

## *One Minnesota Legislative Policy Conference*

**January 14, 2009**

### **Speaker Biographies**

**Duane Benson** is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. He also was the Executive Director of the Minnesota Business Partnership from 1994 to 2003. Benson served in the Minnesota Senate from 1980 to 1994, and was the Senate Minority Leader for a period during that time. He graduated with honors from Hamline University. Benson was drafted into the NFL and played eleven seasons as a linebacker for the Oakland Raiders, Atlanta Falcons, and Houston Oilers. He continues to own and operate a cattle farm outside of Lanesboro and is active in numerous civic and charitable organizations. Benson is also a member of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities Board of Trustees.

**Dan Berglund** is the President and CEO of the State Science and Technology Institute, a non-profit organization that leads, supports, and strengthens efforts to improve state and regional economies through science, technology, and innovation. SSTI is the most comprehensive resource available for those involved in technology-based economic development. Leading SSTI since its inception in 1996, Mr. Berglund has helped SSTI develop a nationwide network of practitioners and policymakers dedicated to improving the economy through science and technology. Prior to joining SSTI, Mr. Berglund worked as a consultant and for the Ohio Department of Development in a variety of positions, including Acting Deputy Director of the Division of Technological Innovation. Mr. Berglund holds a B.A. in Economics and Political Science and a B.A. in History from Ohio University.

**Peter T. Bianco** is Director of Lifescience Business Development for Hallelund Health Consulting. In this role, Peter is responsible for identifying and working with early-stage and large businesses who develop a variety of medical technologies and related services. Peter focuses specifically on successful early-stage commercialization and implementing the financial and physical infrastructure to support it. Previously, Peter served in leadership roles with Bioscience Business Development, LLC, University Enterprise Laboratories, Phillips Plastics Corporation, and RecoveryCare, Inc. Peter began his career in Orthopedic Biomechanics Research at both the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN. He is also a founder and board member of Suffolk University's Center for Innovation and Change Leadership (CICL) in Boston, Massachusetts where he also earned his MBA.

**Mary Brainerd** is President and Chief Executive Officer of HealthPartners. Prior to joining HealthPartners in 1992, she served in senior level marketing and management positions with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, and Blue Plus. She received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota and M.B.A. from the University of St. Thomas. She was awarded the Medal of Distinction from the College of St. Catherine, the University of St. Thomas Award for Ethical Leadership, and was named one of the *Business Journal's* Most Influential Women in Business in 1999 and 2002.

**Laurie Brown** is CEO and president of Restore Products in Minneapolis, which sells environmentally friendly cleaning products and patented refill stations for the products. She's secured just about every type of capital for her company, starting with a government grant, friends and family money, vendor financing, bridge loans, and most recently a \$1.6 million equity investment arranged by Aethlon Capital. Before founding Restore Products, Ms. Brown was a pioneer in helping to launch the community mental health movement in Minnesota in the mid 70's, selling microcomputers before IBM even had the PC, and opening the second environmental store in the U.S. Ms. Brown received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Waste Prevention, the Finance and Commerce Innovator of the Year award, and Twin Cities Business Monthly named Restore Products as one of the Top 25 Companies to watch. She graduated from Macalester College.

**Steven Cochrane** is Senior Managing Director at Moody's Economy.com where he directs a broad range of the firm's economic research activities. Dr. Cochrane directs the regional economic service in which he manages a large-scale econometric system of regional models that are used to provide projections of economic, demographic, real estate, and financial indicators. Dr. Cochrane oversees the forecasts for all 50 states. Dr. Cochrane is editor of the *Regional Financial Review*, our monthly publication that analyzes current macro, regional, industry and international economic trends. He has appeared or spoken on Wall Street Radio, NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and CNBC. Dr. Cochrane received his Ph.D. in Regional Science from the University of Pennsylvania, his master's degree from the University of Colorado, and his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis.

**Ron Feldman** is the Senior Vice President for Supervision, Regulation and Credit at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Ron joined the Bank in 1995 in the supervision department. He became an officer of the Bank in 1999, a managing officer in 2004 and Senior Vice President in 2008. In addition to assuming increasing responsibilities in the supervisory arena, Ron has also run the Financial Services Support Office, which assists in the oversight of the Federal Reserve's financial services, during his tenure. Ron has published research on a wide array of banking and financial topics. He is the co-author of *Too Big to Fail: The Hazards of Bank Bailouts*, published by the Brookings Institution (2004). He has a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and an M.P.A. from Syracuse University.

**Brad Finstad** is executive director and chief executive officer of the Center for Rural Policy and Development. Before this position, Mr. Finstad served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives where was on the Minnesota House's agriculture, finance and health and human services committees. He has been involved in the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, the Minnesota Pork Producers, the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives. He received his bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota.

**Gallup-Healthways:** In an unprecedented partnership for American health transformation, Gallup and Healthways are providing a new national daily pulse of individual and collective health and well-being, as well as solutions for a healthy America. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index will be the largest collection of data related to the health and well-being of large populations ever assembled. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index is designed to be the Dow Jones of health, giving a daily measure of people's well-being at the close of every day. With a daily measure, determining the correlation between the places where people work and the communities in which they live, and how it impacts their well-being, is now possible. Additionally, the Well-Being Index will increase an understanding of how those factors impact the financial health of corporations and communities. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, a unique partnership in research and care, began in January 2008, and surveys 1,000 Americans every day.

**Tom Gillaspay** has served as the Minnesota State Demographer since 1979. The State Demographer is part of the Minnesota Planning Agency, whose mission is to inform policy decisions through long-range planning and to provide policy makers and the public with accurate information and analysis about emerging and critical issues. Gillaspay received his Ph.D. in economics from the Pennsylvania State University, specializing in economic demography.

