2015 Iowa Nonprofit Summit Takes Shape

The Iowa Nonprofit Summit will be held on November 9 and 10 at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. The Summit will offer breakout sessions, panel discussions, keynote speakers, exhibitors, and networking opportunities.

This year, keynote speakers are governance consultant Vicki Clark and author David Dye. Ms. Clark, senior governance consultant for BoardSource, speaks on November 9. Ms. Clark has extensive experience as a nonprofit leader, consultant, and trainer. She helps build the capacity of nonprofit, government, faith-based, and business sector organizations. Prior to her consulting work, Ms. Clark was with the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, DC.

David Dye addresses conferees on November 10. Mr. Dye has worked in the public and nonprofit sectors for more than twenty years. He has been an elected city councilman and nonprofit executive. He is the author of The Seven Things Your Team Needs to Hear You Say. His next book, Winning Well, will be published through AMACOM in spring 2016.

Recipients of the Iowa Nonprofit Awards will be recognized during the Summit as well. The awards are given to organizations, professionals, and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to their communities or

Summit Scholarship Honors Jude West

Jude West was a tremendous friend to Iowa nonprofit organizations. As a professor and co-director of the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center at the University of Iowa, he pioneered the successful and ongoing Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness courses; he assisted with the Endow Iowa program; he led training sessions on nonprofit principles and practices across the state; and he did so much more.

In memory of Jude, the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center is supporting a limited number of scholarships in his name to help Iowans who would otherwise be unable to attend the Iowa Nonprofit Summit. Most scholarships will

INRC Welcomes Sue Troyer

The Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center welcomes our newest staff member, Sue Troyer. Sue joins the staff as a half-time secretary. She had worked previously at the UI College of Law.
areas of service. Nominations may be submitted until October 15. For more details, see the article below.

Register online on or before October 19 for reduced rates for one or both days of the conference. After October 19, only on-site registration will be accepted, and rates will increase.

Nominations for Iowa Nonprofit Awards Now Open

The purpose of the Iowa Nonprofit Awards is to recognize outstanding leadership and operational excellence in Iowa's nonprofit and volunteer management community. Awardees will be recognized during the Iowa Nonprofit Summit to be held November 9 and 10 in Ames, Iowa.

Nonprofit leaders, volunteer management professionals, and members of the public are invited to nominate the professional staff and volunteers who help strengthen families, provide education, preserve pieces of history, make the arts accessible, and serve Iowans in countless other ways. Nominations are accepted in these categories:

- Nonprofit Spotlight Award
- Nonprofit Board/Staff Leadership Award
- Philanthropic Impact Award
- Outstanding Volunteer or National Service (AmeriCorps or Senior Corps) Program Award
- Outstanding Volunteer or National Service (AmeriCorps or Senior Corps) Manager Award
- Outstanding Nonprofit Collaboration Award

Additional details and the online nomination form are available at www.regonline.com/npsummit2015

Submissions will be accepted until 5 p.m. on October 15. For more information, contact: Jody Benz, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, icvs@iowa.gov, 515-725-3094

LAWINRC Staff to Present Summit Sessions

Two staff members from the LAWINRC will present sessions at the Iowa Nonprofit Summit.

Director Richard Koontz will present Starting Your Nonprofit in Iowa. Koontz will take participants through the steps required to set up a nonprofit organization and acquire tax-exempt status.

Assistant Director Paul Thelen will facilitate a workshop and panel discussion on Rural Nonprofit Collaboration. Panel members from Manning, Iowa, will discuss how their community has used resources to thrive in rural America.

The preliminary schedule includes sessions covering strategies to improve accountability, mobilizing disaster resources, developing and implementing an advocacy plan, succession planning, building corporate volunteer programs, and more.

Watch the Summit website for session dates, times, and posting of electronic materials.
Laura Sauser Leaves Iowa Council of Foundations

Laura Sauser, president of the Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF), left that post in August to pursue a graduate degree in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa.

Laura came to the ICoF in 2012 and had previously been the ICoF board chair. In her role as president, she served ICoF as a philanthropic leader in Iowa and within the nonprofit field.

A search for her replacement is currently underway.

Southeast Iowa Holds First Nonprofit Summit

by Paul Thelen, Assistant Director, LAWINRC

“The only people who can build a community are those who live, work, and sleep there,” said keynote speaker Jeff Yost, President and CEO of the Nebraska Community Foundation, at the first Southeast Iowa Nonprofit Summit.

Over 250 nonprofit board members, staff, and volunteers from across Iowa—as well as Missouri and Nebraska—gathered together at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa on September 17, 2015, for the opportunity to learn more about how to improve their organizations and strengthen their networks with peers and funders.

Nine additional speakers offered hour-long sessions on board governance, budgeting, fundraising, grant writing, marketing, social media, strategic planning, as well as organization and program evaluation.

The free event was sponsored by the Ottumwa Regional Legacy Foundation, United Way of Wapello County, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, Wapello County Foundation, and TD&T CPAS’s & Advisors

USDA Secretary Vilsack Makes Case for Rural Investment at National Assembly

Rural is where the solutions are, Vilsack stresses

The declining support of rural nonprofits by major foundations was a topic of discussion at the National Rural Assembly September 8-10 in Washington DC, but it gained additional attention when United States Department of Agriculture Secretary and former Iowa governor, Tom Vilsack, put aside a prepared speech to respond to questions from assembly participants. He touted the positive aspects of rural America and the many contributions it makes to the country’s quality of life yet expressed frustration at major foundations’ decreasing investment in rural organizations.

A study done by the USDA earlier this year found that, in 2010, 19 percent of the population was rural, yet between 2005 and 2010, rural-based organizations received 6-7 percent of private foundation grants.

The report states, “While the total value of foundation grants investing there, you’re not going to have the energy future you want.”

For more on the National Rural Assembly and the topic of rural philanthropy, see the following:


Rick Cohen’s Nonprofit Quarterly article: http://nonprofitquarterly.org/2015/09/14/philanthropy-ideas-rural-foundations-on-increasing-rural-philanthropy/


Compiled by Diane DeBok, Editor & Content Manager
About Our Organization

The Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center is a University of Iowa interdisciplinary collaboration created to make more accessible educational and service programs focused on strengthening the operational capacity of Iowa nonprofit organizations.

The LAWINRC works collaboratively with government agencies, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to impart new knowledge through activities and provide information and training resources to help nonprofit organizations and interested persons throughout Iowa. We seek to build the capacity and develop the effectiveness of community-based organizations and enhance the overall effectiveness of local organizations in building communities.

The LAWINRC also introduces students to the nonprofit sector and develops their sense of public and community service.