



Sandy Axness is a native of Minnesota and a graduate of the University of Minnesota. She received her Masters degree from Drake University. Her career has been spent as a middle school teacher in both Minnesota and Des Moines. Her years as both a history teacher and a literacy instructor have been exciting and fulfilling. Helping young people achieve their educational goals is a passion. After spending her career working with young people, she knows how important it is to have mental health help available for students and families. This is why Sandy is so pleased to be part of this organization. As a community, we need to support our students, both educationally and emotionally.



Dr. Kevin Carroll currently serves as Vice President of Behavioral Health Services for UnityPoint Health – Des Moines. He is a fellow with the American College of Health Executives and a graduate of the Iowa Hospital's Executive Academy. Previously, employment includes administrative and clinical positions at Broadlawns Medical Center and Orchard Place. Dr. Carroll received his Bachelor of Arts from Central College, Master's Degrees from the Universities of Maryland and New Hampshire and Doctorate from Drake University. His community involvement has included serving on the West Des Moines Schools board, WDM Youth Justice Initiative, WDM Chamber of Commerce Board, Grandview University's Social Work Advisory Council and coaching youth sports. Kevin is married and has two children.



Renee Clippert has extensive experience in facilities management and procurement, retiring after 17 years from Principal in Des Moines, IA where she worked in Corporate Real Estate in strategic development and construction management for sales offices and developed occupancy planning and sustainability initiatives for corporate offices. Renee received both her Bachelor of Business in Logistics and Master's in Business Administration degrees from Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL where she also taught classes in international business, logistics, small business management and marketing. Currently Renee is a community advocate and volunteer for several organizations in Des Moines including CFUM (Children Family Urban Movement) in facilities, DMACC assisting in scholarship review, Polk County Election Precinct captain, and Plymouth Church Human Trafficking Awareness and Career Closet volunteer. In her spare time she participates raising funds for leukemia research through LLS TNT by running, biking and swimming in events.



Beth Coonan is an employment attorney with the BrownWinick firm. She is co-chair of the firm's Employment Practice Group and also practices in business immigration and workers' compensation. She represents businesses of all sizes and is a frequent speaker and trainer on topics such as sex harassment, civility, drug testing, Family and Medical Leave Act and immigration compliance. She is the chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and serves on the Iowa Department of Human Rights Board. She also serves on the House of Mercy Board of Directors, the Drake University Board of Counselors and has served on several other community boards such as the Young Women's Resource Center, the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, the Broadlawns Advocate Circle, the Junior League of Des Moines and others. She is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and Drake University Law School. She lives in Des Moines with her husband and two children.



Thomas R Fischer is a semi-retired, independent IT Consultant in West Des Moines. He has over 35 years of experience successfully designing, building, executing and leading all types of enterprise level technology initiatives for a number of major corporations, including GuideOne Mutual Insurance and Pioneer Hi-Bred International. As an independent consultant specializing in building Dashboards for Non-Profits, Thomas has worked with such clients as United Way and Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC). He recently built an Operational Dashboard for Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center. Thomas is involved with DMARC and Joppa. His BA is in Applied Computer Science from Grand View University and his Executive MBA is from the University of Iowa.



Linda Goeldner has thirty years of Association Management experience with Iowa hospitals and registered nurses. Since 2011 she consults on a part-time basis on work focusing on health care policy, nurse's foundation, association executives and financial services continuing education. She holds double Masters Degrees in Hospital and Health Administration and Urban and Regional Planning, both from the University of Iowa. She has served on boards including Mid-Iowa Council of Boy Scouts, Iowa Society of Association Executives, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute and the Iowa Council for International Understanding.



