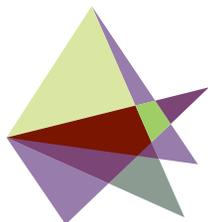




CHANGE NETWORK

NORTH DAKOTA



NAS

NATIONAL ARTS STRATEGIES



Jessica Ackerman
Minot



Matuor Alier
Fargo



Annette Carlson
Mercer



Mark Clemons
Watford City



Simeon Edosomwan
Fargo



Trish Floyd
Fargo



Brandi Jude
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Renee Stromme
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Jessica Ackerman
Minot

Jessica Ackerman is a community advocate, passionate volunteer, and productive and positive leader. As managing partner of Aksal Group, LLC, she is embarking on a property redevelopment effort to promote downtown Minot as a core place to live, work, and play. She is an involved board member of the Magic City Discovery Center, Minot's children's museum; a member of Give360°, a local giving circle; a Junior Achievement classroom leader; and a regular volunteer at community events and in her kids' classrooms.

For a decade, she was the business manager of a local design consulting firm, and has enjoyed the past few years as a stay-at-home parent. Jessica holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from North Dakota State University. She and her high school sweetheart and husband, Ryan, have two children, Gunnar and Maggie; as a family, they look forward to weekends at Lake Sakakawea and family ski trips to Montana.

Jessica enjoys listening to live music, is an Olympics fanatic, and loves a good costume party! She is looking forward to being part of Change Network ND to greater impact the resurgence and vibrancy of the Minot community by lacing together and inspiring local organizations, entrepreneurs, and people of diverse backgrounds and interests.



Matuor Alier
Fargo

Matuor Dot Alier, was born in Bor, South Sudan. He fled to the neighboring country of Ethiopia during the Sudan war, and spent 10 years in a refugee camp in Ethiopia before coming to America in 2006.

Matuor went to Phoenixville area high school and is a graduate of Penn State University. He is currently EW at economic department of Cass County Government, spokesperson for Fargo-Moorhead Refugee Advisory Council, Director at South Sudanese Lutheran Church, representative and voting member of ELCA synods, and a homeowner in South Fargo.

Matuor is a member of Cohort Gathering, SS youth Director of Plain Art Museum, a great father and husband, faith driven individual.



Annette Carlson
Mercer

Annie Carlson grew up as the oldest child (aka “hired hand”) of a conventional, diversified farm family. Field work to livestock handling, cooking to sewing, Annie developed a strong work ethic at an early age. She and her husband currently operate a beyond organic, grass-based farm that strives to regenerate the landscape and their local food system. Their three homeschooled children provide comic relief and playtime.

Her work experiences include five years as a 9th grade science teacher, four years as adjunct professor of biology, three years as a corporate trainer and ten years of wife-hood, motherhood and farm-hood. She was named the 2015 Country Woman of the Year by the Farm and Ranch Guide.

Photo courtesy of Leah Black



Mark Clemons
Watford City

Mark Clemons has over 30 years of experience in estate and financial planning, including over 20 years of experience in local and regional management of Bank Trust and Wealth Management departments. Mark holds a B.A. degree in International Relations/Pre-Law from the University of Dayton and a J.D. Law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. Mark has expertise in legal and tax planning, high net worth investment management, charitable planning and nonprofit management. He is a member of the West Dakota Estate Planning Council in Bismarck.

Mark and his wife, Kim, live in Watford City. Mark and Kim moved to North Dakota from Puyallup, Washington. They have five daughters and became grandparents last October. They also have 4 dogs....all rescues. Mark serves on the Board of the Northwest North Dakota Community Foundation and on the Board of the Long X Arts Foundation. He is also serving as the 2017-18 President of the Watford City Rotary Club. In his spare time he loves playing golf and tennis and has served the past two years as the tennis instructor for the Watford City Park and Recreation’s summer tennis program.

Mark grew up in the Kansas City area, graduating from High School in Overland Park, Kansas.



Simeon Edosomwan
Fargo

Simeon O. Edosomwan is a Ph.D. candidate at North Dakota State University. He is also the owner of Gracious International and an Inspirational speaker. He has worked with many organizations both here in the United States and Nigeria. His passion cuts across many works of life and dispositions. In addition, he loves nature, culture, and diversity.

This past spring, he was part of a leadership team that puts together the NDSU TEDEX event, an inspiring show that brings speakers from diverse backgrounds to share ideas worth spreading to inspire others. He has spoken at many forums and conferences, including Toastmasters International, and tops club International Fargo convention. He is a member and a regular participant at the annual Association of American Adult and Continuing Education Conference (AAACE).

