

---

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwestern Regional Conference

June 25-27, 2015  
Overland Park Marriot  
Overland Park, Kansas



## Speaker Biographies

---

### **Andrea Allen, RN**

**Lead Nurse Coordinator, Advanced Lung Disease Program  
UC Davis Health System**

Andrea Allen is a lead Nurse Coordinator at UC Davis Health System for the Pulmonary Hypertension/Advanced Lung Disease Program. She has spent the last 25 years of her career taking these programs from their inception to their current status as nationally recognized centers of excellence. Ms. Allen manages 500 patients along all aspects of the healthcare continuum, including ICU inpatient care through outpatient follow-up, and interacts on a daily basis with insurance companies and specialty pharmacies to obtain authorizations for prescribed medical therapies. Ms. Allen provides education to patients and families, nursing staff and interns and residents regarding disease management of pulmonary hypertension.

### **Allison Bell, PhD**

**Senior Associate  
HCM Strategists, LLC**

Alli Bell, PhD, is a talented education policy analyst with a passion for public policy driven by sound research. She works with several of HCM's higher education clients, including Lumina Foundation. She believes that all students should receive the academic and financial support they need to attend college and meet their educational goals. A native of San Diego, Dr. Bell comes from a long line of teachers who helped to educate some of the nation's most disadvantaged students. Stories of her mother's work with students along the U.S.-Mexico border imparted in Dr. Bell a keen understanding of the hurdles that many students face in accessing quality education. At the same time, Dr. Bell experienced first-hand how high school experiences can discourage students from pursuing ambitious postsecondary goals – an experience that impressed upon her the importance of providing students the tools and resources they need to succeed. These early influences stoked Dr. Bell's passion for ensuring that higher education systems better serve the needs of students. She has focused on working with states and individual school systems to ensure that they offer students affordable, accessible and high-quality postsecondary education. Prior to joining HCM, Dr. Bell served as an Associate Research Scientist at the National Center for Education Statistics, where she oversaw the collection of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Graduation Rates and Fall Enrollment components. Before that, she was a policy analyst for the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO). After graduating from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in sociology, Dr. Bell earned her master's degree in education and her PhD in higher education from the University of Michigan.

**Senator Stephanie Bice**  
**Oklahoma State Legislature**

A businesswoman, wife and mother, Stephanie Bice entered the political arena for the first time in 2014, motivated by her desire to create a better future for the children of her state. The newcomer was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate last August, now representing District 22, which includes approximately 78,000 in the state's capitol city and surrounding communities. Recently chosen as a 2015 GOPAC Emerging Leader, Senator Bice serves as Vice Chair of Business & Commerce Committee. She is also a member of the Senate committees on Transportation, General Government and Appropriations. She is also Vice President of Business Development for Smirk New Media, a digital marketing agency located in Downtown Oklahoma City. Beginning in the 1990s, the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan area has been undergoing a renaissance that began with citizen approved efforts to invest in key infrastructure improvements. These investments have spurred tremendous economic development in emerging entertainment, arts, tourism and business districts. During her campaign for Senate, Senator Bice was approached many times by Oklahomans who were frustrated by the state's laws regulating the sales of wine, beer and spirits. Some citizens felt the current regulatory structure inhibited economic development and were not responsive to contemporary consumer trends. Although this 2015 session marked her first in the Legislature, Senator Bice has been successful in winning initial passage in both chambers for a measure that will be the vehicle for a vote of the people on modernizing Oklahoma's laws. Senator Bice holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing with a minor in International Business from Oklahoma State University.

