

About the Authors



LEE WARNE is Executive Director of the Minnesota Rural Education Association. Lee has spent the past 38 years in education as a teacher, coach, principal, superintendent and now executive director. He has taught in Tehran, Iran, but spent most of his career in rural Minnesota. Lee was also the national executive director for the Association of Educational Service Agencies

based in Washington, D.C. Lee has a bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Moorhead and a master's and specialist degree in education from Tri-College University, Moorhead.

Since 2002 **DOUG PETERSON** of Madison, Minn., has been president of the Minnesota Farmers Union, a nonprofit membership-based organization that works to protect and enhance the economic opportunities and quality of life for family farmers and rural communities. Prior to his election as MFU President, Peterson served for twelve years in the Minnesota House, representing a legislative district that included Lac qui Parle, Swift, Chippewa and Big Stone Counties in western Minnesota.



While serving in the Minnesota Legislature in 1996, Peterson founded and served as Chair of the Right to Be Rural Coalition. He is widely recognized for his leadership on

several rural issues, including renewable fuels. Peterson was the chief author of legislation that made Minnesota the first state in the nation to require a 10% ethanol blend in gasoline.

Peterson grew up on a family farm south of Madison, Minn., and began his formal education in a one-room schoolhouse. A graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, Peterson was an outstanding collegiate football player. After graduation, he was an art teacher, gymnastics coach and football coach in Glencoe, Minn., before returning to Lac qui Parle County to run the family farm. Doug and his wife, Elly, have two grown sons. In addition to farming, Peterson is a licensed auctioneer and an artist known for his vivid portrayals of wildlife.



As Minnesota Farm Bureau's public policy team director, **CHRIS RADATZ** is responsible for directing the legislative activity of Minnesota's largest general farm organization. This involves working on state and federal legislation, working with governmental regulatory agencies and assisting county Farm Bureaus in developing and implementing Farm Bureau policy. Chris joined Farm Bureau in 1976

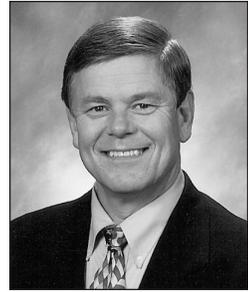
as a field representative in southeast Minnesota. Throughout his career with Farm Bureau, he has been involved in many aspects of the organization including commodity activities, field services and working with Farm Bureau members. Chris was born and raised on a dairy farm in Winona County, graduated from Lewiston High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Chris and his wife, Mary, have three children and seven grandchildren.

STEVE PERKINS chairs and since 1986 has served on the Sanford Hospital Luverne Community Advisory Board and its predecessor governing board of the Luverne Community Hospital. He is a director of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) and is a member of the American Hospital

Association's Committee on Governance (past chair) and Regional Policy Board. He was one of the first to complete MHA's Certified Hospital Trustee program and was named Trustee of the Year in 2007.

Perkins served as mayor of the City of Pipestone (1977-86) and as City Administrator for Luverne (1986-1992) and Red Wing (1992-97). Early on he was an EMT volunteer ambulance attendant and served many years as chair of the Southwest EMS Corporation. The Minnesota League of Cities awarded him its Leadership Award in 1997. He is an alumnus of the Blandin Foundation Advanced Leadership program.

Perkins resides in Luverne and is a semi-retired consultant in business management and economic development.



Since 1993, **JIM MILLER** has served as Executive Director of the League of Minnesota Cities. The League is a membership organization representing over 830 cities across the state. For more than 90 years, the League has provided research, training, advocacy, communication, and insurance services to its members.

Prior to his current position, Jim served as City Manager of Minnetonka, Minnesota for 13 years. He has also been Assistant City Manager in Des Moines Iowa and Janesville Wisconsin. In total, he has worked for seven cities in five states ranging from 10,000 to 1,000,000 population.

He has been an assistant professor at Hamline University, teaching in its public administration program and has served as co-coordinator of its doctoral program in public administration. He holds a BA degree in political science, two masters degrees in public administration and a doctorate in that same field.

He has participated in several international exchanges or training initiatives with local governments in Moldova,

Russia, the Baltic Republics, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Japan.



Professor **KING BANAIAN** is professor and chairman of the Department of Economics at St. Cloud State University. He holds the Ph.D. in economics from the Claremont Graduate School. He has consulted at the central banks of Ukraine, Egypt and Macedonia and the ministries of finance of Indonesia, Macedonia and Armenia. He is author of *The Ukrainian Economy since Independence* (Edward Elgar, 1998), co-editor of *The Design and Use of Political Economy Indicators* (Palgrave, 2008) and more than forty articles and book chapters discussing monetary policy and political economy. He directs the Center for Economic Education at SCSU. He is a fellow of the Armenian International Policy Research Group in Washington, DC and Yerevan, Armenia. He is also host of the King Banaian Show of the Northern Alliance Radio Network, broadcast in Minneapolis, and co-author of the *St. Cloud Quarterly Business Report*. He lives in St. Cloud, Minnesota, with his wife and daughter.

RICH MACDONALD is Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at St. Cloud State University. He currently splits time between his faculty responsibilities at SCSU and service as the Senior Advisor for Program Development with the Council for Economic Education (CEE). At SCSU, he teaches courses in Money & Banking and Macroeconomics, co-authors the *St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report*, and serves as assistant director of the Center for Economic Education. He also serves on the Council of Economic Advisers of the Minnesota Department of Finance. In his work with the NY-based CEE, he is instrumental in the development and delivery of educational programs and products for K-12 teachers of



economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship around the U.S. and several other countries. He has played a major role in the development and assessment of K-12 educational standards in economics by serving on key committees that have developed the *K-12 Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics*, as well as new social studies/history standards for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, and the testing of 12th grade students as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Economics 2006 (and 2012) assessment. He has co-authored a book in Mathematics and Economics for use in high school classrooms and has made numerous curricular contributions in economics and personal finance for use in K-12 classrooms. He works with several university professionals in conducting assessment research in economic and financial education.

Rich has also served as the interim executive director of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education and as Vice President for Programs of the Council for Economic Education. He is past president of the National Association of Economic Educators, a former member of the Board of Directors of the CEE, and has served as senior fellow of the CEE. He has a B.S. in Economics from Alfred University and a PhD in Economics from the State University of New York at Binghamton.



DANE SMITH is the president of Growth & Justice, a policy research organization that focuses on ways to build both business growth and economic justice, through smarter public investments and a fairer tax system, and improving government accountability. Smith also has 35 years experience as a journalist, researching and writing about state government and politics for the Star Tribune, the St. Paul Pioneer Press and other newspapers. He says he has a unique perspective on Greater Minnesota, informed by almost four decades as an observer and chronicler who traveled to every nook and cranny of the state with candidates for statewide elected office,

including extensive travels with four different governors since the early 1980s. He also has benefited from a front-row seat at the state capitol, reporting on regional policy and political debate. He prefers to take his vacations in Minnesota, loves the state parks and small towns, enjoys reading about the history and cultures of the entire state, and takes every opportunity to get outside the Twin Cities' MUSA (Metropolitan Urban Service Area) boundary.



BRAD FINSTAD is executive director of the Center for Rural Policy and Development in St. Peter, Minn., served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives before coming to the Center in 2008. During his time in the Legislature, Finstad served on the House's agriculture, finance and health and human services committees and served for two years as assistant minority leader.

He gained statewide attention in 2006 when he authored and successfully shepherded passage of legislation authorizing public financing of the new Twins ballpark.

He previously served as the Agriculture and Rural Policy Adviser/Liaison for former Congressman Mark Kennedy. In the private sector, Finstad has held numerous management positions dealing with business development and human resources. Finstad also has been involved in numerous agricultural organizations, including the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, the Minnesota Pork Producers, the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives. He also is a member of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

Finstad and his wife, Jaclyn, are both Minnesota natives and live in rural Comfrey with their four children. He received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota.

MARNIE WERNER is research manager at the Center for Rural Policy and Development. Before coming to the Center in 2000,

About the Authors

Werner was employed for eight years at ECM Publishers in Anoka, Minn., first as an education, city and arts reporter for the Anoka County newspapers, then as Capitol reporter for the group of newspapers, ranging from Milaca down to Blaine and Spring Lake Park. Werner received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota School of Journalism and a master's degree in policy analysis from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

