

# CHANGE NETWORK

*SOUTH DAKOTA*



Jill Baker  
Sioux Falls



Stacey Berry  
Madison



Jared Hybertson  
Centerville



Kelsea Kenzy Sutton  
Burke



Patti Martinson  
Rapid City



Billy Mawhinney  
Sioux Falls



Carla Miller  
Sioux Falls



Alli Moran  
Eagle Butte



Andrea Powers  
Hot Springs



Traci Smith  
Sioux Falls



Adam Strenge  
Sioux Falls



Peter Strong  
Rapid City



Viola Waln  
Parmelee



Ernest Weston  
Porcupine



**Jill Baker**  
Sioux Falls

Born and raised on military bases, Jill Baker served her country in the United States Army during the Persian Gulf War era. After graduating from South Dakota State University in 1994, Ms. Baker moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where she worked in the human service field until she became a wife and mother.

Ms. Baker returned to Graduate School in the Spring of 2017 to continue her education and pursue her interest in

advocating for current and former service members who have experienced difficulties transitioning back into the civilian lifestyle. She is especially interested in developing collaborative impact networks for survivors of Military Sexual Trauma.

With a talent for writing, she has published numerous poems and a short story through the Veterans Voices Writing Project. It is her intent to continue expanding her role in these endeavors through both academic study and the Literary Arts.

Stacey Berry is an Associate Professor of English for New Media at Dakota State University, where she teaches classes in literature, new media, and writing. Her research and areas of interest include post-1945 American literature--especially multicultural texts and violence in literature and film--computational text analysis and digital collection.



**Stacey Berry**  
Madison

As a professor, Stacey works to represent vulnerable voices through her role as faculty advisor to the LGBTQ+ student group The Alliance and through her research project Honoring the Dead: A Digital Archive of the Insane Indian Asylum, supported in part by a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council. Her work also appears in Critical Essays on John Edgar Wideman, and [sic] - *A Journal of Literature, Culture and Literary Translation, and on digital humanities projects The Whitman Archive and Civil War Washington.*

Throughout her career, she has received recognition for her research and service, including two Faculty Research Initiative grants, The Alexander "Sandy" Davidson Award for Excellence in Advising from DSU, a Campus Action Project Grant from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), a Postdoctoral Research appointment at the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students from The Teaching Council and the UNL Parents Association.

She received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2007), an M.A. in English from Northern Illinois University (2002), and a B.A. in English and Writing from Stephen F. Austin State University (1996).

Stacey believes that to live a life of integrity and honesty, equality is the only option.



**Jared Hybertson**  
Centerville

reprographics manager, graphic designer, sales and marketing specialist, commercial sales account rep, customer service representative, and client care manager.

Jared and his wife Christe lived in the Sioux Falls, SD area for 7 years before deciding to get back to a more rural, small town lifestyle. In 2013 they moved to Centerville, SD where they now live with their 3 young children, Hogan, Hadisyn, and Henley. A year after Jared moved to Centerville he was encouraged to apply for the role of Economic Development Coordinator for the community. He has now held the role for 3 years. Jared is committed to helping Centerville's economic growth and sustainability. His main areas of focus within the community are businesses recruitment and retention, community development, marketing, housing, grant writing, volunteerism, and having a positive impact on the overall quality of life.

Jared is involved with several boards and organizations including the Centerville Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Junior Achievement, Centerville Care & Rehab Nursing Home Board, Centerville Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and the Turner County Value Added AG Committee.

In his free time Jared enjoys spending time with his wife and kids, photography, camping, cooking, watching movies, time with friends, and playing sports of all kinds.



Kelsea Kenzy Sutton currently enjoys her rural law practice as the Assistant Compliance Officer at First Fidelity Bank in Burke and serving as a Commissioner for Gregory County Ward 2. She graduated with a B.A. in History, English and Early Modern Studies from the University of Colorado and a J.D. and History M.A. from the University of South Dakota.



**Kelsea Kenzy Sutton**  
Burke

Prior to joining the First Fidelity team, she spent two years in private practice doing work that included family law, criminal defense and federal employment discrimination plaintiff's work. In addition to her work as a legal professional and elected official, Kelsea is passionate about rural community development, particularly in the fields of food security and public health. She sits on the following boards and coalitions: Burke Area Farmers Market, Fitness on Main, Burke Business Promotion Corporation, Burke Wellness Coalition, Gregory County Economic Development, Gregory Rotary Club, Gregory Food Council, P.E.O. Chapter Z, and Burke Day Care.

Kelsea aspires to prove that rural communities can be developed in a way that rivals their urban counterparts' services and amenities while working toward becoming sustainable places where all people thrive to enjoy good health and create a high quality of life. In her free time, Kelsea enjoys spending time with her husband Billie and son Liam, wakeboarding on the Missouri River, and reading historical fiction.