**Gina Bowman**  
**Vice President, Government Relations**  
**CVR Energy, Inc.**

Gina Bowman serves as Vice President, Government Relations, for CVR Energy, Inc., a Midwest petroleum energy and fertilizer production company. A native of Savannah, Missouri, Ms. Bowman grew up on the family farm. A William Jewell College graduate, she worked for nearly 24 years with the farmer-owned regional cooperative Farmland Industries, Inc., where she developed and directed the government relations division. She has been recognized for leadership by the National Association of State Cooperative Councils, the Kansas Cooperative Council, Farmland Industries, the Public Affairs Institute, National Agri-Marketing Association, Public Relations Society, Kansas and Missouri Governors and the MO Department of Agriculture. In 2003, Ms. Bowman founded the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City. The Council is a coalition of more than 300 individuals, associations and businesses affiliated with the "farm-to-table" system located in Kansas and Missouri. Ms. Bowman continues to provide leadership to the Council in an advisory capacity. She also serves on several Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Committees responsible for state and federal policy-making. Ms. Bowman chairs the newly formed Energy and Environment Committee of the Chamber, and she is additionally involved with several industry-related associations, including The Fertilizer Institute and American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers' Association. She serves on William Jewell College President's Advisory Council and works to build support for the Alzheimer's' Association, American Heart Association, and Synergy Services. Ms. Bowman serves as a mentor for a few youth organizations.

**Andrew Brown, JD****Senior Fellow****The Foundation for Government Accountability**

Andrew Brown is a senior fellow at the Foundation for Government Accountability focusing on child welfare policy. Prior to joining FGA, he served in-house with an international adoption agency in Northern Virginia, where he was responsible for legal compliance, risk management, and government relations. He also previously worked in private practice, focusing on family law. Mr. Brown's work has been published in leading legal journals and on Forbes.com. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, and is a member of the Texas and Virginia bars.

**Colleen Brunetti****Patient Advocate & Board of Trustees Member****Pulmonary Hypertension Association**

Colleen Brunetti started her career as a teacher, but after the diagnosis of Pulmonary Hypertension in 2008, she was forced to leave the field. Faced with possible death, and almost certain disability, Ms. Brunetti began a journey to re-invent herself. Implementing a holistic lifestyle, she began to heal, eventually far surpassing every medical expectation, and in ways that could not be attributed to medication alone. She became a certified health coach and now teaches others to do the same – to thrive, not just survive with this critical disease. Ms. Brunetti has traveled the country speaking to doctors, researchers, and patients, and she has spoken formally to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) twice on her experiences. Ms. Brunetti has also pioneered a project that is revolutionizing the specialty pharmacy industry for her disease.

**Amanda Chesley, JD****Executive Director, Rheumatology Division****WJ Weiser & Associates, Inc.**

Amanda Chesley is the Executive Director, Rheumatology Division, of WJ Weiser & Associates, Inc. (WJ Weiser). In her role, she manages all government relations and association management activities for the company's national and state rheumatology organizations, including the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO). Ms. Chesley is a licensed attorney possessing 15 years of government affairs and legal experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. She earned her Juris Doctorate and a Certificate in International and Comparative Law from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, Illinois, after she graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and History from Southern University at Edwardsville in Illinois and completed the Illinois Legislative Staff Graduate Internship Program through the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois and the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois.

### **Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer, MD**

Kansas Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer, MD, is a fifth generation Kansan who is dedicated to making a difference in people's lives on the personal, state, national and international level. Lt. Governor Colyer assists Governor Brownback with directing the state budget, economic policy, and healthcare policy. He has led the Kansas Medicaid transformation, which will save Kansans \$1 billion over 10 years while increasing services. This was done without cutting provider payments or cutting those who need services off Medicaid. Over the last 25 years, Lt. Governor Colyer has volunteered, as a surgeon, in dangerous warzones. He was an International Medical Corps volunteer and the only surgeon in southern Rwanda during the genocide that killed 800,000 people. Lt. Governor Colyer also served as a White House Fellow under President Ronald Reagan and President George HW Bush in international affairs. At home in Kansas, Lt. Governor Colyer is driven to serve his community. As a craniofacial/plastic surgeon, he is passionate about reconstructing complex skull and facial deformities in children. Elected to the Kansas House in 2006 and the Kansas Senate in 2008, he has been a leader on taxes, fiscally responsible budgeting, and healthcare policy. Lt. Governor Colyer earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Georgetown University, a master's degree in international relations from Cambridge University, and a medical doctorate from University of Kansas, School of Medicine.

### **Mayor Peggy Dunn**

#### **Mayor of Leawood**

The Honorable Peggy Dunn is a lifelong resident of the Greater Kansas City area, a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and has served as mayor of Leawood, Kansas since 1997. In addition to Mayor Dunn's role as mayor, she is currently involved with a number of civic and nonprofit organizations. She serves as board chairman of Truman Medical Centers and on the boards of Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Union Station Kansas City, Hall Family Foundation, Youth Volunteer Corps, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas, Country Club Bank, and as an Advisory Board Member of the Leawood Chamber of Commerce.

