

CAREERS IN COMMUNICATION: ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

ALUMNI BIOGRAPHIES



TREV ALBERTS

VICE CHANCELLOR OF ATHLETICS, UNO

Trev Alberts graduated from UNL in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. As a Husker football player, Trev was awarded the Butkus Award, the Big Eight defensive MVP, first-team All-American, Football News National Defensive Player of the Year, Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year, and the Big Eight Male Athlete of the Year. Off the field, Alberts was earned The Today's Top Six Award (1993) and CoSIDA Academic All-American (1993). Trev graduated from Nebraska before his senior season and was drafted in 1994 by the Indianapolis Colts. Trev played for the Colts until 1996.

Trev Alberts was named the Director of Athletics in April 2009, and to Vice Chancellor for Athletics in 2014. Under Alberts leadership, the Mavericks officially reclassified to Division I membership in 2015-16.



BILL ANDERSON

LEAD DATA SCIENTIST, MICROSOFT CORPORATION

Bill Anderson graduated from UNL in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with endorsements in Speech Communication and Political Science.

Bill began his post-graduate career as a high school Speech and Debate teacher. By leveraging his teaching and communication background, Bill successfully transitioned into the computer and technology industry. Bill is currently working for Microsoft Corporation. Over 22 years, Bill has been a Product Manager, Lead Program Manager, and now, Lead Data Scientist.



LISA ANDERSON

FORMER DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF, MICROSOFT CORPORATION

Lisa Anderson graduated from UNL with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, with Endorsements in Speech Communication and English, in 1991.

While working on her minor in Communication, Lisa spent a year on the UNL Debate Team. Before leaving college, Lisa realized that teaching was not the profession she wanted to pursue, and instead, embarked on a journey to leverage her passion for communication in the business world. Lisa held senior roles in Project Management, Training, and IT within the banking and acquisition industry, before spending the past 18 years at Microsoft Corporation. Here, Lisa has held roles such as Group Program Manager, Director, and Chief of Staff.



AMANDA BERGERON-BAUER

ACADEMIC ADVISOR FOR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES, UNL

Amanda Bergeron-Bauer graduated from UNL with a BA in Communication Studies in May 2003. While working full time in the UNL Office of Graduate Studies, Amanda earned an MA in Educational Psychology with a specialization in Cognition, Learning and Development in August 2011.

In her 15 years of professional experience at UNL, Amanda has worked with undergraduate and graduate student admissions, recruitment, and retention. Amanda currently serves as an academic advisor for the UNL College of Education and Human Sciences and expects to complete her PhD in Human Sciences with a specialization in Leadership Studies in December 2021. Amanda also enjoys service opportunities. She was a member of the OutLinc Board of Directors from 2013 to 2016 and is the chair-elect of the UNL Academic Advising Association.



KELLY LUETHJE

FIDUCIARY, FEE ONLY, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER TM, AND FOUNDER, WILLOW PLANNING GROUP

Kelly Luethje, MBA, CFP® earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2000 and began a career as an investor relations professional. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Simmons School of Management in 2005. In 2012, Kelly earned a Certificate in Financial Planning from Boston University and received CFP® Certification in 2016.

Today, Kelly is a fiduciary, fee-only CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™. She founded Willow Planning Group, LLC in 2015, an independent financial planning practice. Kelly helps individuals create comprehensive financial plans through an active engagement process. Kelly works to help clients feel empowered to make smart financial decisions by giving them the tools and education to support their own situation.



MARCUS POWERS

CO- FOUNDER AND CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AT ZIPLINE BREWERY

Marcus Powers graduated from UNL in 2005 with dual majors in Communication Studies and Political Science. Marcus then graduated from the College of Law in 2008 with distinction and an emphasis in water and natural resources. Marcus started his career as an Assistant Attorney General in the Nebraska Department of Justice, focusing primarily on disputes over the hydrology of interstate river systems.

Marcus' passion for science ultimately led him away from a legal career and, in 2012, he co-founded Zipline Brewing Co. Marcus acted as Head Brewer and Chief of Operations during the company's formative years. Zipline grew quickly into Nebraska's top production brewery and ranks in the top 10% of breweries nationally. Today, Marcus oversees product development and production efficiency, quality control, expansion projects, market analysis, brand development, and other odds and ends at the brewery. Outside of Zipline, Marcus served for 4 years on the national Brewers Association's Sustainability Committee and is the current treasurer for the Great Plains district of the Masters Brewers Association of the Americas.



KAYLA SIMMS

DIRECTOR OF SALES AND CLIENT RELATIONS AT MIDWEST LABORATORIES

Kayla Simms graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and a Minor in Business Administration in 2014. Before working at Midwest Laboratories, Kayla worked as a Healthcare Recruiter, Account Manager, Team Lead, National Account Executive, and Business Development Executive at C&A Industries.

Midwest Laboratories specializes in analytical testing for the agriculture, pet food, and food and beverage industries. Here, Kayla is responsible for all Business Development activities and growth as well as Marketing Strategy, Public Relations, and Client Events. Outside of Midwest Laboratories, Kayla is a member of the Omaha Jaycees (Junior Chamber). Kayla serves as the Video/Events Chairman for Ten Outstanding Young Omahans, the longest-running awards recognition banquet in the state of Nebraska. Kayla was formerly the Vice President of Individual Development for the Jaycees and continues to be involved throughout the community.



JENNA THOMSEN

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA

Jenna Thomsen holds a Master's in Communication Studies, with an emphasis in Interpersonal and Family Communication, from UNL. Throughout her time at UNL, Jenna was a Business and Professional Communication graduate instructor educating students on the key principles of interviewing, public speaking, and business etiquette.

Before working at HCAN, Jenna spent time at National Research Corporation implementing patient experience measurement programs for hospitals, medical groups, and health centers. During this time, she also developed and led internal training programs for new associates. At HCAN, Jenna is primarily responsible for developing and implementing initiatives to strengthen and expand the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) network in Nebraska; assessing training needs and developing innovative training and technical assistance opportunities to meet those needs. Jenna is passionate about building relationships, facilitating discussion, and improving quality outcomes.



KEVIN THOR

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION SMILE

Kevin Thor graduated from UNL with a double major in Communication Studies Business Administration in 2016. Kevin's career is focused on international development working with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

Since graduation, Kevin lived in Vietnam on a Fulbright Fellowship. Upon completing his Fullbright, Kevin worked for Operation Smile, an international medical NGO, managing surgical and education capacity building programs in developing countries. Kevin's work has taken him across nine countries, working with thousands of medical volunteers, government and corporate partners, and patients. Kevin is currently based in Manila, Philippines and focused in Southeast Asia.