



LEADERSHIP MISSOULA



SESSION DAY PRESENTERS

Business & Economy Session Day

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Thank you to our speakers for generously donating their time and expertise to support Leadership Missoula

Steve Nelson, BA '70, of Missoula

Email: steven@bonnerproperty.com

Steve is a driving force in business development in Missoula. After graduating from UM, Nelson joined the army. In his military career, he reached the rank of major before retiring.

He took on a second career, owning and operating several small businesses in Missoula, as well as purchasing and developing the Bonner Mill Industrial Park, which now houses several locally owned businesses that are mainstays of Missoula's economy. Additionally, Nelson gives back to his community and alma mater through service.

He is a member of the National Board of Grizzly Athletics and serves as the co-chair of the YMCA's Capital Campaign board.

Mike Heisey, Co-Owner, Bonner Mill Site

Email: mikeh@bonnerproperty.com

Mike Braun, Accelerate Montana / VenturePlanet Imports – University of Montana

Email: Michael.braun@umontana.edu

Mike spent a decade in industry, in publishing, media and marketing, including start-ups. He was also Director of a boutique investment bank, working with corporate and private equity clients. In this capacity, Mike raised over \$150 million in capital towards leveraged build-ups. He subsequently spent 15 years teaching business model design, strategy and corporate turnaround at UM's College of Business. Mike left his tenured faculty position in 2021 to dedicate himself to workforce development with Accelerate Montana, where he works directly with employers on custom corporate training initiatives. Mike is also one of two licensed wine importers in Montana, importing unique varietals from Italy. You can find his wines At the Good Food Store. Mike is Swiss and Italian by birth. Topics: Employee Acquisition, Retention, Training and Development

What speaker(s) inspire you? Yuval Noah Harari

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? Lex

What book(s) are you currently reading? History of Modern Art

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Emerging Leadership workshops

Communication and Conflict Management Workshops

Travis Deaton, President, Temp Right Service, Inc.

Email: travis.deaton@comfortsystemsusa.com

Born and raised in Missoula. Graduated from Montana State University with a Mechanical Engineering Degree. Joined Temp Right Service in 1994, promoted to President in 2012. Attended Leadership Missoula 31.

I have held many different leadership roles within the BSA and the Missoula Exchange Club. Participating in a panel discussion on Business and Economy in Missoula.

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Mullan Trail District, BSA

Missoula Exchange Club

Rena Hansen, CPA, Boyle, Deveny & Meyer

Email: rena@bdmcpa.com

While Rena Hansen, CPA, started her tenure with the firm as a “tax season copy girl” in 1991, by 1997 she completed her BS in accounting and, within 5 years, had become partner. As a partner at BDM, her practice focuses on business and individual tax preparation, small business setup and consulting, and financial statement preparation.

She is also an active community member, having been involved with HomeWord, Fort Courage Childcare, the Missoula Food Bank, Child Care Resources, Leadership Missoula, Friends of the Civic Stadium, and Loyola Sacred Heart Foundation.

Outside of work, Rena’s Darby, Montana roots and competitive spirit make her an avid sports fan (go Griz). But she is also a dedicated mother who enjoys skiing, fishing, and hiking, especially when accompanied by her husband, Scott, and children, Connor and Hanna.

Kristen Ingman, Sales Manager – MoFi (Montana Community Development Corporation)

Email: kristeni@mofi.org

Kristen Ingman is a sales manager at MoFi, where she connects people to the capital they need to start and grow businesses. She works with clients across the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest, listening to each person's story and determining how MoFi can alleviate barriers for small businesses and ultimately build community prosperity.

Committed to community development and social impact, Kristen has worked for mission-driven organizations since the beginning of her career – whether navigating public-private partnerships for wastewater treatment in The Gambia, supporting the Pacific Coast Banking School's programming, or creating fundraising strategies for international development organizations.

Kristen holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. She is also a graduate of Montana State University, where she received a B.S. in sociology and a B.A. in Spanish.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Anand Giridharadas; Michelle Obama

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? The Daily

What book(s) are you currently reading? Perma Red; Olga Dies Dreaming

Claire Matten, Commercial Real Estate Advisor, Sterling CRE Advisors

Email: Claire@SterlingCREadvisors.com

With a background totaling over \$500 million in team transactions, Claire is versed in CRE complexities. As a part of the Cushman & Wakefield capital markets team in Phoenix, Arizona, she worked with institutional clients, honing her expertise in industrial development, commercial office space, and self-storage properties.