### **Burke Griggs, PhD**

#### **Assistant Attorney General**

#### **Office of the Kansas Attorney General**

Burke Griggs, PhD, serves as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Kansas, where he represents the State in water rights litigation, including *Kansas v. Nebraska & Colorado*, No. 126 Original, which the Supreme Court of the United States decided this year. Dr. Griggs is also a Fellow of the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University, where he contributes to the Institute's collaborative research on water law and policy. He holds a BA from Stanford, a PhD from Yale, and a law degree from the University of Kansas, where he teaches natural resources law as an adjunct professor.

**Mark Guimond**  
**Director, State Legislative Affairs**  
**Arthritis Association**

Mark Guimond, Director of State Legislative Affairs for the Arthritis Foundation in the Washington, DC office, is an experienced legislative and government affairs professional providing state legislative and regulatory representation to the Arthritis Foundation. Mr. Guimond is familiar with all aspects of legislative tracking, bill drafting, direct lobbying, grassroots mobilization, presentation of testimony and shepherding legislation. He has testified before the US Congress and before 43 state legislatures. Mr. Guimond is committed to finding a cure for arthritis and enjoys helping out any way he can at the state level.

**Kevin Kosar, PhD**  
**Senior Fellow & Governance Project Director**  
**R Street Institute**

Kevin Kosar, PhD, is Senior Fellow and Governance Project Director with the R Street Institute, a Washington, DC think-tank. He is the author of [Whiskey: A Global History](#), which was favorably reviewed by the *Washington Post* and other major media. Dr. Kosar has been writing about fermented and distilled beverages since 1995. In 1998, he founded AlcoholReviews.com, one of the earliest beverage blogs. He contributed articles to the [Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America](#), served as a judge at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, co-hosted Vodka Festival in New York City's Grand Central Station, and won an Academy of Wine Communications' wine writer award. His next book, [Moonshine: A Global History](#), will be published in 2015. Prior to joining R Street, Dr. Kosar was a research manager and analyst at the Congressional Research Service, an agency within the Library of Congress. There, he advised members of Congress and committees on a range of legislative issues. Dr. Kosar has testified before Congress, and published reports and essays on education policy, quasi-governmental entities, privatization, and government communications. His work has appeared in scholarly and professional journals, such as *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Public Administration Review*, and *Teachers College Record*; and in popular media, including the *Boston Herald*, the *Daily Caller*, *The Hill*, *Newsweek*, *Roll Call*, *Reason*, *Savannah Morning News*, *Tuscaloosa News*, *Washington Monthly* and *The Weekly Standard*. Dr. Kosar earned a bachelor of arts from Ohio State University, and master's and doctoral degrees in politics from New York University.

**Brad Loveless, MS**  
**Executive Director of Environmental Services**  
**Westar Energy**

Brad Loveless is the Executive Director of Environmental Services at Westar Energy, the largest electric utility in Kansas, serving nearly 700,000 customers. He has worked for Westar Energy for 30 years, and he spent the first 12 years at Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation. Mr. Loveless is committed to helping Westar focus on the avoidance of environmental impacts through proper design and siting of electrical generation and distribution facilities, and mitigation of those impacts, when they occur. Beginning in 2014, he began overseeing Westar's air, water and waste environmental compliance. Mr. Loveless also helps develop company actions to address climate change, and he leads the Westar Energy Green Team, a volunteer group of employees and retirees that have been helping with habitat improvement, environmental access and education, and enhancement of sensitive species in Kansas for 25 years. In 2014, Mr. Loveless was awarded the Kansas State Forester's Award in Community Forestry. In 2009, he was recognized by the Kansas Wildlife Federation as Wildlife Conservationist of the Year and by the Kansas Association of Conservation and Environmental Education as their Strickler Award winner for Environmental Education. He serves on the board of the Kansas Children's Discovery Center and on the Kansas Water Authority. He also serves on the Kansas Forest Service Advisory Council and Chairman of the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams. Mr. Loveless was raised in Ohio and received a BS in Zoology from Ohio State University and an MS in Biology from University of Kansas.

