

**2014 Nonprofit Leadership Conference**  
**“Empowering Nonprofits”**  
**May 28-28 – Bismarck, ND**

**Speaker Bios – General Sessions**

**Kate Barr**, executive director of Nonprofits Assistance Fund, leads a premier financial management resource based in Minnesota by providing training, strategic financial counsel and loans to the nonprofit community. Previously, she served as senior vice president of Riverside Bank where she was responsible for strategic planning, marketing and community development lending. With her unique insight and experience, Kate is an experienced speaker, trainer and writer on nonprofit management and financial issues and will speak about nonprofit sustainability at the conference.



**David Thompson** is vice president of public policy for the National Council of Nonprofits. Previously, he served as director of government affairs at Independent Sector and also as senior counsel and policy director to the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Before working on Capitol Hill, David directed federal policy for a consulting firm and practiced law for 17 years specializing in labor relations, employment law and government contracting, as well as government relations at the federal and state levels. He will share his expertise on advocacy and public policy at the conference.



**Jay Wilkinson** is the founder and CEO of Firespring, a Nebraska-based marketing and internet services company with more than 3,000 clients on five continents. He has educated thousands on topics ranging from marketing to technology to the internet. As a board member of several nonprofits, he understands the importance of utilizing the web as a tool to communicate and build relationships with constituents. Jay has appeared on CNN and other news programs discussing how emerging technologies affect nonprofits and is considered a leading authority on the proper use of the web as a tool to enhance the core mission of any enterprise.



## Speaker Bios – Breakout Sessions

**Leslie Bakken Oliver, JD**, is a lawyer at the Vogel Law Firm in its Bismarck office. Her practice concentrates on labor and employment law and healthcare law. She is a 1991 graduate of the University of North Dakota Law School with distinction. Leslie is a co-editor of the *North Dakota Employment Law Letter*, a monthly newsletter published for employers and human resource professionals. She has been named to Best Lawyers in America™ and as a Great Plains Super Lawyer™.

**Deb Schaffer** is a Microsoft Certified Trainer and project manager at DFC Consultants. She works with all industries, helping businesses determine the best software solution for their needs. She assists customers with installation and ongoing support and teaches classes. Deb has presented educational and information sessions throughout North Dakota, speaking on topics related to software, computers, customer relationship management and accounting.

**Bob Fitch** is president of Cain Consulting Group Inc. He has 20 years of experience as a CEO and staff member at nonprofit associations and 30 years of experience in association and business communications. Bob has been recognized by his peers through election as president of both national and state professional organizations and has also received numerous awards for nonprofit programs in marketing, communications, public service and membership.

**Candace Haugen** is the vice president of human resources & board relations with The Village Family Service Center. She has been with the organization for 27 years and earned her Professional in Human Resources certification in 1998. Candace was instrumental in developing the 360 performance evaluation process the organization currently uses. She also provides training to Village supervisors on various HR issues on a quarterly basis.

**Kevin Dvorak, CFP®**, is the president and CFO of the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF). He joined NDCF as program officer in 1989. In January of 1995, Kevin was appointed president of NDCF. Under his leadership, the Foundation has grown from an asset base of \$5 million to over \$58 million. He is a member of NDANO's Public Policy Advisory Committee. Kevin has presented numerous workshops and programs on fundraising and planned giving across the state of North Dakota and also consulted with private and community foundations in the upper Midwest.

**Kris Kerzman** is the digital media producer for The Arts Partnership, where he works on the digital publication *ARTSpulse*, producing text, video, photos and audio to support Fargo's thriving arts community. His interests lie in digital media, the arts and creativity, technology and culture, and professional communication, PR and branding.