**BIOS for summer conference 2019**

BENTLEY, JUSTIN Justin Bentley, CPA is a senior accountant at Allied Financial Partners. Justin has been with the firm, working mainly in the audit and accounting services group, for five years. Justin has served clients in many different industries, including not-for-profit, construction, health care, and several other small businesses in various industries.

Justin received in B.S. in Accounting from SUNY Fredonia and his MBA with a focus in public accounting from SUNY Oswego.

BROWN, CONNIE Connie is the President/CEO of the United Way of Greater Niagara and has been in not for profit management 30+ years. Her background is in developmental disabilities and she was the Executive Director of the largest not-profit in Niagara County. Connie has a strong Labor/ Management background supervising over 500 employees including 300 union employees. Connie has developed business models in the sector and has had to make tough decisions on opening and dissolving departments. Connie has a B. A. in Psychology from Buffalo State College and a Masters in Counseling and Human Services from the University of Buffalo. She has received many awards including Women of Influence, Power Women 100, and Niagara Community Women of Distinction. Connie has trained new Executive Directors in the not for profit world and thrives on serving her Niagara Community.

CALEY, LAURA Laura Caley is the Work/Life Solutions Project Director at the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County working to advance UWBEC's mission by linking working populations with community resources available to help overcome personal struggles attributed to reduced workplace attendance and retention rates. Recently recognized as one of Buffalo Business First’s 30 Under 30 honorees for 2019, Ms. Caley has a BA in Sociology from SUNY Geneseo and over six years of experience in Workforce Development.

CHOI, STEVE Steve Choi is Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition, a coalition of nearly 200-member groups. Mr. Choi has quadrupled the organization’s budget and staff, now overseeing the nation’s largest state immigrant rights coalition and serving as New York’s chief advocate on immigrant rights. NYIC is one of the founding organizations of NY Counts2020Mr. Choi received a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a M.A. from the University of Hawai’i, and a B.A. from Stanford University in History with Honors. Mr. Choi currently serves on the New York City Commission on Human Rights, on the Board of the United Way of New York City, and the Board of the Scherman Foundation.

CLARK, MELISSA Director of Community Impact at United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region for 2 years, and a member of the United Way team for 6, Melissa Clark directs a team providing all aspects of capacity building including community-based funding, volunteer services and high impact community programs. Melissa holds a BA in International Relations from SUNY New Paltz and a MA in Social & Public from SUNY Empire. Melissa has worked in the service sector for over a decade and began her career as an AmeriCorps VISTA. She serves on the Orange County Youth Bureau Advisory Board, the Bringing Agencies Together Coalition, the Hudson Valley Young Professionals Advisory Council, The Junior League of Poughkeepsie and is a graduate of Leadership Dutchess.

COSTELLO, BJ BJ Costello has been serving clients at Hinman Straub since 1972 as a litigator, government relations representative specializing in not for profit and marginalized clients, and advisor. He has been rated by professional peers at the highest levels for over 40 years and appeared before all federal and state courts, including the US Supreme Court as well as before the legislature, governor and multiple state agencies. He chaired the UWNYS board for four years after serving on a local UW board. He has chaired and served on many not for profit boards. He served two tours as a naval officer in country Vietnam and was decorated for his actions. He graduated from Holy Cross College and Albany Law School. He believes in achieving excellent results which are then delivered by the wonderful Team Hinman!

DEUTSCH, RON Ron Deutsch, Executive Director of the Fiscal Policy Institute, since 2014. The Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization committed to improving public policies and private practices to better the economic and social conditions of all New Yorkers. Ron has been a tireless advocate for working families for over 25 years in Albany. Before joining FPI, Ron served for 8 years as the Director of FPI’s sister 501(c)(4) organization, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness. Prior to that he led the Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security (a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization) for 13 years. Deutsch is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany.

DODD, KELLY Kelly Dodd is the Director of Contact Center Services at the Olmsted Center for Sight, provider of the 2-1-1WNY helpline. Kelly has been with 2-1-1WNY since it was launched in 2007 and holds an AIRS certification as a Resource Specialist.

