc.

Ryan started his career in 2004 at Paul J. Strawhecker, Inc., assisting with philanthropic planning studies and capital campaigns. Ryan's career led him to three Nebraska non-profits in several roles including Planned Giving Officer and Grant Manager and Senior Director of Corporate Relations & Major Accounts. He returned to Paul J. Strawhecker, Inc. in 2017. Ryan has worked with non-profit organizations his entire career. He holds the CFRE fundraising credential and a Master's Degree in English with an emphasis in writing.