

Global Midwest Initiative Steering Committee

MEMBERS



Mr. John Austin

Executive Director, New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan

Mr. Austin is vice president of the Michigan State Board of Education, a state-wide elected official. As a non-resident senior fellow with the Brookings Institution, he was the primary author on the Great Lake Economic Initiative's report "The Vital Center: A Federal State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region." He also served as policy director for Michigan's Governor-appointed Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth (the Cherry Commission) and was principal author of the Commission's report. Austin has worked with city and state governments, federal agencies and officials, as well as national foundations, corporations and labor organizations on a wide variety of public policy issues. He received his Masters in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelors from Swarthmore College in Economics and Political Science.



Ms. Rekha Basu

Columnist, Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu has been a columnist for *The Des Moines Register* since late 1991. She comments on a range of local, national and international issues with a focus on human rights, racial justice and gender equality. She has worked as a reporter, editorial writer and columnist at newspapers in Iowa, New York State, and Florida. Born in India to United Nations parents, Basu grew up internationally. She received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Brandeis University, a master's in political economy from Goddard-Cambridge Graduate School, and a master's in journalism from Columbia University. Basu was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Grinnell College; was voted best local news commentator or columnist in the CityView readers' poll; was named one of the Des Moines Business Record's Women of Influence; and received the Iowa Farmers Union media award.



Mr. Mike Blouin

Former Director, Iowa Department of Economic Development

President, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation

Mike Blouin was named director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development in January 2003. With over 30 years of public service and community development experience, he brought a strong understanding of Iowa's economic needs and opportunities. Blouin previously served as president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, where he led the consolidation of four economic and community development groups into one unified development organization. Under his leadership, the Greater Des Moines Partnership became the premier economic and community development organization serving Des Moines. Blouin also served as president of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. He has been a resource director at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids; president and founder of a Washington, D.C.-based consulting and lobbying firm; and a presidential appointee to the Community Service Administration. Additionally, Blouin was a member of Congress and a member of the Iowa State Senate and the Iowa House of Representatives. He was a candidate in 2006 for Iowa Governor but narrowly lost to Chet Culver in the Democratic primary.



Ms. Carol Coletta

President and CEO, CEOs for Cities

Carol Coletta is president and CEO of CEOs for Cities and host and producer of the nationally syndicated public radio show *Smart City*. Previously, she served as president of Coletta & Company in Memphis. In addition, she served as executive director of the Mayors' Institute on City Design, a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, U.S. Conference of Mayors and American Architectural Foundation. Carol was a Knight Fellow in Community Building for 2003 at the University of Miami School of Architecture and is currently a candidate for a Master of Design Methods at the Institute of Design at IIT. She is frequently interviewed as an expert on urban issues by national media and is an active speaker on the success formula for cities and creative communities. This year she was named one of the world's 50 most important urban experts by a leading European think tank.



Dr. Neil Conklin

President, Farm Foundation

Neilson C. Conklin was named President of Farm Foundation in January 2008. Dr. Conklin previously served as director of the market and trade economics division of USDA's Economic Research Service. In that role, he initiated the ERS research program on the economics of bioenergy, and directed development of new modeling frameworks on global trade policy analysis. Before joining ERS in 1999, Dr. Conklin spent six years at the Farm Credit Council as vice president and chief economist. He previously worked at the Office of Management and Budget, and has had teaching assignments at Arizona State University, the University of Arizona and at Colorado State University.



Dr. James Duderstadt

President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Engineering, University of Michigan

Dr. James Duderstadt serves as director of the University of Michigan's program in science, technology, and public policy as well as the Millennium Project, a research center studying the impact of rapidly evolving technologies on society. Prior to his current position, Dr. Duderstadt was the president of the University of Michigan from 1988 to 1996 and dean of the College of Engineering from 1981-1988. He has received numerous national awards for his research, teaching, and service activities, including the E.O. Lawrence Award for excellence in nuclear research and the National Medal of Technology for exemplary service to the nation. He currently chairs several major national study commissions in areas including federal and science policy, higher education, information technology, and engineering research.



Mr. Bob Holden

Former Governor, Missouri and Lecturer, Webster University

Following a career in public service spanning more than 25 years, including serving as Governor of Missouri from 2001 until 2005, Governor Bob Holden now is a private sector leader in the fields of education and international economic development. Governor Holden's interest in international trade is reflected in his leadership of the Governor Bob Holden Public Policy Forum at Webster University. He is a Webster University Visiting Professor, vice chairman of the new Midwest U.S.-China Association, and the chairman of The Holden Group, LLC. Born in Kansas City, Governor Holden was raised on a farm near the tiny town of Birch Tree in the Ozark Hills of southern Missouri. He received his early education in a one-room country schoolhouse before eventually graduating from Southwest Missouri State University with a degree in political science. He also has attended special courses for government executives at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Mr. Robbin Johnson

Chairman of the Board, Cargill Foundation

Mr. Johnson serves as board president of the Cargill Foundation, which invests nearly \$7.5 million annually, about a quarter of Cargill's yearly giving, in organizations and programs that demonstrate leadership and effectiveness in educating socio-economically disadvantaged children and eliminating barriers to educational success in the Minneapolis area. He is the former senior vice president of corporate affairs at Cargill, Incorporated. Mr. Johnson also served as chair of the Policy Committee of the Minnesota School Readiness Business Advisory Committee that issued a report in 2005 called "A Winning Start." The Minnesota Early Learning Foundation was then formed in late 2005 and is piloting ways to bring quality early learning experiences cost-effectively to children at risk of being unprepared to succeed in school, work, and life. Johnson serves on its board. He received his B.A. from Yale University, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and attended Yale Law School.



