

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Floyd E. Barwig, AIA**

Floyd Barwig is the director of the Iowa Energy Center, located in Ames, Iowa. For the past 25 years, Mr. Barwig's career has focused on energy issues. Immediately prior to joining the Energy Center in 1996, he was the manager of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's buildings research programs.

Mr. Barwig is a licensed architect and member of the American Institute of Architects. He holds a bachelor of science and bachelor of architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a master's in architecture from the University of California at Berkeley.

### **Robert C. Brown**

Dr. Robert Brown is the Bergles Professor in thermal science at Iowa State University (ISU). He holds the rank of professor in the departments of Mechanical Engineering, Chemical and Biological Engineering, and Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering. His research focuses on the thermochemical processing of biomass into energy, fuels, and chemicals.

Dr. Brown is the Iowa Farm Bureau Director of the Office of Biorenewables Programs, which coordinates research in bioenergy and biobased products at ISU. He has published the textbook, Biorenewable Resources: Engineering New Products from Agriculture, and helped establish at ISU the first graduate program in the United States to offer degrees in biorenewable resources. Dr. Brown is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering.

### **Bill Couser**

Bill Couser is the owner operator of Couser Cattle Company in Nevada Iowa. After graduating from Des Moines Community College, he worked for Deere and Company until 1977, when he started farming and raising livestock. Mr. Couser is very involved with ISU in biomass harvesting equipment, animal nutrition, nitrogen and manure studies and vet science on animal health. He serves on Lincolnway Energy as board president, Director of Heart of Iowa Coop, director on the Nevada Economic Development Council, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association board secretary, director on the Cattleman Association, and director on the Story County Extension Council.

### **Thomas D. Guzman**

Thomas Guzman has been with the Iowa Department of Economic Development since January 1988. As director of the Iowa Downtown Resource Center, Mr. Guzman oversees all downtown development programs of the department, including its premier program, Main Street Iowa. He has been a real estate broker, retail sales manager, nonprofit association manager, Main Street program director, and state coordinator prior to becoming the downtown resource center director. His current responsibilities include managing a million

dollar annual budget, overseeing the planning and delivery of technical assistance services, training, and assessments for Iowa's 37 Main Street communities and for developing technical assistance and training opportunities for all Iowa communities.

Mr. Guzman represents all of the USA's State and Citywide Main Street coordinating programs on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Community Development Financial Institution and Diversity Council. He has presented at many national and international downtown conferences, and has a bachelor of arts from California State University Hayward.

### **William Haman, P.E.**

William Haman is a registered professional engineer in the States of Iowa and Wisconsin. He earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Iowa and a master of science in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University. Mr. Haman has 27 years of engineering experience in both the public and private sectors. His career began with ten years of service at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he served as a design engineer and team lead for the mechanical/ electrical section. He left the Corps of Engineers for a facility engineer position at the University of Iowa's Physical Plant before joining Mead & Hunt Consulting Engineers, where he served as a senior design engineer/project manager. Mr. Haman joined the Iowa Energy Center in 1995, where he has served as the Industrial Programs manager. He additionally assumed responsibilities for managing the Iowa Energy Center's Alternate Energy Revolving Loan Program in 1996.

### **Willis M. Hansen**

Willis Hansen is the president and CEO of State Bank of Lawler in New Hampton, Iowa, and chairman of the board at First Community Bank in Savage, Minnesota. Prior to banking he was vice president of Manufacturing and director of Clay Equipment Corporation in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Mr. Hansen is a past director of Bankers Bank in Madison, Wisconsin, Iowa Bankers Association, and Iowa Bankers Insurance & Services, Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa. He is a director of the New Hampton Industrial Corporation.

Mr. Hansen was one of the founding members of Golden Grain Energy, LLC, in Mason City, Iowa. He was also involved with Northeast Community College in Calmar, Iowa, in the building of the very successful 150 Dairy Cow project.

### **Denny Harding**

Denny Harding is the Business Services Administrator for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, where he works on the development of agriculture-related value added businesses. He also works with members to enhance rural vitality through the development of programs and projects that create economic opportunity in rural areas.

Before joining Farm Bureau in 1999, Mr. Harding operated a corn and soybean farm in Calhoun County, in which he is still involved. He was also director of value added agriculture for the Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation, and was instrumental in the formation of the Agricultural Development and Promotion Foundation, which serves North Central Iowa. Currently, Mr. Harding serves as treasurer of the Iowa Rural Development Council, a nonprofit entity whose mission is "to enhance the development potential of Iowa's rural areas." He was raised on a family farm near Rockwell City and graduated from Iowa State University with degrees in agricultural business and agricultural education.