This coming fall at Memphis, Tennessee, Simeon will be delivering three presentations at the AAACE conference on sustaining global student mobility in the United States. He loves education, community engagement, and making a difference. He is constantly thinking and working on ways he can make a difference in the society. Currently, he is working on his doctoral dissertation, as well as starting up a non-profit that will assist international students studying in Minnesota and North Dakota. He is blessed with three kids and looks forward to greater life accomplishments.



Trish Floyd
Fargo

Trish Floyd loves states that end in “ota”. She was born in Minnesota, raised in South Dakota, started her career and lived in North Dakota for four years, and now resides in, and is back to where she started, Minnesota. She and her husband love all things outdoors - camping at the top of their list of favorite weekend pastimes. When not adventuring in the great outdoors, Floyd instructs group fitness classes including indoor cycling, Tabata, and BodyPump, at two local gyms.

Floyd is an Assistive Technology (AT) Consultant with North Dakota Assistive. Trish has worked with people with disabilities from her teenage years to now through roles as a volunteer, and through career roles as a Teaching Counselor at the Abbott House in Mitchell, SD. She holds a BFA from Dakota Wesleyan University. Trish received her Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) certification, a national accreditation from the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) in 2016.

Her work with Assistive since 2012 has focused on helping people of all ages find AT solutions for communication, hearing, memory, learning, vision, computer access, and home/work modifications. She provides technical assistance, trainings, equipment demonstrations/setup, consultations, evaluations, and assistance with funding issues.



Brandi Jude
Bismarck

Brandi is a veteran and social entrepreneur who has dedicated her life to service. Throughout her time in the service, she had the opportunity to serve abroad in Iraq and Germany. She has a range of insight about people and social issues that have a local, national, and global impact. She dares to take risks, meet new challenges, and most importantly, capitalize on her personal strengths.

These qualities brought Brandi back to ND to start-up the non-profit, Invisible Innocence, which focuses on the human trafficking. Brandi continues to pursue many opportunities to enrich her competency and proficiency to combating human trafficking; while attributing to Invisible Innocence's success such as:

- Serves on the AG Human Trafficking Commission's training sub-committee
- Women's Leadership Alumni
- Member of Centurion Toastmasters Club
- Founding Member of BisMan Power of 100
- Serves on Bismarck MDT

In her spare time, Brandi thrives in testing her limits as a human being in travel, work, and activities with her loved ones.



Pam Karpenko
Minot

Pam lives in Minot, ND with her husband and their two fur babies. She owns Mainstream Boutique in downtown Minot. She recently sold Clean Tech, a water and fire damage restoration company that she had owned for ten years where she achieved Master Restorer status placing her in the top 5% of her industry. Pam earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of North Dakota and Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Mary. She loves spending time with her husband, riding their Harley's on long trips and showing some of his muscle cars at car shows.

As a female business owner, Pam is passionate about strengthening, serving, and celebrating women. She has created a business culture encouraging women to support and celebrate each other. She believes when we feel good about ourselves, we carry ourselves with more confidence and we can conquer the world! In the non-traditional business she owned, Pam worked very hard to be perceived as an expert and a professional rather than by her gender.

Pam is a strong advocate for shopping local and spending your money where you live. It is important to educate our neighbors on the economics of what drives our local economy. She wants her business to thrive and she wants her community to thrive. She believes collaborating with other small business owners creates amazing energy that is contagious!

Pam believes any success she may achieve in her life is through the grace of God, support from her family and friends, and personal courage.



Marilyn Lee
South Heart

Marilyn Lee has served as the Chair of Fine and Performing Arts at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, North Dakota since 2014. She has a B.A. in Art from Valdosta State University and M.F.A. in Photography and Printmaking from the University of Memphis. Lee has been employed at Dickinson State University since 2002. Prior to moving to ND, Lee taught art in Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas. She also served as the Director of Community Education at Memphis College of Art in Tennessee.

Lee has coordinated and led art workshops for high schools and adults in the community and surrounding region. She has received recognition for her work in the form of grants, residencies, and awards. One of which included Windows of the Dream Grant Project in collaboration with Ernest Withers, Civil Rights Photographer. She has been awarded a sabbatical for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Lee enjoys finding ways to collaborate across programs and departments to enhance student engagement. She looks forward to broadening her scope of collaboration outside of higher education. Lee is thrilled to be a part of the cohort. She plans to use this opportunity to build art partnerships within her community.