Dan Linzer

Provost, Northwestern University

Daniel I. Linzer became Provost of Northwestern University on September 1, 2007. Linzer joined Northwestern in 1984 as an assistant professor, and is now professor of biochemistry, molecular biology and cell biology. He has conducted pioneering research on the molecular basis of hormone action. Following four years as Associate Dean, Linzer was appointed Dean of Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences in 2002. Prior to coming to Northwestern, Linzer received his Bachelor of Science degree in molecular biophysics and biochemistry from Yale University in 1976 and a Ph.D. in biochemical sciences from Princeton University in 1980. He completed a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Among the many awards he has received are the Searle Scholars Award, the American Cancer Society Faculty Research Award, and the Northwestern Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award



Dr. Sylvia Manning

President, Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association

Chancellor Emerita, University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Sylvia Manning retired as chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago in December 2007 and is currently the president of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Previously, Manning served for five years as vice president for academic affairs for the University of Illinois system. She began her career as an assistant professor of English at California State University and then held numerous positions at the University of Southern California including professor of English and executive vice provost. A former Woodrow Wilson Fellow and Danforth Teaching Fellow, she has written numerous books and articles on Charles Dickens and other Victorian writers. A native of Montreal, Canada and a naturalized U.S. citizen, Dr. Manning received her undergraduate degree with honors from McGill University and her Ph.D. in English language and literature from Yale University.



Ms. Barbara McFadden Allen

Director, Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC)

Barbara McFadden Allen is the director of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC). In this position, she is responsible for leading and directing collaborative academic programs across the 12 member research universities. Founded in 1958, the CIC supports inter-university cooperative efforts in shared course development and delivery; high bandwidth networking; high technology applications and research; international programs with a focus on study abroad access; recruitment of a diverse graduate student population; library and information services; coordinated purchasing; and higher education policy. Her research interests are collaboration in higher education to improve

quality, technologies for library and information applications and services, and digital information resources. She has published, lectured, and consulted widely in these areas, including consultancies for the British Library, the National Library of Finland, and the states of Missouri, Illinois, Virginia and Oregon. She received her A.B. and her M.L.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Rev. Dr. Sid Mohn

President, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights

Dr. Mohn joined Heartland Alliance in 1980, and also serves as President of its three partners: Heartland Housing, Inc., Heartland Health Outreach, Inc. and Heartland Human Care Services, Inc. He is responsible for developing and implementing the strategic plan that allows the organization to meet its mission. Through his passion and vision, Dr. Mohn has helped Heartland Alliance and its partners become the premier service-based human rights organization in the Midwest. Prior to his tenure at Heartland Alliance, he held positions with the Chicago Urban League, the Kane/DeKalb Counties Employment and Training Consortium, International Documentation, and La Casa Center. Dr. Mohn is a graduate of Temple University, received his Master of Divinity from the School of Theology at Claremont, California, and his doctorate from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He is a United Church of Christ clergyperson and a member of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans. Dr. Mohn is past Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Immigration Forum and is a member of the Board of Directors of International Social Services U.S. Committee for Refugees, Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and Global Chicago.



Dr. Carlos Santiago

Chancellor, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Carlos E. Santiago is the seventh chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Chancellor Santiago also holds the academic rank of Professor of Economics at UWM. As a labor economist, he has regional expertise in the Caribbean and Central America, with special emphasis on Puerto Rico. He formerly held the position of provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the University at Albany, State University of New York and functioned as the Chief Operating Officer of the campus. He is also a founding co-editor of the *Latino Research Review* and has been a member of the U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus International Relations Advisory Group. In 1996 he was named one of the top 100 most influential Hispanic leaders by *Hispanic Business* magazine. He is the author or co-author of five books and has published numerous articles. Chancellor Santiago has a Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University, and M.A. degrees in economics from Cornell University and the University of Puerto Rico.



Mr. Paul Williams

Senior Vice President for Field Strategies and Development, Local Initiatives Support Council

Mr. Paul Williams works to strengthen and coordinate the operations of LISC's 33 program sites nationwide. Prior to joining LISC in 1999, Williams spent nearly a decade working in Twin Cities neighborhoods and developing several cutting-edge grant-making initiatives at the Minneapolis and St. Paul Foundations and the United Way of the St. Paul Area. He has a master's degree in public affairs from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's in government and philosophy from St. John's University.