**Patti Martinson**

Rapid City

She became a volunteer with the Black Hills Center for Equality around 2008, first as a volunteer, then board member. She served as Board President for one year and currently remains on the board as a member at large. She was elected to The Rapid City Council and served two years. Being hearing-impaired, Patti wanted to serve as liaison to the Mayor's Committee on disabilities and then continued to be a member at large until 2017. She is proud of her work in helping facilitate the installation of the statue of noted disability activist, Scotty Backens, in Memorial Park.

With the loss of her brother to suicide, Patti became involved in local suicide prevention as a board member, a role that she still continues to serve. She enjoys reading, art, advocacy and in helping wherever she can to make her community better. Patti strongly believe in the arts as a means of social change on an individual and community level.

While she was born in Guam, Patti Martinson grew up in Montana and South Dakota in a family of one older sister and one younger brother and her mother and father. Patti attended middle school and high school in Sturgis, SD and has degrees from Western Dakota Tech, Black Hills State University and National American University.

When you think about your community, our future potential is always our driving force. Billy Mawhiney began his career in the nonprofit world in the late 90's while working through college, then later transitioning into the private sector through various management positions; he found his way back home to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire as the current Director of Operations.



**Billy Mawhiney**  
Sioux Falls

Billy is a proud father to an adorable and sassy 2 year old, a partner to an amazing husband and social equity builder. Throughout his career, Billy founded a nonprofit organization focused on the promise of family dinner, executed regional and national conferences, and brings to the table nearly 20 years of nonprofit management experience.



**Carla Miller**  
Sioux Falls

Carla is currently the Executive Director for SD Parent Connection. SDPC is the state of South Dakota's Parent Information Center and Family to Family Health Information Center serving families and individuals with disabilities and chronic healthcare needs.

Prior to working at SDPC, Carla worked as an Instructor at Dakota State University. There, Carla taught Spec Education coursework to pre-service special education majors. While there

she served on several committees and work groups. She also served and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of Valiant Living, a community service provider for adults with disabilities.

Carla worked for many years in the Sioux Falls School District, first as a Teacher, an Autism Team Leader, and finally as an Early Childhood Administrator. During those years she also conducted numerous staff development sessions on early childhood development and curriculum, behavior management, Autism and ADHD.

Finally, Carla has previous experience working at Children's Care Hospital and School, now Lifescape, in Sioux Falls. Carla helped develop programs and supports for children with Autism and challenging behaviors in both the classroom and residential setting, served on outreach evaluation teams and conducted consultations to families and school districts.

Carla's education background includes obtaining her Bachelor's Degree from NSU in Aberdeen and her Master's Degree from USD. She will be finishing her Doctorate Degree from USD by the end of 2017.

Carla lives in Sioux Falls, SD. She has two grown sons and extended family who live in Sioux Falls with whom she loves to spend her time.



Alli J. Moran is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. She grew up within the Wakpá Wašté (Cheyenne River) and Íŋyaŋ Woslál Hán (Standing Rock) Lakota Nations. She graduated from the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte High School where she first became active in attending tribal council meetings and intrigued with tribal sovereignty. Alli has since been very active both in her own reservation communities and throughout Indian Country due to her participation and election as President in the American Indian Higher Education Consortium Student Congress during her undergraduate career at the Institute of American Indian Arts where she graduated with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Indigenous Liberal Studies.

Alli is passionate in learning the historical and traditional forms of governance; and utilizes traditional knowledge in her work of restoration of traditional Lakota governing and leadership systems in accordance with contemporary paradigms. Overall, she aspires to help strengthen the core cultural value systems of her tribal nation.

Alli focuses on education and nation building, she aims to contribute in revitalization of her Lakota culture by upholding cultural values and utilizing knowledge systems within the westernized system we now live in. As a young Lakota woman, she applies her Lakota culture, values, knowledge, and way of thinking into her life and into her work where she chooses to live with a strong seventh generation mindset just as her ancestors have.



**Alli Moran**  
Eagle Butte



**Andrea Powers**  
Hot Springs

Andrea grew up in Memphis, TN and received a Bachelor's of Science from the Herff School of Engineering at Memphis State University. In 1986, she began working for the National Park Service at Wind Cave National Park and remained a seasonal employee for eight years working in natural resources. During this time, she pursued a degree in education in Nebraska and later a Masters in Education in South Dakota.

After a short stint as a locomotive engineer (which paid off her education debts), Andrea began a career in education, focusing on high risk youth ages 16-21. This was the most rewarding profession as she got to spend four hours a day with each of her students. That amount of time allowed them to bond and know each other in ways that are not possible under a normal school schedule.