Zachary Packineau
Fargo

Zachary Packineau has spent the better part of his personal and professional career advancing social justice advocacy in the upper Midwest region. He is a graduate of North Dakota State University (BA, 2006) and the University of Mary (MBA, 2012), and is a former public librarian, the former organizer for the ACLU of North Dakota, and a proud alumnus of the Midwest Academy of Organizing for Social Change, the Social Justice Training Institute, and Camp Wellstone. A lifelong resident of North Dakota, Zach is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations and is a descendant of the Santa Clara Pueblo from northern New Mexico.

While mastering the art of wearing multiple hats in movement building, Zach has worked on two incredibly successful campaigns to defeat two restrictive ballot measures in North Dakota, each by a 2-to-1 margin. He is a founding member and the Chair of the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee to the North Dakota Department of Health and serves on the Board of Directors for PFund Foundation, the upper Midwest region's only LGBTQ community foundation. Zach lives in Fargo with his partner Josh and their miniature dachshund Koda. Zach is currently an Education and Outreach Specialist with Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota (PPMNS) and in his spare time practices his asanas in yoga class.



Kayla Schmidt
Bismarck

Kayla Schmidt was raised in Minot, North Dakota—known to locals as “The Magic City”. Not long after completing her undergraduate degree in English at Minot State University, she decided to trade her land-locked home state for a life next to the sea. In 2014 she moved to Norwich, England, often called “A Fine City”. She spent a year earning her Master’s Degree in Creative Nonfiction and Biography writing at the University of East Anglia.

Alas, there is no lefse in the United Kingdom, but she can’t find a good local cider in the States, so she’s often conflicted about where she’d like to be.

Today, Kayla lives in North Dakota’s capitol city of Bismarck where she is the Program Coordinator for the North Dakota Humanities Council, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing thoughtful and engaging humanities-based events and programs to communities statewide. Her main project is the GameChanger ideas festival which has allowed her to meet notable writers, journalists, and even Ben Franklin.

Kayla is an active member of the BisMan Young Professionals and various feminist groups. She volunteers at the annual Norsk Hostfest in Minot, usually serving stew in TromsØ Hall to Vikings. Her hobbies include collecting vintage paperbacks, rescuing mid-century modern furniture, gobbling the latest Netflix documentaries, and trying in vain to teach her parents’ puppy how to “shake”.

She’ll get around to writing a book someday. She hopes it will prove to be as Magic and Fine as the rest of her experiences thus far.



Fayme Stringer Henry
Grand Forks

Fayme Stringer Henry is a Licensed Social Worker who works with individuals and families in poverty, helping them to meet their basic needs. She is also a working wife to a current graduate student and a mother to four daughters, providing for her own family needs at the same time as trying to be a good role model for her kids and those she serves.

Fayme knows that there is more to poverty than available financial resources; it affects the ENTIRE human experience. She believes that sometimes just listening to and establishing a common connection with someone who may feel defeated by their current circumstances is enough to help them find hope again.

Fayme has been a Commissioner for several years on the Board of the Grand Forks Housing Authority, who was instrumental in the development of Grand Forks’ very first Housing First Option for chronically homeless individuals. Her life experience allows her participation on the Board at the Arc, Upper Valley, as well as facilitating their support group for family members/caregivers of those with disabilities.

Fayme has an active Social Work License from the State of North Dakota, and is also a Certified Nonprofit Professional through the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance and Certified Financial Social Worker through the Center for Financial Social Work.

Fayme graduated Cum Laude with a BSSW in Social Work, with minors in Nonprofit Leadership and Sociology from the University of North Dakota, and is looking for creative ways to continue her graduate education in Public Affairs.



Renee Stromme
Bismarck

Renee Stromme is the Sexual Assault Coordinator at the Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC) in Bismarck, ND. AARC has been helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault for more than 20 years. It serves families and individuals in distress throughout south central North Dakota. AARC programs, staff and volunteers have been widely recognized for their work in

building a healthier, safer community.

Renee recently took on this new challenge at AARC after eleven years as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Women's Network (NDWN), a statewide women's advocacy organization. Prior to founding the NDWN in 2006, Renee worked for a domestic violence shelter, a domestic violence legal clinic, and the ND Council on Abused Women's Services with a focus on reducing violence against women on college campuses. While doing this work, she recognized a large gap in North Dakota; there was no advocacy organization that addressed women's equality in a larger context. To fill this need, Renee worked with other leaders in the state to form the NDWN. Throughout her tenure at NDWN, she has advanced the status of women and girls in North Dakota through communication, legislation and increased public activism, with a policy focus on education, women's economic security, reproductive health and freedom from violence. Renee was named Business & Professional Women of Bismarck-Mandan's 2015 Woman of the Year and Bismarck-Mandan's Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program's Distinguished Alumni in 2016. In April 2015, Renee was honored by President Obama as a White House Champion of Change for Working Families.



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