About the Authors

Sustaining Our Spirits

Women Leaders Thriving for Today and Tomorrow

Darlyne Bailey. As the founding Dean of the College of Education and Human Development and Assistant to the President at the University of Minnesota, Darlyne Bailey was formerly the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Teachers College, Columbia University, from January 2002 to September 2006. Prior to that she served as the Dean of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University for eight years. Dr. Bailey earned a master’s degree in psychiatric social work from the School of Social Work at Columbia University and a doctorate in organizational behavior from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University.

A recognized leader, Dean Bailey is both a Group XIII Fellow in the W. K. Kellogg National Leadership Program and the first recipient of the Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development. She is committed to multidisciplinary and multicultural practice, which is reflected in her research, teaching, and service on local and national professional and community boards. Dr. Bailey has written numerous book chapters and journal articles, along with several books, including Managing Human Resources in the Human Services and Strategic Alliances among Health and Human Services Organizations: From Affiliations to Consolidations. Dr. Bailey has come to see her life’s work as creating visionary and engaged leadership to ensure that individuals, organizations, multiorganizational partnerships, and communities fulfill their highest potential.

Kelly McNally Koney. Kelly McNally Koney is a consultant with 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. Her practice centers on the interconnection of people, ideas, and efficacy, and she is passionate about strengthening connections in all aspects of life and work. Kelly partners with organizations and community groups through the use of strategies such as planning, partnership development, and participatory change and engages with people through inquiry and collaboration to transform the resources and energy around them for personal, organizational, and community benefit.

Kelly has worn many hats in service of the nonprofit sector, including administrator, educator, and board member. She received her master’s degree in science in social administration from Case Western Reserve University and her baccalaureate in human ecology from The Ohio State University. She has partnered with several colleagues to explore collaboration and its role in organizational and community change, coauthoring Strategic Alliances among Health and Human Services Organizations: From Affiliations to Consolidations, as well as numerous journal articles and technical reports. Over the years, she has extended this work, integrating her diverse experiences and interest in spirituality to delve deeply into how individual relationships, a sense of wholeness, and the power of energy contribute to the health and functioning of communal systems, and she seeks to help these systems and their stakeholders to leverage this inherent energy for their well-being and healing. To maintain her personal balance, she is a Reiki practitioner, a marathoner, and a triathlete. She lives with her husband in Chicago.

Mary Ellen McNish. Mary Ellen McNish is General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). In this position, she administers a staff of 500 overseeing programs in 22 countries around the world and in 46 cities in the United States. AFSC is a corecipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 for its work in post-World War II Germany on behalf of Quakers.

Today, AFSC’s work for peace and justice has enabled Mary Ellen to speak out on behalf of human rights, economic justice, and conflict transformation. She has represented Quakers on peace delegations to North Korea, Iran, and Israel/Palestine. She has also represented AFSC at Nobel Peace Laureate Summit Meetings and participated in panel presentations with the Dalai Lama, Mohammed Yunus, Kim Dae-jung, and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mary Ellen has 35 years of progressive management experience in nonprofit business settings. She has a baccalaureate in education from East Stroudsburg University and a master’s degree in business from The Johns Hopkins University.

Ruthmary Powers. Ruthmary Powers brings a background in the field of education as a teacher, principal, superintendent of schools, and college instructor. Over a career spanning thirty years or so, Ruthmary has been a teacher of teachers and a life-long learner. Her undergraduate work was done at St. John College in Cleveland, Ohio. Shortly after she earned her baccalaureate in education, Ruthmary attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where she obtained a master’s degree in English literature. Many years later, she received her doctorate in educational leadership from the Union Institute, located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ruthmary has been engaged in the partnership movement, working with Riane Eisler, author of The Chalice and the Blade. Ruthmary’s published works are in this field, and most recently, she
authored a chapter on structuring partnership in schools and classrooms, found in Partnership Education in Action. As an avid feminist, she has made many presentations on the possibilities of partnerships between women and men. Also as part of this work she has long been an advocate of the empowerment of women and worked with many groups to help develop self-determination in women.

Culture and diversity have also been a life-long passion. As the principal of an African American School, she was able to develop many Afrocentric programs that deepened a love of that culture not only in the students, but also in her. As a superintendent in the Southwest, she was able to appreciate and enjoy the beautiful and challenging aspects of both Native American and Mexican culture.

Ruthmary, a Catholic nun, recently completed her tenure of service as the Major Superior or President of her religious community, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. The Community Center, Villa Maria, is located in Western Pennsylvania. She now serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Tucson, Arizona.

Katrina M. Uhly. Katrina Uhly is a Research Fellow in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota. Prior to this, she worked as a budget and research assistant in the Dean’s Office at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she also received a master’s degree in education leadership, policy, and politics in 2005. She completed her undergraduate work in 2004 with a perfect GPA in English literature and Spanish at Elmira College, studying abroad during her junior year at la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in Spain. Her interests and passions are found in the areas of partnerships, gender, leadership, and culture, and she is currently learning her third language, French. In addition, she is an active member of the Community of Sant'Egidio, a lay international Catholic association dedicated to solidarity with the poor, ecumenical dialogue, and peace.