Connect with your Kentucky Colleagues, Share Best Practices, Discover New Resources & Increase the State’s Grantmaking Impact

THE MARRIOTT EAST · LOUISVILLE, KY
9:00am  WELCOME  
Susan Zepeda, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and 
Mason Rummel, James Graham Brown Foundation

9:15am  COLLECTIVE IMPACT  
Speaker: Erin White, FSG

9:45am  COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN ACTION  
Moderator: Mason Rummel, James Graham Brown Foundation  
Panelists: Pete Bird, Frist Foundation  
Mary Gwen Wheeler, 55,000 Degrees

10:30am  BREAK

10:45am  BREAKOUT GROUPS: COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

11:45am  LUNCH

12:15pm  CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC MOBILITY: WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?  
Speaker: Bonnie Gordon, MDC, Inc.

12:45pm  BREAK

1:00pm  OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN THE APPALACHIAN REGION  
Moderator: Gerry Roll, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky  
Speakers: Chuck Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute, SOAR Initiative  
Sandi Curd, Promise Zone

2:00pm  SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL OF FOUNDATIONS  
Janine Lee, President & CEO

2:15pm  LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
Speaker: Sue Santa, Council on Foundations

3:00pm  CLOSING
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SPEAKER BIOS

PETE F. BIRD, JR. President & CEO, The Frist Foundation

Pete Bird has served as chief executive officer of The Frist Foundation since 2002. He has been with the foundation since 1983, serving as senior program officer before assuming the top job. Originally from Indianapolis, Bird holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in journalism from Northwestern University and did post-graduate study at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

In the 1970s, he was city editor of The Jackson Sun newspaper in West Tennessee before becoming business news editor of the Nashville Banner, where he worked from 1976 to 1981. He then served as senior vice president of Commerce Union Corporation (now Bank of America), where he handled strategic planning and communications, before joining The Frist Foundation. Bird serves on the boards of Leadership Nashville, the Center for Nonprofit Management and The HCA Foundation, and is treasurer of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts Foundation. He is a member of the Downtown Rotary Club and Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral. He and his wife Karen have two children.

SANDI CURD, Promise Zone Coordinator, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation

Sandi Curd is the Promise Zone Coordinator, a position created when Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation was named the first and only rural Promise Zone in the nation. Sandi is a Whitley County farmer with 25 years of experience in the fields of health care and agriculture.

Sandi is also a consultant to Leadership Trio County and president of the Whitley County Farmers’ Market board of directors. She has a bachelor's degree in health sciences from the University of Kentucky and a master’s degree in health care administration.

CHARLES (CHUCK) W. FLUHARTY, President Emeritus and Vice President for Policy Programs

Charles W. Fluharty is the founder, President Emeritus, and Vice President for Policy Programs of the Rural Policy Research Institute. RUPRI is the only national policy institute in the U.S. solely dedicated to assessing the rural impacts of public policies. This comprehensive approach to rural policy analysis involves faculty from founding member institutions at Iowa State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Nebraska, as well as researchers, policy analysts and practitioners from other universities, research institutions, governments, and non-governmental organizations. Continual service is currently provided to Congressional members and staff, executive branch agencies, state legislatures and executive agencies, non-governmental organizations, and rural researchers.

A Research Professor in the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri–Columbia, Chuck Fluharty is the author of numerous policy studies and journal articles addressing the rural differential in public policy decision-making, and has presented dozens of Congressional testimonies and briefings. He is a frequent speaker before national and international audiences, and has delivered major public policy addresses in over a dozen nations.

BONNIE GORDON, Senior Program Director, MDC

Bonnie J. Gordon is a senior program director and Partners for Postsecondary Success (PPS) project director at MDC. PPS is a three-year demonstration to establish community partnerships focused on improving postsecondary completion rates for low-income young adults and connecting credentials to living wage employment. Gordon previously led MDC's knowledge development, communications, and policy liaison work on the Achieving the Dream initiative.

Prior to joining MDC, she was the College Prep program officer at the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, where she designed a college-school partnership program to improve academic achievement for underserved students and helped lead the development of the College Ready New England P-16 Alliance, a regional policy and program collaboration supporting college access and success for underserved students.

She is a 20-year veteran of higher education administration with extensive experience with state and national education associations. Bonnie has provided independent consulting services to both corporate and nonprofit clients for policy analysis and program support in education, management, board development, human resources, marketing, public relations, and fundraising.

GERRY ROLL, Executive Director, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Gerry Roll is the executive director of the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, a community foundation committed to establishing an endowment in southeastern Kentucky based on the principles of rural development philanthropy. The Foundation was created in 2006 by Hazard Perry County Community Ministries, where Gerry served as executive director for 18 years. Her work in eastern Kentucky has been focused on equity in housing, early childhood education, and health care. In addition to the community foundation, under her leadership Hazard and Perry County established a regional Community Housing Development Organization, a federally qualified health center; a quality rated early care and education system and a full continuum of other support services for working families. She is recognized locally, regionally, statewide and nationally as an advocate for rural development and community philanthropy. Gerry lives in Busy, Kentucky with her husband Dan who is an architect.
SUSAN G. ZEPEDA, PH.D, President/CEO, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky

Susan G. Zepeda is President and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. Before joining the Foundation in 2005, she was the first CEO of The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County (1999-2005) and, prior to that, Director of the San Luis Obispo County (CA) Health Agency and CEO of that County’s General Hospital. She has served on the Boards of Grantmakers in Health, the National Association for County and City Health Officials, and as Vice President of the County Health Executives Association of California, where she was actively involved in efforts to realign public health funding and strengthen capacity to address local population health needs.