**Teresa Lubbers, MPA**  
**Commissioner**  
**Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education**

Teresa Lubbers was appointed in 2009 to serve as Indiana's Commissioner for Higher Education, the coordinating agency charged with ensuring that the state's postsecondary education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Lubbers served in the Indiana State Senate for 17 years, leading on education and economic development issues as Chair of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee. As Commissioner, Ms. Lubbers has worked to increase college completion, improve productivity, and ensure academic quality. She has partnered with policymakers and higher education leaders to implement the state's higher education strategic plan, Reaching Higher, Achieving More, and she promoted innovative educational models and efforts to control college costs. Ms. Lubbers served as Commissioner and Chair of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, Commissioner for the Education Commission of the States, and as a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education for the National Conference of State Legislatures. She is a member of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and the Immediate Past Chair. She serves on the Indiana Education Roundtable and the Indiana Career Council. Ms. Lubbers holds an undergraduate degree from Indiana University and a Master's in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Mara Mellstrom****Legislative Manager****The Foundation for Government Accountability**

Mara Mellstrom is a legislative manager for the Foundation for Government Accountability. Prior to joining FGA, Mara worked on the Scott Brown for U.S. Senate campaign in New Hampshire after graduating from Boston University in May. Throughout her college career, she served as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alliance of College Republicans and as President and Co-Founder of the BU College Republicans. More recently, Mara interned on the Scott Brown 2012 campaign, in the personal office of Speaker John A. Boehner, and at the Pioneer Institute, a Boston-based think tank, where she studied ACA funding. Mara holds a BA in Political Science from Boston University.

**Teri Quimby, JD****Commissioner****Michigan Liquor Control Commission**

Teri Quimby is a Commissioner for the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and was initially appointed in 2011 and reappointed in 2015 by Governor Snyder. As one of the three Administrative Commissioners, Ms. Quimby has responsibility for administering the provisions of the Michigan Liquor Control Code relating to licensing, purchasing, enforcement, merchandising, and distribution. The Administrative Commissioners also act as an appeal board to the decisions rendered by the two Hearing Commissioners. Ms. Quimby brings an extensive background in state and local government to this position. She spent almost 20 years working on legislative issues, with most of this time spent in the Michigan House of Representatives, where she was extensively involved with several high profile issues and committees, including the Commerce Committee, Energy & Technology Committee, and Environment Committee. As Senior Legal Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Ms. Quimby gained valuable skills and acquired expertise in the areas of statutory construction, rules of procedure, and strategy planning. As for local government experience, Ms. Quimby was elected to and served on the Delta Charter Township Board of Trustees, representing approximately 29,000 people near Lansing, MI, and held a seat on the Township's Zoning and Sign Boards of Appeal. While also licensed to practice law in Illinois, Ms. Quimby has been a member of the Michigan Bar for over 25 years. In 2010, she was appointed by the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners to serve on the District E Character and Fitness Committee. Additionally, she holds certification as a general civil mediator, domestic relations mediator, and special education mediator and facilitator. Ms. Quimby is proud to be a Spartan, having graduated from Michigan State University's James Madison College with a major in Justice, Morality and Constitutional Democracy, and a minor in German. She earned her J.D. from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

**Representative Holly Rehder**  
**Missouri State Legislature**

Representative Holly Rehder is a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, representing District 148. She was first elected to the chamber in 2012. Representative Rehder began her career in the mailroom at Galaxy Cablevision at just 20 years of age, where she worked her way up for 14 years. In 2000, she was elected to the Board of Directors for Women in Cable and Telecommunications and was their Shining Star Scholarship recipient. Following in 2001, Representative Rehder was honored with Galaxy Cablevision's Chairman Award for her years of hard work and dedication. Representative Rehder's interest in the political process began when she took the position of Galaxy Cablevision's Director of Government Affairs. In that position, she worked with local community governments, building relationships and attending City Hall meetings for the renewal or transfer of cable television franchises. In 2003, Representative Rehder was elected to the Missouri Cable Telecommunications Association Board of Directors, where she lobbied the Missouri State Legislature in regard to House and Senate bills affecting the Missouri cable television industry. Recently, she has worked on addressing Missouri's prescription drug abuse problem by co-sponsoring a bill that would create a statewide Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, as Missouri is currently the only state without such a program. Representative Rehder graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a BS in Mass Communications, Public Relations.