**Doug Henton** is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Collaborative Economics, which specializes in regional economic development. Doug has more than 30 years of experience in innovation and economic development at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Doug is nationally recognized for his work in bringing industry, government, education, research, and community leaders together around specific collaborative projects to improve regional competitiveness. Doug has worked extensively in California to help develop regional economic and innovation strategies. He has also been consultant to a number of other state and regional agencies and organizations around the country. Doug holds a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Yale University and a master of public policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Barbara J. Hinton** heads the Legislative Division of Post Audit, the audit arm of the Kansas Legislature. Since joining the Division in 1977, Ms. Hinton has had more than 30 years of experience conducting, managing, and overseeing performance audits that assess the efficiency, effectiveness, economy, or results of government agencies and programs. Since becoming Post Auditor in 1991, her office has twice been awarded the Excellence in Evaluation Award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society. Ms. Hinton has been very active in the government audit community. In 2006, she received the Distinguished Leadership award from the National State Auditor's Association. Ms. Hinton also has made numerous presentations to national, regional, and local audit and accounting groups, both professional and academic, and has conducted numerous training workshops on performance auditing across the country.

**Hubert Joly** became president and chief executive officer of Carlson in March 2008. Joly previously served for more than three years as president and chief executive officer of Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT), and is now chair of the CWT Board of Directors. With broad international experience, Joly came to CWT from Vivendi Universal, and previously worked for Electronic Data Systems (EDS) Europe, EDS France, and McKinsey & Company. Joly is a business administration graduate of HEC Paris and a public administration graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. He is a member of the executive committee of the World Travel and Tourism Council and the Board of Trustees of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. He was honored as one of the 25 Most Influential Executives of the Business Travel Industry (2006) by *Business Travel News* magazine, and recently became a member of the Minnesota Business Partnership.

**Ken Powell** is chairman and chief executive officer of General Mills, the world's sixth-largest food company. Powell joined General Mills in 1979 and progressed through a variety of positions in the company, including president of Yoplait USA, president of General Mills' Big G cereal division, and chief executive officer of Cereal Partners Worldwide, the company's joint venture with Nestlé based in Lausanne, Switzerland. Powell serves on the General Mills board of directors, the Medtronic board of directors, the supervisory board of Cereal Partners Worldwide, and the Greater Twin Cities United Way. Powell is a member of the Business Council, the Business Roundtable, and the Minnesota Business Partnership. Powell earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Harvard in 1976 and his MBA from Stanford University in 1979.

**Stu Rosenfeld**, President of Regional Technology Strategies, specializes in cluster strategies to promote economic development focusing on education and workforce training, rural development, and technology policy. He authored a recent report on the knowledge economy for the NGA and the Council on Competitiveness, which identified strategies for states to promote economic growth by capitalizing on clusters of business firms and allied economic and institutional actors that are located near each other and benefit from each other. He has advised or testified in the U.S. Congress and National Academy of Sciences on technology and education policies. Past positions include stints at the Southern Growth Policies Board, National Institute of Education, and General Electric. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award by The Competitiveness Institute in Barcelona in 2004. Mr. Rosenfeld received an Ed.D. in Educational Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Kate Rubin** is President of the Minnesota High Tech Association, which supports the growth, sustainability and global competitiveness of Minnesota's technology-based economy. She serves on the Governor's Education Council, the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute Advisory Board, the U of M Dean's Advisory Board for the Institute of Technology, the University of St. Thomas School of Engineering Board of Governors and is a member of Minnesota Business magazine's editorial advisory board. In 2006 she was named one of Minnesota's women in business industry leaders by the Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal. Ms. Rubin holds a BBA from the University of Iowa and completed her Master's course work in Human Resource Development at the University of Minnesota.

**Tom Stinson** is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota's Department of Applied Economics and serves as the Minnesota State Economist. Stinson has a special interest in public finance and regional economic development. He received his Ph.D from the University of Minnesota in 1973.

**Susan K. Urahn** is managing director of the Pew Center on the States at The Pew Charitable Trusts. Sue oversees Pew's work in early education and other state-based initiatives, such as government performance, corrections and election reform. Sue began her tenure at The Pew Charitable Trusts in 1994. During her tenure, Sue and her staff developed and introduced new methodologies to measure and strengthen the effectiveness of Pew's approach to results-focused strategic philanthropy. Currently, Sue manages a portfolio that advances policy solutions at the state level and has an annual budget of \$32 million. Sue joined Pew with more than a decade of experience in educational evaluation and policy research. She arrived from the Research Department of the Minnesota House of Representatives, where she staffed the House Education Committee and Education Finance Division. Sue also conducted higher education policy research at the University of Minnesota. Sue holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a doctorate in education policy and administration from the University of Minnesota.

**Dale Wahlstrom** is CEO of the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota, which promotes bioscience-based businesses in the state of Minnesota. Before coming to the BioBusiness Alliance, he worked at Medtronic as Vice President of Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management Venture Programs and Cardiac Rhythm Management Therapy Delivery business. Before Medtronic, he held management and sales positions at Litton Microwave and Burroughs Corporation. He was awarded Medtronic's Star of Excellence Award and Wallin Leadership Award as well as being recognized as the outstanding graduate of the year by the engineering department of St. Cloud State University. He currently has nine patents in medical device technology with more pending. Mr. Wahlstrom received his M.S. in Systems from the University of St. Thomas in 1994, and his B.S. in Engineering and Technology from St. Cloud State University in 1978.