### **Steven W. Kuehl**

Steven Kuehl is the consumer regulations director for the Consumer and Community Affairs division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Mr. Kuehl conducts seminars and workshops, and prepares articles and other written materials dealing with consumer compliance banking regulations. Since joining the Bank in September 1995, Mr. Kuehl has served as a commissioned senior examiner on consumer compliance and CRA examinations, as well as manager for Consumer Complaints, HMDA Processing, and the Advisory Service Program.

Prior to joining the Reserve Bank, Mr. Kuehl was an examiner for the Office of Thrift Supervision beginning in 1990. He holds a bachelor of science in finance and economics from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and a juris doctor from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Mr. Kuehl is a member of the General Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Illinois Bar.

### **Keith Kutz**

Keith Kutz is the chief administrator for the Iowa Energy Center. He has been involved in energy-related research for 18 years, the last 10 with the Iowa Energy Center. Previously he worked at the U.S. Department of Energy and at Virginia Tech on fossil fuel research. At the Energy Center Mr. Kutz is responsible for overall financial and administrative management of a \$3.5 million annual grant and research program. Additionally, he serves as the financial administrator of the Energy Center's Alternate Energy Revolving Loan Program.

### **David Miller**

David Miller is director of research and commodity services for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF). In that position, he coordinates the research programs of the Federation and the various commodity services offered by the Federation. He oversees the BIC Cattle program, the Carbon Credit Trading program and provides economic analysis of agricultural issues. He is a primary liaison for the Federation with state and national commodity organizations. Mr. Miller joined IFBF in 1998 as director of commodity services.

Prior to working for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Mr. Miller served as a commodity policy specialist for the American Farm Bureau. He is active in production agriculture, operating a 400 acre grain farm in southern Iowa. He is also active in several national professional organizations.

### **John Miranowski**

John Miranowski is professor of economics and director of the Institute of Science and Society, Iowa State University. He joined the Department of Economics at Iowa State University as professor and chair in January 1995, and served as chair of the department until 2000. He was recently appointed director of the Institute of Science and Society. He was director of the Resources and Technology Division of ERS, USDA, 1984-1995, and served as special assistant in Office of Secretary of Agriculture, 1990-1991. Mr. Miranowski received the Department of Agriculture's Distinguished Service Honor Award for Biofuels Program Development (1993).

Prior to his service with USDA, Mr. Miranowski served as assistant and associate professor of economics at Iowa State from 1975-1984, doing extensive work in water quality and natural resource issues. Current research includes: demand and supply drivers for ethanol and other biofuels; what are the rural development impacts of expanding the biofuels industry; what factors are important in achieving rural economic growth in the Midwest; and what are the economic tradeoffs in improving water quality?

### **Helen K. Mirza**

Helen Mirza joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in October, 1996, and is currently a Community Affairs Program Director. She is a supervising examiner with experience as examiner-in-charge for both safety and soundness and compliance examinations. Prior to joining the Federal Reserve, Ms. Mirza was with the United States Treasury Department, Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) since its inception in 1989 as Community Affairs liaison, and was with the predecessor organization, The Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago since 1975. She is a former vice president of Mergers and Acquisitions for the Federal Home Loan Bank and was also a supervisory agent with special assignment for liquidations and troubled institutions.

Ms. Mirza graduated summa cum laude from Marymount College with a degree in English and secondary education, and is also a graduate of John Marshall Law School. She is licensed to practice law in Illinois.

**Lucy Norton**

Lucy Norton serves as the managing director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA), the trade association representing Iowa's renewable fuels industry. She manages the association's marketing programs, which include E85, biodiesel and distillers grains, and member services. In addition, she assists with membership activities and communications.

Prior to joining the IRFA, Ms. Norton served as director of marketing for the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and Iowa Corn Growers Association for 25 years. She was responsible for directing and coordinating the activities and programs relating to market development and value-added corn processing. While on the Iowa Corn staff, Ms. Norton was instrumental in assisting with the formation of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association. In 1996, she was appointed by Governor Branstad to represent Iowa corn growers on the Advisory Committee of the Renewable Fuels Office and was re-appointed by Governor Vilsack. In 2006, Governor Vilsack appointed Ms. Norton to represent the renewable fuels industry on the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Board. She is past-president of the Iowa Chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association, and has served on numerous NAMA committees.