After retiring from education, Andrea accepted the position of director of economic development for Fall River County. In this position, she has a unique opportunity to address some long-standing issues in South West South Dakota, namely, a lack of young people ages 25-40. This missing demographic has always concerned her as a healthy community like any organism, requires the full spectrum of age groups.



**Traci Smith**  
Sioux Falls

Traci Smith joined the Public Defender's Office in 1999 and has served as the Director since 2005. Traci has spent her career serving the poor as a criminal defense lawyer and in that capacity has also served as a litigator representing clients charged in capital offenses. Much of Traci's recent work has been assisting the seriously mentally ill through the civil involuntary commitment process. She is a 2011 recipient of the Attorney of the Year Award through Women in Law, and a published writer for the South Dakota Law Review, in *The Outlier Case: Proportionality Review in State v. Rhines*.

She is a graduate of the USD School of Law and SD State University, and alumna of Virginia Intermont College. Traci has been recognized for her volunteer contributions by the ABA Criminal Justice Section for the Juvenile Justice Collateral Consequences Project in 2012, and the 2012 publication of the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Prosecutions in South Dakota: A Guide for Criminal Defense Practitioners. She has been a speaker and presenter for numerous organizations, including SD Peace and Justice, the SD State Bar, and SD Trial Lawyers Association. She served as the Second Circuit Bar President from 2012-2013 and Secretary for the South Dakota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers from 2009-2012. Traci is an active participant in the Gideon's Promise leadership program and serves as an adjunct professor for the Indigent Defense Practicum through the USD School of Law.



**Adam Strenge**  
Sioux Falls

Adam is a very proud Sioux Falls, SD, native. It was there where he graduated from Augustana University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in religion and philosophy. He went on to get a Masters degree in Student Affairs Administration from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, and he currently works at

Southeast Technical Institute as a Retention and Housing Coordinator. At Southeast Tech he instructs a Strategies for Success course, assisting students on Academic Warning in building additional academic and personal skills. Also, Adam helps to manage the facilities and programs for the on-campus apartment complex, directing students' efforts to become integrated members of the campus and local communities.

Adam is going on his seventh year working as a professional in higher education at various institutions including Augustana University, Dakota State University and, most recently, at Southeast Technical Institute. He has long since had a passion for student success and development, and he looks forward to many more fruitful years inspiring positive change and growth within his places of responsibility.

Peter J. Strong has been working in the arts, culture, and museum fields for almost two decades. He has experience in community development, museum collections, exhibits, retail, customer service, grant writing, strategic planning, American history, Native art, Native history and cultures, historic preservation, and new media.

Peter served as Director of The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School and Vice President of Operations and Programs for First Peoples Fund before co-founding Racing Magpie - a creative hub in downtown Rapid City, South Dakota, featuring a modern Native art gallery, affordable artist studios, community programming, and arts consulting - with his wife Mary V. Bordeaux.

He has served on the Rapid City Arts Council board and the board of South Dakotans for the Arts, and was awarded a Trailblazer fellowship through the OTA organization in 2016. He is currently the chair of the organizing committee for the Native POP: People of the Plains cultural event. Peter and Mary live in Rapid City with their sons Austin Big Crow, currently a third-year student at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, and second-grader Cante Nunpa.



**Peter Strong**  
Rapid City



**Viola Waln**

Parmelee

Vi Waln is employed as the Higher Education Coordinator for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She also works as a free-lance journalist. She graduated with a Masters in Mass Communication from South Dakota State University. She also received a Bachelor of Arts in Lakota Studies from Sinte Gleska University.

Vi is Editor/Publisher of the Sicangu Scribe, a monthly independent newspaper. She is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's TECRO Commission (Tribal Employment and Contracting Rights Office) and Tax Commission. She is the Vice-President of He Dog Community.

Ernest Weston, Jr., an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, was born and raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

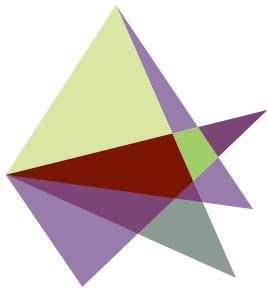
As a student at South Dakota State University, Ernest worked at the American Indian Education and Cultural Center, now known as the American Indian Student Center in various roles. He served as a Peer Mentor and was introduced to the field of Student Support Services and Student Affairs. This work helped him to quickly realize his passion in helping first year American Indian students transition to University settings. While doing this work, Ernest realized the need to establish a campus to campus American Indian student network. A way to allow native students to communicate, engage in advocacy, and build a solid cultural foundation at Non-Tribal Colleges and Universities (NTCU).

He envisions a state-wide student lead network/organization to serve American Indian students at NTCUs while also promoting education, leadership, capacity building, community and culture.



**Ernest Weston**

Porcupine



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This program is made possible by generous funding from the Bush Foundation and is the result of our partnership with the following incredible institutions:

