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About the authors



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The Center for Rural Policy and Development, based in St. Peter, Minn., is a private, not-for-profit policy research organization dedicated to benefiting Minnesota by providing its policy makers with an unbiased evaluation of issues from a rural perspective.

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About the Authors



Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., **NORM COLEMAN** spent 17 years in the office of Minnesota's Attorney General before being elected mayor of St. Paul in 1993. In 1996, Coleman made the controversial switch to the Republican Party, before being re-elected mayor the next year.

In 1998 Coleman ran for governor and narrowly lost to Independence Party candidate Jesse Ventura. In 2002, after his term as mayor ended, he entered the race for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Senator Paul Wellstone. After Senator Wellstone's tragic death eleven days before the election, Coleman won a close election against Wellstone's replacement, former Vice President Walter Mondale.

Coleman serves on the Senate Agriculture Committee, where in the fall of 2003 he introduced the Rural Renaissance Act. He also founded and is now co-chairman of the bipartisan Senate Biofuels Caucus. He serves as Chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and also chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. Coleman is also a member of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

Coleman attended Hofstra University on Long Island and received his law degree from the University of Iowa Law School. He and his wife, Laurie, have two children, Jacob and Sarah.



TIM PENNY is senior fellow and co-director of the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum. He represented southeastern Minnesota's First Congressional District from 1982 to 1994 and was a member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee and chair of the Foreign Agriculture and Hunger subcommittee. Penny also served on the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Select Committee on Hunger. While in Congress, Penny founded and co-chaired the Democratic Budget Group and drafted numerous deficit-cutting initiatives.

Since 1995, Penny has worked as a senior counselor for the Minnesota-based public relations firm Himle Horner. From 1998 to 1999 Penny served as a member of Governor Jesse Ventura's transition team, and in 2002 he was the Independence Party candidate for governor. During 2001, Penny was actively involved as a member of President Bush's bipartisan commission on Social Security.

Penny serves on several boards: as policy chair for the budget watchdog group the Concord Coalition, chair of the Southern Minnesota Leadership Circle, vice chair of ACDI/VOCA (an international development agency), and as a trustee of the Wells Fargo Advantage Funds and the Good Samaritan Society. He is co-author of three books, *Common Cents* (1995), *Payment Due* (1996) and *The 15 Biggest Lies in Politics* (1998), and is a regular public speaker, radio commentator and editorial writer on the topics of state and federal budgeting, agricultural policy, trade issues, rural development, and leadership.

Penny received his bachelor's degree from Winona State University and served 12 years in the Navy Reserves, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander. He and his wife, Barb, reside in Waseca, Minn., and are the parents of four grown children.

THOMAS F. STINSON is an associate professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Applied Economics. Since 1987 he has also served as Minnesota's state economist, supervising preparation of the state's revenue forecast and providing analyses of state economic issues.

Stinson conducted research on rural



development topics as an economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture before assuming his current position. A native of Washington State, he received a bachelor's degree in political science from Washington State University, and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Minnesota. Stinson is a past president of the Minnesota Economic Association.

TOM GILLASPY has served as the Minnesota State Demographer since 1979. During that time, he has been involved with a wide-ranging set of issue, applying an understanding of demographic trends in such areas as the state's economy, health care for an aging population, education, higher education, welfare reform, rural population change, labor shortages, immigration, housing, government spending, and the aging state workforce.



Before moving to Minnesota, Tom held the position of demographer at the Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Pennsylvania State University, specializing in economic demography. He also holds a master's degree in agricultural economics. Born and raised in Texas, he received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin.



C. FORD RUNGE is Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Applied Economics and Law at the University of Minnesota, where he also holds appointments in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the Department of Forest Resources.

A native of Wisconsin, he received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at the University of Wisconsin, his master's degree in economics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and his bachelor's degree at North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He has served on the staff of the House Committee on Agriculture and as a Science and Diplomacy Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, working in U.S. AID on food aid and trade. He spent 1988 as a special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in Geneva, Switzerland.

His publications include five books, and a wide range of articles concentrating on trade, agriculture and natural resources policy. He is married and lives in Stillwater with his wife Susan, daughter Elizabeth, and son Carl. He owns and operates a small farm in Wisconsin.



JOE NATHAN directs the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. For the past 15 years, Nathan has worked with rural schools and communities, helping them refine their public schools and establish and improve charter schools. More than 30 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.

CHRIS GILBERT is professor of political science at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., where he has taught since 1991. His research interests focus on religion and politics, third parties in the United States, and Minnesota politics. His published works include *The Prophetic Pulpit: Clergy, Churches, and Communities in American Politics*, a two-year study of political activity among the clergy and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran



Church in America and the Episcopal Church. He is also the recipient of two all-campus outstanding teaching awards from Gustavus students and faculty. Since 1992 he has served as a frequent national and state political analyst for Minnesota Public Radio.



JIM MULDER is the Executive Director of the Association of Minnesota Counties. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree and has earned a master's degree from the Hubert H Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Jim has been the Executive Director for AMC for sixteen years. Prior to holding this position, Jim served as the County Coordinator

for McLeod County and worked for the Minnesota House of Representatives as a researcher and as a committee administrator for the House Tax Committee.

The Association of Minnesota Counties is a voluntary association of all of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties. AMC provides a broad range of services that include lobbying the Minnesota Legislature, working with state departments and agencies, and providing training and information to Minnesota county officials.

LINDA BAER earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Washington State University, her master's degree in sociology from Colorado State University and her Ph.D. from South Dakota State University. Before joining the Office of the Chancellor staff, Linda was the Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and also Interim President at Bemidji State University.



Linda provides leadership throughout the State of Minnesota and presents nationally in academic innovations, e-learning and services, bridging higher education with the workplace, assessment and accountability, educational transformation, and the development of alliances and partnerships. Her recent publications and presentations include work on the challenge of change, myths and realities of technology-enhanced education, and the blueprint for building strong partnerships. Linda co-authored a book entitled, *Partnering in the Learning Marketplace*. She recently published an article on "Higher Education and Technology: Bridging the Generation Gap."



RAYMOND G. CHRISTENSEN, M.D., is a board-certified family physician and currently holds the position of Assistant Dean for Rural Health at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, School of Medicine. After a farm childhood and a degree in agriculture, he attended the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison, Wis., and subsequently interned at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. He co-founded the Gateway Family Health Clinic in Moose

Lake, Minn., in 1972, where he continues to practice. He has assisted in the development of the trauma system in northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin and in the subsequent formation of the Arrowhead EMS Association, the Northern Lakes Health Care Consortium, Minnesota Center for Rural Health, Minnesota Office for Rural Health and Primary Care, and the Rural Health Resource Center. A strong believer in access to quality health care and universal coverage, he has long advocated on behalf of rural health on the Minnesota Health Care Commission and regional Coordinating Boards and for the establishment of a free rural access clinic in Cromwell, Minn.

On a statewide and national level, he has served on many committees and held offices in many organizations, including president of the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, the Minnesota Medical Association, and Stratis Health, and as a director, treasurer, and speaker of the house of the American Health Quality Association. As a member of the Minnesota Rural Health Association and a long-time member of the National Rural Health Association, he continues his advocacy locally, regionally, statewide and nationally.