Jim Hayes is the executive director of the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center and a spiritual director. Jim holds a master of divinity degree from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, and a doctoral degree in homiletics from the Aquinas Institute at St. Louis University. He studied philosophy at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) in Rome, Italy. Jim has been in spiritual direction for over 35 years and served as a spiritual director since 1990. Previously, Jim served students and faculty at Simpson College in a variety of administrative roles and as a religion professor. He has also served as campus minister at Iowa State where he continued to expand his global awareness through study abroad and work with international students, including the use of conversational English, French, Italian and Spanish. Before his work in the higher education sector, Jim provided spiritual counseling and pastoral ministry in a wide variety of settings through priestly ministry in the Northeast Iowa Archdiocese of Dubuque.



Andrea James is a Senior Financial Planner with Wells Fargo Advisors. She joined Wells Fargo in 2007 and has helped scores of individuals plan for their financial futures. She also works with trade associations, multi-employer trusts, non-profit and for-profit firms. Andrea has a Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing and Management from Drake University in Des Moines, as well as the certified financial planner designations of CFP, AAMS, and AWMA.



Kenneth Johnson, Ph.D. has extensive experience in association and healthcare management, business, and healthcare administration. He served in senior positions for 14 years at the Iowa Hospital Association, was a senior provider consultant and provider network administrator at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for 6 years, and currently owns and operates a consulting firm offering development, management, marketing, and educational services for businesses. Ken has had numerous accomplishments over the years with non-profit associations, including past President/CEO of the Iowa Hospital Research & Educational Foundation for five years and currently, Executive Director of the Rural Iowa Community Healthcare Association. He has been an adjunct professor at Grand View University and Upper Iowa University as well as teaching graduate courses at Des Moines University in healthcare policy, administration and health insurance. Ken has a Ph.D. in Business and Healthcare Administration from Ashbourne University, a Master's from Kansas University, and a Bachelor degree from Washburn University.



Sue Joseph Mattison, Ph.D. has served as Provost at Drake University since July, 2016. Dr. Mattison received her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Northern Iowa, and her master's degree in cardiac rehabilitation, also from UNI. She received her PhD in epidemiology from The University of Iowa. Sue served in multiple faculty and administrative leadership roles at UNI, and as Dean of the College of Professional Studies at UW-Green Bay, leading the School of Business, Education, Nursing, and Social Work, as well as centers for First Nations education and community-based social work education. Dr. Mattison is the recipient of multiple awards including the UNI Distinguished Scholar award and the Iowa Board of Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. She volunteers regularly for organizations focusing on housing solutions, and issues of racial and gender equality and inclusion. With her husband, Todd, and adult daughters Leah and Sarah, she enjoys outdoor activities and travel, as well as live music and performing arts, needle arts, and reading.



Joe Lee is a certified public accountant that works in the Des Moines office of RSM US LLP. Since 2005, he has provided financial audit and general advisory services to a variety of clients. Joe resides in Urbandale with his wife and five kids. Outside of family and work, Joe is involved in activities with his church, the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Sharon Louis-Goldford is a business professional with expertise in human resources, fundraising, and planning. She is currently the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. Sharon's past work life experience began in the nursing field where she worked primarily as a Nurse Manager and Director in critical care. Her previous employment was with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and she was as a Vice President of Employee Relations. Sharon worked as a Career Coach for Career Resources Group. She served on the Des Moines Symphony Board, Jewish Senior Life Center Board, and is a graduate of the DSM Leadership Institute.

Sharon is co-chair of the Women Helping Women luncheon for DMPCC.



Robyn Mills works as a Senior Program Manager at State Public Policy Group, where she manages a number of clients in a variety of policy areas including health care, advocacy, public health, youth violence prevention, and human rights. In addition, she manages ArtFest Midwest, a juried art show at the State Fairgrounds each June. An experienced community organizer, Robyn previously worked for the Iowa Senate President and as a research analyst in the Iowa Senate. She was also the Public Policy Director for the Alzheimer's Association, where she ran advocacy campaigns at the state and federal levels. She has a Master's Degree in Public

Administration from Drake University and a Bachelor's Degree from Simpson College. Robyn believes in the importance of serving her community and has served in a number of leadership positions in the Johnston Schools, community, and state boards and commission. In addition, she is an active member of St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Johnston.