Prior work experiences include Fair Housing Inspector, Cast Member at Big Thunder Mountain Railroad in the Magic Kingdom, proofreading the phonebook, and working at a roadside farm stand selling sweet corn. She graduated from Onondaga Community College with an AAS Humanities, and University at Buffalo with a BS Linguistics.

Kelly serves on the boards of the WNY Coalition for the Homeless, New York State Alliance of Information & Referral Systems Inc., Erie County Disaster Preparedness Advisory Board, and volunteers as a free tax preparer.

EDEN, LEAH KABRAN For nearly a decade, Leah Kabran Eden has worked as a policy analyst in the nonprofit, government, and philanthropic sectors to address the structural causes of poverty and inequality. As a Policy Specialist with United Way of New York City, she builds organizational capacity and carries out policy strategies to help New Yorkers achieve self-sufficiency. Leah is also the co-founder of Equity Advocates, a New York based nonprofit improving access to healthy, affordable food through policy change. Leah holds a MA in Food Systems from New York University and BA in Cultural Anthropology from Boston University.

EPISCOPO, BRENDA Since childhood, Brenda Episcopo’s vision has always been to make the world a better place. Brenda knows that the best way to achieve this mission, is by engaging the community in creating solutions that work.

With 20 years of experience in the non-profit field, Brenda is especially known for leading her organizations through change; managing conflict; developing human capital and developing programs in response to community need.

Motivated by a constant drive to do more…. Her success has led to the honors of Salute to Outstanding Women, NYS Women Inc. Mohawk Valley Chapter Woman of the Year, Accent on Excellence, Follow the Leader and 40 Under 40 Awards.

Brenda has an MS Applied Sociology from State University of New York. She is a graduate of an exclusive Executive Leadership Development Program, which involved training at Center for Creative Leadership, Harvard Executive Education and Deloitte University.

She is the President and CEO of United Way of New York State, where she helps local United Way members all around the state make massive, collective community impact.

Brenda is a year-round outdoor enthusiast, and volunteers her time advocating for the protection of wildlife and wild lands. She lives in Albany, NY with her husband Matthew and black lab Rocky.

EPISCOPO, MATT Matt Episcopo knows that the real way to become effective is to build credibility, trust and relationships.

 His efforts have helped companies around the world improve their leadership and relationships. Matt is widely recognized as an energizing and engaging presenter. He is author of the book ["How To Gain The Upper Hand, P.O.W.E.R. Tactics That Get Leaders Results".](https://mattepiscopo.com/book/)

 A Medal of Honor recipient with more than 21 years of law enforcement experience, Matt will teach you how to engage with virtually anyone.

FARRY, MEGAN Megan Farry is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP). In this role, she works to support and connect workforce resources throughout the Western New York region. Megan has experience building career pathway programing as a Business Services Specialist and has provided Marketing/Communications support for several multinational staffing firms. She holds a Communications degree from SUNY Fredonia and is a CTI Certified Coach.

GANNON, PETER Peter was appointed President & CEO of United Way of the Greater Capital Region in 2018.

He served as President of the Arsenal Partnership where he led major economic development projects with the U.S. Army and founded the McNulty Center to help veterans start their own business.

He also served as Director of Operations in the Town of Colonie and Director of Communications to Majority Leader Ron Canestrari.

Peter is a graduate of Saint Rose and RPI. He was named one of the Business Review’s Forty Under and was inducted in the Shaker High Hall of Fame in 2016.

GALANTE, MARY TERESA Mary Teresa Galante returned to the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County as the Work/Life Solutions Resource Coordinator after serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA in 2014, hired on at the end of her term before pursuing graduate studies. Mary Teresa has professional experience in the service provision side of the non-profit sector, including time spent at the Erie County Department of Social Services. She holds her MSW from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work and a BA from Canisius College.

GERCHMAN, JACQUELINE Jacqueline Gerchman serves as the Executive Director of United Way of Broome County. As a life-long resident, Gerchman is devoted to further advancing the organization’s mission to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in Broome County.

