

UlsterCorps Service Summit 2012 SPEAKER BIOS

Ken Jacobs was a teacher in the NYC school system for 35 years. He spent the last 15 years teaching mathematics at Sheepshead Bay HS. For the last 10 years he was Program Chairman and also taught two classes each term – a remedial class for seniors who needed to pass a regent to graduate as well as AP calculus. Since moving to Shandaken with his wife Mona (part-time since '98 and full time since '06) they have been, as a team, active in the Red Cross, the local food pantry as well as Phoenicia Rotary where Ken is this year's president.

Kathleen (kt) Tobin is the Assistant Director at the Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz, and also an adjunct professor in Sociology. At CRREO, she is responsible for designing, conducting, managing, and producing studies on regional issues and concerns. Her recent work includes directing the Regional Well-Being Project, the Power of SUNY & WellBeing in NYS Counties Project, and a Discussion Brief coauthored with Brian Obach titled "Agriculture Supporting Community in the Mid-Hudson Region". KT is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at SUNY Albany, has an M.S. in Social Research from CUNY Hunter and is a graduate of SUNY New Paltz ('92, Sociology). She is the Vice President of the New Paltz School Board, and she serves on several community committees including New Paltz GreenWorks, the New Paltz Government Efficiency and Effectiveness Project, and New Paltz Flood Aid.

Skip Zimmerman currently serves as the Regional Director of Volunteer & Community Services for the American Red Cross of Northeastern, NY, with responsibility for more than 3,000 volunteers over a 15,000 square-mile area. Skip's work with volunteers and volunteer organizations spans more than 30 years, and includes such areas as youth & family development, literacy, scouting, fire-fighting, disaster response, safety training and leadership training. He currently volunteers for the YMCA, a local Cub Scout pack, and the American Red Cross.

New Visions Health Career Explorations is an innovative Ulster County BOCES program that enables high school seniors to make informed decisions about their career choices through direct observation of local health care professionals at work. New Visions Health students have the unique opportunity to participate in the authentic application of learning in over 40 clinical settings. We are housed in Benedictine Hospital and supported by Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley and our community of professionals in Ulster County.

Erica Wagner is the Service Learning Coordinator in the Career Resource Center at SUNY New Paltz. She holds a Master's degree from SUNY New Paltz in Humanistic/ Multicultural Education with a concentration in Higher Education. In her current position at the college, Erica has the opportunity to work with New Paltz students who want to get involved in their community and gain valuable experience through volunteer work. Her goal is to encourage greater numbers of students to get involved in volunteering to build a culture of citizenship and service at SUNY New Paltz.

Jeanette Gisbert is the Senior Director of Volunteer and Corporate Engagement at The Volunteer Center of United Way. She develops and evaluates overall organizational programmatic priorities and direction. Prior to joining The Volunteer Center, Jeanette worked with another volunteer connector organization, New York Cares, for over seven years. As New York Cares' first Director of Volunteer Relations she was responsible for the recruitment and management of thousands of volunteers and hundreds of volunteer leaders. Jeanette began her nonprofit career as an Americorps VISTA member.

Marshall Beckman is the Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services, Ulster County. From 2000 to 2008 he served as Director of the Ulster County Mental Health Department, where he worked as Deputy Director for Administration from 1981 to 1999. He received a Master of Public Administration – Health Services from New York University.