Greg Nichols is Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Community Relations at Iowa Student Loan. His prior professional experience included positions at Iowa State University, the Board of Regents, and the Iowa Senate. Greg previously served two terms as President of the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center board, and currently is serving as chair of the DMPCC strategic planning committee. He is also currently serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the Greater Des Moines Partnership and chairs the GDMP Talent Development board, is a By Degrees Foundation board member, and a member of the ministerial search committee of the First Unitarian church of Des Moines. Greg and his wife Dawn Connet live in West Des Moines.



Shirley Poertner. Before retiring in 2015, Shirley was president of Shirley Poertner Consulting, a leadership development firm headquartered in Des Moines, specializing in strategic planning, organizational development, and leadership skill-building. She worked in a variety of industries such as finance, energy, manufacturing, publishing, insurance, telecommunications, and agribusiness. Prior to starting her own consulting practice in 1994, she worked for Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Meredith Corporation, and spent 10 years in banking. Before selling her book of business, Shirley was Iowa's VitalSmarts Associate for ten years, marketing, selling and delivering the workshop Crucial Conversations in Iowa organizations to help leaders build skills to talk about tough issues. She received her Master's degree from Drake University and later served as adjunct faculty.



David Shaw has over 30 years of IT leadership experience in the insurance and financial industry. He formally served as Senior Vice President and CIO for Sammons Financial Group. Prior roles include Insurance Business Head for NITT Technologies, CIO for ING's US insurance division and CTO for ING US Insurance. David also worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Perot Systems and EDS, using his extensive IT leadership experience in the insurance and financial industry. David holds a BS degree in Business Administration with computer science emphasis from Illinois State University and a MBA from Emory University Goizueta School of Business.



Kendra Simmons has served as a Senior Associate Attorney, at Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. here in Des Moines since April, 2016. As part of her many roles, she advises clients on various compliance and legal issues, focusing on employment law. She is a member of Des Moines Young Professionals Connection and Young Variety Iowa, often called on to present at client seminars and other meetings. Kendra received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Spanish from Baker University in Baldwin City, KS in May, 2010. In May, 2013 she received her Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, KS.



Erica Shannon Stueve is the Policy and Regulatory Affairs Manager at Iowa Primary Care Association working with community health centers and rural health clinics, as well as legal and legislative work for the Association. Prior to Iowa Primary Care Association, Erica worked for the Iowa Senate. Erica graduated from Drake University School of Law in 2012 and Simpson College in 2009. Outside of work, Erica enjoys spending time outside with her husband and dogs at their rural Warren County residence and serves as Parliamentarian for the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and on the Simpson College Alumni Board of Directors.



Marti Wade's career has spanned four diverse industries: agribusiness, real estate, publishing, and software accounting. She has over 30 years of experience in both corporate and nonprofit environments. Prior to retiring from Workiva, where she developed their customer testimonial program, she was with Meredith Corporation's custom publishing division and also supported the launch of Midwest Living Magazine. As Vice President of Marketing for Green Meadows, a division of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, she was a spokesperson in the community for advocating passive solar construction. At American Cyanamid, she was responsible for product marketing and sales throughout the North Central region. Marti is dedicated to service and volunteering, and has supported a number of non-profit organizations, including: Central Presbyterian Church, American Lung

Association of Iowa, Des Moines Symphony Board, Junior League of Des Moines, and Iowa Pet Alliance. Marti has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism with a concentration in Advertising and Public Relations from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



Sally Wallace is a Registered Respiratory Therapist with a BS in Genetics and Bio/Chem. She has an MBA with emphasis in finance and planning. Her last position was the Chief Operating Officer of the Iowa Clinic. Before that she was a hospital administrator, a teacher and a practicing clinician. She also worked as a consultant to Des Moines University, helping to guide them into a different medical approach. For the last eight years, Sally's focus has turned to raising a granddaughter full time, learning the ins and outs of DHS, legal guardianship, and the court system. DMPCC has played a major role in helping Sally find the help, guidance, and support she's needed to learn how to cope, laugh, and feel safe.