Gerchman also serves on several committees, including the Community Foundation and The Agency Taskforce. Her professional background includes operations leadership, sales and marketing management, project management, affordable housing management, and fiscal operations.

Gerchman graduated from Grand Canyon University with a MBA, SUNY Cortland with a BS in Business, and Broome Community College with an Associate’s Degree of Applied Sciences.

GREGORY, CANDACE Candace Gregory’s career as the Director of 2-1-1 Susquehanna River Region at United Way of Broome County began more than 30 years ago with the formally known First Call For Help.

 In 2005, she was moved by her experience at the Houston 2-1-1 Contact Center, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Candace returned to Broome County inspired; developing a prototype disaster handbook and facilitating the organization of Broome County’s Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). The following June, her region suffered its own devastating flood. The handbook developed by Candace was used as a template by FEMA to assist information providers. Its unparalleled success in the region was highly praised, and FEMA adopted the handbook nationally.

HILL, DOROTHY Dorothy (Dede) Hill, Director of Policy for the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. Dede coordinates the Schuyler Center’s policy team, leads analysis and advocacy in the areas of family economic security and early care and learning, and leads or participates in many statewide efforts, including the Empire State Campaign for Child Care, which she co-facilitates, and the Governor’s Task Force for Child Care Availability. Prior to joining the Schuyler Center, Dede was a Professor of Law at Albany Law School, an Assistant Attorney General and Labor Counsel for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, an Assistant Solicitor General for the New York State Attorney General’s Office, and an associate for a New York City labor law firm. Dede earned a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and a Bachelor of Arts from Vassar College.

JOHNSON, RACHEL Rachel Johnson has 15 years of fundraising experience. She is the Vice President of Resource Development at United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region working with residents, businesses, government officials, educators and nonprofits to make a difference. She graduated from Marist College earning a Bachelor in Political Science and completed course work toward a Masters of Public Administration in Nonprofit Management. During her college years, Rachel worked for Assemblyman Joel Miller and was the youngest Chief of Staff in the state legislature. She went on to work at The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) for ten years on major gifts. Her appeals have been featured at the Northeastern Annual Giving Conference.

LUCEY, APRIL April Lucey is an Account Executive for the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County and responsible for raising over $2.7 million each year through workplace giving, corporate gifts, sponsorships, grants, and special events. She has held previous positions focusing on geographic areas, industry groups, and investments. April has been employed at UWBEC for 20 years.

April holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the State University of New York College at Fredonia. Her current areas of interest are Education, Financial Stability, Girls in Sports, and mentoring. April has served as a committee member for Child & Family Services Ways to Work Program and March of Dimes. She also serves as a Priscilla Project mentor & team mom for Lou Gehrig Youth Baseball. She is also a member of Catholic Charities Ladies of Charity, United Way Women United, and Leadership Society.

MATT, ERIN GUTIERREZ Erin joined United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica in March 2018 as Executive Director and CEO. She spent 15 years prior to that working in the tech and banking industries. She has earned leadership positions at every company along the way, notably as the first Hispanic woman to do so at Twitter. Erin received a B.A. from Boston College, and a Master of Fine Arts from University College London (U.K.). She is focused on driving innovation, particularly as it relates to and benefits women of color. Erin and her husband Nick are raising 3 kids (ages 6, 4, & 2), which tests her sanity daily.

MAYAUSKY, JASON Jason Mayausky, CPA is a partner with Allied Financial Partners and directs the firm’s audit and accounting practice. His more than 15 years of experience include serving a wide array of clients and industries, including healthcare, not-for-profit, mortgage banking, and manufacturing and distribution. In addition, Jason leads the firm’s AICPA peer review team, performing peer review services for firms across NY State.

Jason is a certified public accountant in New York State and the State of Ohio and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Jason has also served for several years as an adjunct instructor of accountancy at various universities. In addition, Jason serves as a board member and treasurer for Habitat for Humanity of Wayne County, NY.

MACVEIGH, TINA Tina MacVeigh serves as United Way Worldwide’s Senior Vice President of Network Strategy for the US Network where is responsible for leading the local United Way business model transformation and building local capacity to execute against our evolving Bold Play Strategy.