Dr. Zepeda is on the Boards of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, the Southeastern Council of Foundations and the Rotary Club of Louisville. She holds degrees from Brown University, University of Arizona and International College, and has completed the CDC-sponsored Public Health Leadership Institute.

ERIN WHITE, Associate Director, FSG

Erin brings experience working with nonprofit and government entities across a range of social issues, with a particular emphasis on creating and sustaining non-traditional public sector partnerships. Erin is currently leading projects in Dallas, Texas using a collective impact approach to improve child health outcomes, with an initial clinical focus on asthma and obesity. This effort includes 100+ organizations (government, healthcare, education, social service, parents and children) involved across multiple groups working on access to care, health care delivery, building healthy environments for children, equipping families for wellness, and other factors.

Erin has supported a number of projects with corporate, foundation, and nonprofit clients while at FSG. Other selected projects include: a collective impact planning effort for a coalition to fight youth substance abuse in Staten Island, New York; strategic and action planning for a metro United Way in its transition to a more catalytic, focused role in the community; and working with a leading extractive company to build a more strategic approach to selection, evaluation, and implementation of their global social investments.

MARY GWEN WHEELER, Executive Director, 55,000 Degrees

Mary Gwen Wheeler is the Executive Director of 55,000 Degrees. Previously, she served as the Mayor’s Sr. Advisor for Education and Youth for Louisville Metro Government, leading policy development and implementation of education and youth initiatives. In Jerry Abramson’s first term as Metro Mayor, she served as Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. In June of 2010, Ms. Wheeler was also appointed by Governor Beshear to the Kentucky Board of Education.

With a B.A. in American Studies and a Masters in Public and Private Management from Yale University, Ms. Wheeler also has experience in family literacy, workforce development, non-profit management, strategic planning, and international development. This included 10 years with the National Center for Family Literacy as a project manager and vice president of planning and development.

SUE SANTA, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Legal Affairs, Council on Foundations

Sue Santa is senior vice president for public policy and legal affairs at the Council on Foundations. Prior to joining the Council in January 2013, Santa was senior vice president for public policy at The Philanthropy Roundtable, where she developed and implemented the organization’s public policy and government relations strategy. She also served as senior director of public and legal affairs at the International Speedway Corporation (ISC), where she led an integrated federal, state, and local government affairs program for the nation’s largest motorsports entertainment company. Before ISC, Santa spent five years as an associate in the legislative practice group of Washington D.C.-based Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand working on a broad range of issues, including energy and oil production policy, transportation, international trade development, and crisis management.

Her first experience in Washington, D.C., was as special projects coordinator for U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, managing assignments related to education, human services, children’s issues, and the arts. She holds a B.A. in journalism and political science from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

MASON RUMMEL, President, James Graham Brown Foundation

Mason Rummel joined the Foundation in 1989. She had previously served as a political appointee with the Reagan administration where she was a Public Affairs Specialist at the White House Office of Management and Budget. She is a graduate of Sweet Briar College and earned her master’s degree in Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University. Mason serves on the boards of the Greater Louisville Project, 55,000 Degrees and the Episcopal Church Home. Other volunteer work includes membership on the Public Policy Committee of the Council on Foundations, member of the Alliance for Charitable Reform (public policy strategy committee of the Philanthropy Roundtable), as well as the Public Policy, Program and Membership committees of the Southeastern Council of Foundations. She is a founding member of the Grantmakers of Kentucky and the Donors Forum of Kentuckiana. Previous volunteer work includes the Music Academy of St. Francis, Success by Six, Kentucky Community Service Commission, Anchorage Children’s Theatre, Friends of the Waterfront, and numerous fundraising committees in the community.

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The Southeastern Council of Foundations strives to support Members and grantmakers with access to education, resources and networking by serving as a convener and facilitator, offering a diverse range of voices and perspectives. We do not endorse colleague organization views, but rather aim to provide access to a broad range of information and resources to increase grantmaking impact and develop philanthropic leaders throughout the region.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

It's an exciting new time for Kentucky foundations. Shortages of resources and the potential for new policies are ushering in a new era of conversation and cooperation among foundations and between funders & policy makers. Grantmakers of Kentucky was created to help foster those connections and inform grantmakers about the possibilities - and potential challenges - that lie ahead in our state. At this fourth Annual Conference in Louisville, Grantmakers have the opportunity to connect with their fellow Kentucky colleagues, share best practices, discover new resources - and increase the state’s Grantmaking impact.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

ABOUT GRANTMAKERS OF KENTUCKY
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ABOUT SECF
The Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF) is one of the nation’s largest regional associations of grantmakers, serving more than 325 of the most dynamic foundations and corporate giving programs in the South. SECF works in partnership with members in 11 Southeastern states to serve, strengthen, promote and champion the South’s philanthropic voice and infrastructure through engaging programming, leadership development training, access to unique resources and invaluable connections. By encouraging insightful philanthropic collaboration - like Grantmakers of Kentucky’s Annual Conference, SECF creates opportunities to increase the region’s grantmaking impact and empower transformational community change.

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