



606 S. Mendenhall Su. 108 Memphis, TN 38117
Nancy McGee, chief executive officer 684.6605 fax: 684.6616

For Immediate Release: For more information contact: PR and Marketing Consultant Kim Brukardt
682.3324 or 832.4527 kimbrukardt@msn.com

**Alliance Annual Conference May 1 Spotlights Nonprofit Board/Staff Relationships:
Features Governance Experts from Across the Nation**

MEMPHIS, TENN. (April 8, 2008)... Memphis-based Alliance for Nonprofit Excellence will bring together nonprofit board and governance experts from across the nation to debunk myths and share best practices in nonprofit recruitment, board/staff relations and fundraising during its 3rd annual conference, "Boards of Directors – Myths and Realities," May 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 6560 Poplar Ave. Cost is \$99 for Alliance members; \$150 for nonmembers; and \$65 for college students with valid ID. Online registration is available at www.npexcellence.org or phone 684.6605. Sponsors are SunTrust, Sir Speedy Printing, and *Memphis Business Journal*.

"By concentrating on boards of directors and nonprofit governance this year, we will shine a spotlight on the intrinsic value of board/staff relationships," said Alliance for Nonprofit Excellence Chief Executive Officer Nancy McGee. "These relationships affect how well organizations execute their missions, as well as determining outcome of fundraising efforts and overall community impact. Recruitment, engaging board members and effective board management are emphasis areas that are vital to an organization's board and senior nonprofit staff.

"This conference should be on the "must-attend" list for nonprofit board members, board chairs and senior staff who dedicate so much time and energy for the betterment of our communities. Holding an annual conference also is one of the many ways we bring national perspective to our Mid-South nonprofit organizations. Our keynote speaker's study on "The Best and Worst of Board Chairs" will reveal national and local feedback, giving our local nonprofit leaders incredible insight on how we compare with the nonprofit sector nationwide," McGee added.

Conference keynote speaker Dr. Yvonne Harrison, assistant professor of the Center for Nonprofit Leadership at Seattle University, leads an impressive roster of speakers including Ruth McCambridge, editor-in-chief of national publication, *The Nonprofit Quarterly* magazine; Dr. David Renz, director of the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership at the University of Missouri, Kansas City; and Dr. Judith Millesen, associate professor of political science at Ohio University.

In addition to insightful presentations, practical ideas offered during breakout sessions will benefit both senior nonprofit staff and board members in meeting an organization's full potential. Program, speaker topics are as follows:

Agenda

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| 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. | Registration and Continental Breakfast |
| 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. | Welcome
Nancy McGee, CEO, Alliance for Nonprofit Excellence |
| 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. | Opening Remarks
Dr. David Renz, Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership |
| 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. | The Best and Worst of Board Chairs
Dr. Yvonne Harrison, Seattle University |

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Agenda cont'd

- 9:45 - 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Breakout/Table Discussion on Effective Board/Management Relationships
- 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Panel Discussion featuring Local Board Chairs and Executive Directors
- 11:30 – 12:00 noon Discussion and Dialogue with participants
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (Provided)
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 1) Recruiting Board Members
Ruth McCambridge, *The Nonprofit Quarterly*
 - 2) Boards and Fundraising
Dr. David Renz
 - 3) Engaging Boards
Dr. Judith Millisen, Ohio University
- 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Building a Strong Board Connected to the Community
Dr. Judith Millisen
- 3:15 – 4 p.m. Wrap-up and Closing Remarks
Dr. David Renz
- 4 – 5 p.m. Reception hosted by the Alliance Board of Directors

The Alliance for Nonprofit Excellence (formerly The Grant Center) serves more than 300 nonprofits in the Greater Memphis area (West Tennessee, East Arkansas and North Mississippi), providing information, training (more than 50 workshops a year) and consultation. Alliance members represent nonprofit organizations supporting human services, health, arts, community development, education, religion and economic development. Local government agencies represent one-fourth of the Alliance membership while the remainder includes foundations, corporations, and individual professionals involved in grant seeking or nonprofit consulting.

The Alliance's offerings for member organizations include consulting services from both local and nationally known organizational development experts in the nonprofit sector. The Alliance also utilizes nationally developed studies, research and best practices in effective nonprofit leadership to further build the capacity of the Greater Memphis area's nonprofit sector.

The Alliance's Program for Nonprofit Excellence (PNE), first begun in 2003, requires application for participation and offers member organizations a more intensive opportunity. The multi-year, capacity building program is goal oriented and meant to empower nonprofits to address specific challenges, embrace their core mission and ultimately streamline operations for greater community impact.

Since 1992, more than \$154 million in national funding has benefited the Mid-South community as a result of Alliance assistance. For every dollar of local support to the Alliance, \$30 is generated for the Mid-South community. For more info, check the website at www.npexcellence.org or call 684.6605.

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Speaker bios on next page.

Conference Speaker Bios

Keynote Speaker

Yvonne Harrison, Ph.D.

Dr. Yvonne Harrison is an assistant professor at the Center for Nonprofit Leadership at Seattle University. Her research interests include volunteerism and information and communications technology, as well as the new governance environment in which organizations now operate. Dr. Harrison teaches courses on boards and volunteerism. She is currently researching the role and impact of board chairs.

David Renz, Ph.D.

Dr. David Renz is the director of the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dr. Renz teaches and conducts research on nonprofit and public service leadership and governance. He is a nationally-noted researcher and scholar in the field of nonprofit organization studies, particularly in the areas of nonprofit governance and board effectiveness, nonprofit organizational effectiveness and nonprofit leadership development.

Judith Millesen, Ph.D.

Dr. Judith Millesen is an associate professor of political science at Ohio University, where she teaches public administration, nonprofit management and nonprofit fundraising. Her research focuses on nonprofit administration and capacity building in the sector with a special interest in board governance. Dr. Millesen's work focuses on making a strong link between theory and practice.

Ruth McCambridge

Ruth McCambridge has more than 35 years of experience working with community-based nonprofits. She is currently the editor-in-chief of *The Nonprofit Quarterly*, an innovative nonprofit journal aimed at helping to build the capacity of individual nonprofits and the sector at large. McCambridge also serves as strategic advisor to the Alliance's nationally recognized Program for Nonprofit Excellence (PNE) – training and advising the program, its consultants and cohort participants in capacity building work.

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