Claire is one of only a handful of women endorsed as a CCIM in the state of Montana. She balanced work, after-hours classes, and family life as she pursued the designation. Connections from the program keep paying off as a national interest in Montana grows. She's also the only woman in Montana to hold a Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) designation. Her robust education and transaction savvy led to her selection as a GlobeSt Woman of Influence in 2022 in the Investment Sales category.

Claire spends her off time with her husband Eric and their three children. A native Californian, she's hoping an In-N-Out Burger will set up shop in Missoula so she can give her family a taste of home.

Kevin Cotner, Vice President and Downtown Branch Manager, Stockman Bank

Email: kevin.cotner@stockmanbank.com

Kevin F. Cotner has a strong background in the banking industry with experience in commercial loan management and branch management. Kevin is currently working as a Vice President and Downtown Branch Manager at Stockman Bank of Montana, where he also serves as a Commercial Loan Officer. In his previous role at the same company, he was Vice President and Brooks Branch Manager, as well as a Commercial Loan Officer. Before that, he worked as Vice President and Commercial Loan Manager at the same company. Prior to joining Stockman Bank of Montana, he worked at First International Bank & Trust as an Assistant Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer.

Earlier in his career, he was an Assistant Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer at BANK'34 Formerly Bank 1440, where he also served as a Commercial Portfolio Manager, responsible for ensuring loan portfolio adherence to bank policy and supporting the loan underwriting process.

Kevin's work experience also includes a role as a Commercial and Private Banking Analyst at First Interstate Bank.

Grant Kier, CEO, Missoula Economic Partnership

Email: gkier@missoulapartnership.com

Grant Kier brings a commitment to excellence and a balance of mission focus, analytical depth, and executive leadership to MEP. Prior to MEP, he provided a decade of executive leadership to Missoula's Five Valleys Land Trust from 2007 to 2017, establishing it as one of the most respected and successful conservation organizations in the state and one of the most successful land trusts in the country.

His work in conservation helped families expand their businesses and helped communities around Missoula County tap into the growing recreation and tourism economy.

Grant demonstrated his commitment and passion to economic development in his service on the Missoula Economic Partnership Board, included serving as the Treasurer. He has a Master's degree in Geology from the University of Colorado.

Libby Brunell, Senior Consultant, Cascadia Management

Email: libby@cascadiamg.com

Libby joined the Cascadia Management team as a Senior Consultant providing workforce and team development, instructional design, project management, operations management, and technical expertise at the local and state level. She effectively leads clients through operational, organizational, and cultural transformation with an eye to operational efficiencies and team and stakeholder engagement. She facilitates development and advancement of organizations, focusing on decision making that supports long-term sustainability and the ability to pivot and adapt to changes. Libby leads teams to focus on continuous improvement and innovation. Libby has served in interim C-level and executive leadership roles in both the private and public sectors. A Montanan born and raised, with family roots in Butte, Libby values strong work ethic and giving back to the community, and is dedicated to Montana, its people and its economic growth

Paige Judnich, Senior Consultant Human Resources, Cascadia Management

Email: Paige@cascadiamg.com

Paige joined the Cascadia Management team as a Senior Consultant in 2020 to provide ad hoc HR support in partnership with the rest of the Cascadia team. Paige offers almost a decade in corporate Human Resources and Talent Acquisition. Her specialties include HR leadership training, HR infrastructure development and support, employee relations, and culture building.

Starting with her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Puget Sound, Paige has always had a passion for effective and productive communication in the workplace. She provides expert guidance through difficult situations and offers accessible frameworks for her clients to use for future situations.

Paige has provided HR support to Montana businesses since 2003 and is proud to raise her two daughters with her husband in Missoula.

When Paige isn't supporting clients; she can be found running her two kids around town, substitute teaching, walking her dog around the neighborhood, or coordinating her church's youth group.

Nick Checota, Owner, KettleHouse Brewing Co. & KettleHouse Amphitheatre

Email: nick@logjampresents.com

Nick Checota is the founder, owner and president of Logjam Presents, an entertainment promotion and production company headquartered in Missoula, Montana. As part of the Logjam Presents operations, Nick owns and operates three concert venues in Missoula -- the KettleHouse Amphitheater, the Wilma and the Top Hat Lounge (the Top Hat Lounge includes a full-service restaurant), and Ogren Park.

Nick also operates the Elm in Bozeman. Prior to launching Logjam Presents, Nick owned and operated Landmark Healthcare Companies, a real estate company focused on developing and owning medical facilities around the United States.

Nick began his career as a business strategy consultant at PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Electronic Data Systems working with Fortune 50 companies regarding strategic planning and mergers and acquisitions. Nick has an MBA in Finance from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN and an undergraduate in Finance and Economics from Bentley University in Boston, MA.