Tina has 20 years of leadership experience, ranging from start-ups to global organizations, and a high level of expertise in strategic planning and organizational transformation.
Prior to joining UWW, Tina worked at United Way of Greater Cincinnati as Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer where she helped to develop, implement and sustain the organization’s internal and external strategy.

MUNOZ, CAROLYN Carolyn Munoz joined the Cybercrime Support Network in 2018 to implement the vision of connecting victims to resources, increasing crime reporting, and addressing the lack of information available to law enforcement and industry. As the Chief Operating Officer, Carolyn oversees all aspects of the business to ensure strategies and deliverables are realized. She is recognized for her knowledge and expertise in cybersecurity and is a featured speaker in many diverse state and national conferences.

Carolyn is the proud daughter of a decorated Army veteran and dedicated Army spouse who moved throughout the world in service to the country. Previously from California, Carolyn now makes her home in New Jersey, where she lives with her husband and two sons, her greatest source of pride and joy.

NABOZNY, PETE Pete Nabozny is the Director of Policy for The Children’s Agenda. Pete works to develop and introduce policies and practices that improve outcomes for children. This includes systems building efforts, identifying evidence-based programs, analyzing public policy challenges and promoting innovative approaches for home visitation, early care and education, early intervention, summer learning, child welfare, juvenile justice, and anti-poverty efforts. Pete was previously Associate Principal with the Center for Governmental Research, where he managed and contributed to a diverse set of projects in the human services and nonprofit sectors, including the viability of mobile summer meals programs in Rochester, Reconnect Rochester’s work on transportation and poverty, and the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiatives in Oswego and Jamestown. Pete is a University of Rochester graduate, and earned his Masters in Public and Nonprofit Administration from the Robert Wagner School of Public Service.

OWEN, JENNIFER Jennifer Owen is an account executive with United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. In addition to maintaining a portfolio of 40+ campaign accounts, Jennifer leads the Corporate Loaned Executive Program planning team. She has been with United Way for 4 years and loves inspiring individuals to take action to improve their community.

Jennifer volunteers as a troop co-leader with Girl Scouts of WNY and previously served as the Parent Facilitator for Bennett Park Montessori Center. She recently completed her MBA from St. Bonaventure University and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honor Society.

PIERONI, MOLLY Molly “MP” Pieroni directly interfaces with local United Ways across the network as they explore Digital Services and Salesforce.org Philanthropy Cloud. She brings over 20 years of strategic consulting expertise and a deep background in technology. She cares deeply for the work that United Way does in each local community. MP earned her undergraduate degree from William and Mary and her MBO from Harvard Business School. She and her husband live in Dallas, Texas.

QUILTER, ELIZABETH FALLON Elizabeth Fallon Quilter is a nonprofit strategist, coach, trainer and fundraising consultant. In her 30+ year career, she has been staff, board, volunteer, donor, consultant, and trainer for nonprofit organizations, primarily in Chicago and Syracuse. Elizabeth is a Certified FundRaising Executive (CFRE) and Master Faculty with the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). She frequently presents workshops, trainings, and keynotes to conferences and organizations including the Nonprofit Essentials Workshop Series (N.E.W.S.) of the Central New York Community Foundation; various chapters of AFP; the North American YMCA Development Officers organization (NAYDO); individual YMCAs; and others.

RIZZO YOUNG, KATHLEEN: Kathleen Rizzo Young is Manager of Public & Community Relations for Evans Bank, based in Hamburg, NY outside Buffalo, and is also a new member to the Board of Directors of The United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. She has worked in corporate public relations, community relations and community development for over 30 years, primarily in financial services. She began her career at a United Way agency in 1984 and has a keen interest in the intersection of the corporate and non-profit sectors. She is an accomplished public speaker and broadcaster and her writing has appeared in numerous publications.