**Bob Twillman, PhD**  
**Executive Director**

**American Academy of Pain Management**

Bob Twillman, PhD, is the Executive Director of the American Academy of Pain Management. In that capacity, Dr. Twillman is responsible for guiding the organization in its efforts to promote an integrative approach to managing pain. He formerly served the Academy for four years as its Director of Policy and Advocacy. Prior to working for the Academy, Dr. Twillman was a full-time faculty member at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where he founded and directed the inpatient pain management program and was a co-founder of the hospital's Palliative Care Team. Dr. Twillman also serves as Chair of the Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Committee for the Kansas Board of Pharmacy. Dr. Twillman received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of California in Los Angeles, and he maintains a volunteer faculty appointment as Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Kansas School Of Medicine in Kansas City, KS.

**Jocelyn Ulrich, MPH**  
**Deputy Vice President, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs**  
**PhRMA**

Jocelyn Ulrich, MPH, is the Deputy Vice President, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at PhRMA, where she supports PhRMA's policy advocacy strategies on clinical trials and innovative biologics and biosimilars. Prior to joining PhRMA, Ms. Ulrich held positions of increasing responsibility at Pfizer and Human Genome Sciences in clinical research management and Medical Affairs. From 2011 – 2013 Ms. Ulrich led the Investigator-Initiated and Sponsored Research Association's (IISRA) Collaboration Forum, a cross-functional group that aims to establish best practices for research conducted in partnership with Industry and the NCI-funded Cooperative Groups. Ms. Ulrich also served as Chair of the Membership and Outreach sub-committee of the Mid-Atlantic Women in Science Committee in the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association (HBA) Mid-Atlantic Chapter from 2012 – 2014. She received her MPH in Global Health Policy and Management from NYU.

**Senator Susan Wagle**  
**President of the Kansas Senate**

Kansas State Senator Susan Wagle (R-30) was sworn in as the 47<sup>th</sup> Kansas Senate President on January 14, 2013. She is currently serving her fourth term in the Kansas Senate, representing the eastern part of Wichita. Senator Wagle is the first woman to serve as a top legislative leader in the state. She first came to Topeka in 1990, as a member of the State House of Representatives. She quickly became a key Republican leader, rising to become the first woman to ever serve as Speaker Pro Tem by 1994. In 2000, Senator Wagle was elected to the state senate. Before she was elected by her peers to serve as Senate President, she chaired the Senate's Public Health and Welfare Committee, the Healthcare Strategies Committee and Commerce Committee. Senator Wagle graduated from Wichita State University in 1979. After graduating Cum Laude with a degree in elementary education, she taught for the USD 259 school district. Soon after, Senator Wagle and her husband started a number of small businesses in the Wichita area.

**Marguerite Wagner, MA**  
**Director, RTO Policy**  
**ITC Holdings Corp.**

Marguerite Wagner is Director, RTO Affairs, for ITC Holdings Corp. She is responsible for leading and coordinating the company's interaction with staff and stakeholders in the Southwest Power Pool region. Ms. Wagner has more than 20 years of electric industry experience, and before joining ITC in 2014, she served in various roles in the development of wholesale energy markets in the US, particularly in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region. In this capacity, she developed and maintained opportunities for competitive wholesale generators, creating technology neutral market rules and supporting competitive open access to transmission infrastructure to create value for customers. Prior to this position, Ms. Wagner held Director positions with NRG Energy, Edison Mission Marketing & Trading, and PSEG Energy Resources & Trade. Ms. Wagner began her career at Wisconsin Power & Light and Madison Gas & Electric, where she worked on implementation and compliance with the Clean Air Act. She was responsible for developing compliance plans that involved boiler retrofits, fuel switching, and sulfur dioxide trading. This interest in market-based mechanisms to provide consumer value progressed to the design and support of the Renewable Energy Credit documentation, compliance and trading systems for ERCOT as the region adopted its first zonal energy market. She worked on development of the ERCOT Nodal protocols for ERCOT and Reliant Energy during the transition of the region to a nodal energy market. Ms. Wagner earned a master's degrees in Technology & Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master's degree in Probability & Statistics from Michigan State University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.