

## About the Authors

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**TONY FILIPOVITCH** is Chair of the Urban and Regional Studies Institute at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In addition to thirty years' teaching, he has also served as President of the Mankato Area Foundation, is a founding member of Citizens' Voices, a grassroots community organization in the Mankato area, and is currently Chair of the Mankato Planning Commission. He has consulted for a number of

local government and nonprofit organizations in Minnesota.

**GAIL MILLER** is currently serving in her eighteenth year as the Renville County Recorder and Registrar of Titles and as a member of the County Management Team. She is the custodian of all Renville county land records and is responsible for recording, indexing, archiving and retrieving all legal documents related to real estate transactions. Miller is the project manager for the Renville County Electronic Real Estate Recording (ERER) Pilot project and has served as the vice chair of the Minnesota ERER task force. She coordinates the publication of the county newsletter distributed three times a year. In addition to her local duties, Gail is currently serving as the Vice Chair of the Association of Minnesota Counties Futures Task Force.



Miller grew up on a family farm in Renville County and attended the College of St. Catherine, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science. Miller worked as systems analyst for Unisys and Health Partners before moving on to county government work. She recently earned a Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Strategic Management from the

College of St. Catherine.

Miller serves as a board member for Heartland Community Action Agency. She is a local Girl Scout leader and is an active member of the Olivia Kiwanis Club. Gail is married to Rick and they have two children, Meghann and Rachel.



**JOE GRABA** is co-founder of Education | Evolving, a joint venture of the Center for Policy Studies and Hamline University. E | E works within Minnesota and nationally to help education policy leaders and influencers address both the challenges and opportunities facing 21<sup>st</sup> century public education. Graba has spent his entire professional life in education and related policy work — as a teacher, teachers’ union leader, state legislator, state agency executive and, most recently, Dean of Hamline’s Graduate School of Education

**JOE NATHAN** directs the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. For the past 20 years, Nathan has worked with rural and urban schools and communities, helping them refine their district public schools and establish and improve charter public schools. More than 20 weekly newspapers, including 15 in greater Minnesota, carry his weekly column. Parent, student and professional groups have honored Nathan for his work as a public school teacher and administrator; Nathan has also worked for the National Governors’ Association. *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other major papers have published his guest essays. Nathan received his bachelor’s degree from Carleton College and his master’s and Ph.D. from the



University of Minnesota. The Nathans’ three children all attended and graduated from the St. Paul Public Schools.



**LAURA ACCOMANDO** worked as a research assistant at the Center for School Change at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. While working at the Center she contributed to a number of research project. She received her

MA from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology and is currently a doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology.

**TERRY HILL**, MPA, is the executive director of the Rural Health Resource Center, a national, non-profit organization based in Duluth, Minnesota. The Rural Health Resource Center is currently implementing more than a dozen state and national rural health projects, including the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program's Technical Assistance and Services Center, the Mississippi Delta Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Project, and the Small Hospital Improvement Program.



Hill has more than 25 years experience working with rural hospitals on quality and performance improvement, strategic planning, network development, health information technology, and leadership development. He has written extensively on these topics and has made more than 100 presentations at state and national conferences. Hill also teaches performance management at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth and has served as faculty on dozens of performance improvement workshops.



**KATIE JOHNSON** grew up on a dairy farm near Battle Lake, MN, where she was active in 4-H on both the local and regional level. Her first job milking Jersey cows earned her a percentage of her dad's milk check and a real education in hard work, the fluctuations of market-based pay and the marketing efforts of the dairy check-off program. Katie received her Bachelors Degree in broadcasting from Northwestern College in St. Paul. After spending the first

several years of her career in radio broadcasting, she has spent the last 12 years in the rural telecommunications industry working for Park Region Telephone Co., a cooperative based in Underwood, MN. She currently serves as Business Operations Manager for Park Region and its subsidiary companies Otter Tail Telcom, Valley Telephone and Otter Com Inc. Katie lives in rural Underwood with her husband and two young children.

**BERNADINE JOSELYN** is director of public policy and engagement for the Blandin Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation

is currently implementing two public policy initiatives: Vital Forests/Vital Communities, and Broadband: Keeping Rural Communities Competitive. Joselyn joined the Foundation in September 2001. A Minnesota native, Joselyn has a master's degree in international affairs and a certificate in advanced Soviet studies from Columbia University. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in public policy from the University's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute. Joselyn served for seven years as a diplomat with the United States Department of State, including assignments in New Delhi, India, and Moscow, Russia. She spent the better part of a decade living and working in Russia, including as Director of the Moscow office of the Eurasia Foundation and Director of the Moscow office of the International Research and Exchanges Board.



**GARY FIELDS** is the President of Development Strategies and Resources Inc., a consulting organization that assists development organizations in designing and implementing new programs and projects. He is the Project Consultant to the Blandin Foundation, where he assists in the design and implementation of their Rural Broadband Initiative.

From 1997 to 2002, Mr. Fields was the Deputy Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, where he administered the Business and Community Development Division and was the principal architect of the state's economic development strategy. From 1992 to 1997, Mr. Fields was Vice President with Springsted Public Finance Advisors (St. Paul), where he assisted municipal agencies in designing and delivering financing programs to meet their development objectives. Prior to Springsted, Mr. Fields was a director with the National Development Council (New York), where he worked with national, state and local development agencies and trained over 2,000 professionals in NDC's Economic Development Finance Professional Certification Program.

Mr. Fields has over 25 years experience in economic and community development and has assisted with financing over \$1.0 billion in development projects. He has a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois. He resides in St. Paul.



**MILDA K. HEDBLOM** offers services as a consultant, lawyer and policy expert through Dain International Consulting and Legal Services to public and private clients with telecommunications and information services needs. As a consultant and lawyer she tends to work in the space where innovation occurs. She works on broadband issues in both fiber and wireless, including community broadband development, entry of new services, and multi-party network agreements, among others. Recent fiber projects include the City of Monticello and the City of Red Wing. Recent wireless studies include the City of St. Paul and City of Winter Springs, Florida. As a policy expert, she is Director of the Telecommunications and Information Society Policy Forum (TISP Forum) at the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. Recent policy projects include development of the Regional Broadband Task Force, a five county collaboration on broadband development. She has considerable experience at the national level, including at the FCC as well as at the international level. In 2001 and 2002 she held a position as Executive Coordinator of the World Summit on the Information Society, a UN project based in Geneva. She is a professor of politics and communications at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and of telecommunications policy at the University of Minnesota. She has a bachelor's degree from Macalester College, St. Paul, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota including study at Oxford University, and a J.D. from the University of Minnesota.