ROCCISANO, JOE Joe Roccisano has held several positions at United Way. Currently he is Director of Financial Stability and THRIVE Buffalo. Joe manages or supports the Community Food Systems Grant Program, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, the American Apprenticeship Initiative, Work/Life Solutions, Employ Buffalo/Niagara, and THRIVE Buffalo. Joe earned Six Sigma Black Belt certification from the American Society for Quality. Previously, he worked at a large nonprofit and in business. Joe holds an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University and a BS from Cornell University.

SANDAK, MEGHANN Meghann Sandak began her career as a middle school teacher serving low-income communities in Tulsa, OK and Chicago, IL. She transitioned to non-profit work in 2008, desiring to have impact at institutional levels while maintaining close contact with those most affected. Meghann first served as Program Director for a tutoring/mentoring program for girls from Chicago’s inner-city. Later, as Chief Education Officer for the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund, Meghann worked to provide educational access to promising students and to build capacity within the organization. Meghann and her family recently returned to her native Syracuse, NY where she worked as a development consultant before becoming the Chief Development Officer for the United Way of Central New York.

SAUER, DOUG Doug is the CEO of NYCON, a 3,000-member state association of nonprofits and Governance Matters, sponsor of charitySTRONG.org. He is an expert consultant and trainer in board governance, mergers and restructuring, strategic planning, and social enterprises. Doug has facilitated over 70 mergers and affiliations.

Doug co-founded two NYCON subsidiaries - Council Services Plus, an insurance firm, and ICI, a fiscal sponsoring nonprofit.

Current board service includes: treasurer and former Board Chair of the National Council of Nonprofits, Inc.; director, First Nonprofit Unemployment Saving Trust Board; and ex-officio director, The Baby Institute of Albany.

He has an AAS in Human Services, BSW and MSW, and was named by City & State as 2018 Nonprofit Power 50 in NYS.

SHAHEEN, MARY Mary A. Shaheen is the Vice President at United Way of New York State and President of 2-1-1 New York which is a subsidiary corporation to United Way of New York State.

Ms. Shaheen joined the staff of UWNYS in 1993 to direct the Early Childhood Investment Fund. She has since supported local United Way work relating to community impact, strategic planning, public policy and board development.

Ms. Shaheen has facilitated numerous local United Way board strategic planning retreats as well as regional United Way meetings; has organized United Ways around NYS to work together on VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and the Earned Income Tax Credit; and currently provides significant support to the NYS ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) project.

In 2013 Ms. Shaheen was appointed President of 2-1-1 New York by the UWNYS Board of Directors. After years of incremental expansion, under her leadership 2-1-1 achieved its goal of statewide availability in 2014; and in 2017 became available 24/7 across the State.

In 2009 Ms. Shaheen was appointed by the Governor to the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council and currently serves on its Finance and Business Engagement work groups.

SILVER, JANET Janet Silver, a Principal at Hinman-Straub, has developed a practice that focuses on education, economic development, health, human services and research. Ms. Silver provides legal, regulatory, and legislative services to a variety of higher education institutions, private and public elementary and secondary schools, and not-for-profits. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association and currently serves as a member to the House of Delegates and is also member of the Government Law Center of Albany Law School.

SWANN, PATRICIA Patricia Swann is Senior Program Officer at The New York Community Trust where she has been responsible for over $100 million in grants for affordable housing, community development, and nonprofit capacity building projects over the past seventeen years. She is a leader in the New York State Census Equity initiative. She is a board member of Philanthropy New York and serves on the advisory boards of Brooklyn Workforce Innovations and the New York City office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. She has a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and a master’s from Pratt Institute’s Graduate School of Architecture and Planning. She was a Revson Fellow at Columbia University.

WRIGHT, SHEENA Sheena Wright is the first woman to lead United Way of New York City (UWNYC) in its 80-year history. As President and CEO, Sheena has led a transformation of the organization—actualizing a collective impact strategy and refocusing UWNYC’s support of low-income New Yorkers towards self-sufficiency. In 2013, Wright spearheaded ReadNYC, the flagship initiative of UWNYC to strengthen families and improve grade-level reading by third grade. Prior to joining UWNYC, Sheena served as President and CEO of the Abyssinian Development Corporation. She is a graduate of Columbia University and received her law degree from Columbia Law School.