**Chuck Offenburger**

Chuck Offenburger began his career in journalism at the age of 13 in his hometown of Shenandoah, and has now been covering Iowa for 45 years. After more than two decades as a feature columnist and co-host of RAGBRAI for the Des Moines Register, he is now writing from his farm home near Cooper (population 30) in southern Greene County, Iowa. Besides his columns (at [www.Offenburger.com](http://www.Offenburger.com)), Mr. Offenburger writes regularly for Okoboji Magazine and the monthly Iowa Farm Bureau publication "Family Living in Farm Country," and does freelance writing for other publications.

Mr. Offenburger has written three books: the biography of Bill Krause, the Kum & Go and Liberty Bank co-founder; the history of Iowa high school girls' sports; and the biography of Bernie Saggau along with the history of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and boys sports. He is now working on the biography of one of Iowa's greatest sports heroes, Gary Thompson (of Ames). In 1999-2000, Mr. Offenburger served on Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack's Strategic Planning Council. He now serves on the board of directors of a successor group, Iowans for a Better Future, and is chairperson of the organization's Higher Education Task Force. Mr. Offenburger is a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and has been a visiting instructor at colleges and high schools in Iowa, teaching journalism and courses on state history.

**Norman K. Olson, P.E.**

Norman Olson is a registered professional engineer working as program manager for the Iowa Energy Center's Biomass Energy CONversion (BECON) Facility. He has had thirty years of experience in energy efficiency and renewable fuels projects.

Previously Mr. Olson was product design engineer for Lennox Industries, as well as Dunham-Bush Inc.; chief engineer for the Iowa Energy Policy Council; energy manager for the University of Iowa; and project manager for the Iowa Energy Center's Energy Resource Station (ERS).

### **LaVon Schiltz**

LaVon Schiltz is the executive director of Nevada Economic Development Council in Nevada, Iowa. For the past eleven years, Ms. Schiltz has served the Nevada Area in recruitment of business and industry, as well as assisting companies to grow and expand in the area. She has assisted in developing three new business parks in the community.

Prior to her position in Nevada, she was chamber and economic development director in Algona, Newton, and Charles City. She served as director of economic development for Iowa's Golden Circle and Region 11 ED Center in Des Moines in the early 90s. In that position, she led numerous trade missions to the Mexico City area and Central France. Prior to entering the economic development profession, she owned and operated a number of small businesses in Southern Minnesota.

### **Jack Schultz**

Jack Schultz is founder and CEO of Agracel, Inc., an industrial development firm majoring in rural America. Mr. Schultz authored the book, *Boomtown USA: The 7 ½ Keys to Big Success in Small Towns*, published in 2004. His research has been featured in *USA Today*, *Forbes*, and *Business Week*, among numerous other publications. He has been a guest on many radio and television programs, including Bloomberg Business Television.

Since February 2004, Mr. Schultz has spoken to over 220 communities in 42 states, and is fast becoming known as a national expert in economic development. He is a sought-after speaker on the topics of building up town economics, revitalizing towns, and on the keys to becoming a Boomtown. In 2006, he founded Boomtown Institute, a mentor for America's hometowns. In 2005, he was named Ernst and Young's Illinois Entrepreneur of the Year. Recently, he received the Beta Gamma Sigma International Medallion for Entrepreneurship. Mr. Schultz has an M.B.A. from Harvard.

### **Angie Dethlefs-Trettin**

Angie Dethlefs-Trettin serves as director of the Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF), a nonprofit association of grantmakers (public, private, and corporate) that work together to increase, enhance and improve philanthropy in Iowa since 1998. The ICoF welcomed Dethlefs-Trettin in 2006 as the organization's first director to oversee organizational activities, including strategic planning, program development and management, membership recruiting and retention, and education and outreach for the purpose of supporting philanthropy in Iowa.

Ms. Dethlefs-Trettin's career in philanthropy includes service as: director of outreach and director of communication and marketing with the Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Northeast Iowa; Endow Iowa coordinator for the Iowa Council of Foundations; project assistant for Opportunity Works; and Teen Trust Director for the Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Northeast Iowa's youth philanthropic program. Ms. Dethlefs-Trettin earned a bachelor of arts in organizational communication from the University of Northern Iowa, and is presently working on a master of arts in philanthropy and nonprofit development.

### **Thomas A. Wind, PE**

Thomas Wind is the owner of Wind Utility Consulting. Mr. Wind specializes in wind generation projects and in the integration of large wind turbines into the utility grid system. He was employed at Iowa Southern Utilities for 15 years before becoming a self-employed consulting engineer in 1989.

Mr. Wind is a member of the American Wind Energy Association, the Utility Wind Integration Group, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Technical Advisory Group for wind generation for the U.S. National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Committee, and several technical committees for the MidContinent Area Power Pool. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1974 with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering.