

2ND ANNUAL SIOUXLAND DMC CONFERENCE
“Understanding Cultural Differences Among Siouxland Youth”

JUNE 4, 2004
BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY, SIOUX CITY, IOWA
STARK STUDENT CENTER

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE
LAST UPDATED: 5/24/04

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Opening and Morning Plenary: Bev Wharton, President of Briar Cliff University Panel: Law, Health and Culture: Issues for Siouxland Youth Stephan Pearson, 3 rd Judicial District, Juvenile Court Services & Judge Todd Hensley, District Associate Judge, State of Iowa Janice Edmunds-Wells, Iowa Department of Public Health Keynote: Cultural Diversity or Adversity: A Matter of Choice Jon McCaine, Youth Services International
10:00 a.m.-10:10 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions 1 Iowa’s Efforts to Impact DMC Dave Kuker, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Race and Juvenile Justice Detention: Practice & Reform Michael Leiber and Kristan Fox, University of Northern Iowa Child Health and Welfare: A DHS Perspective Anita Bekish, Department of Human Services Role of a Prosecutor in Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare Dewey Sloan, Sr., Woodbury County Attorney’s Office
11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions 2 Understanding & Promoting Cultural Identity with High Risk Youth Jon McCaine, Youth Service International Bringing People to the Table to Help Siouxland’s Minority Youth John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Iowa Division of Latino Affairs Vulnerable Minority Youth: Understanding and Addressing their Needs in an Alternative Education Setting Kathy Schuver, Woodbury County Alternative Classroom Iowa’s Indian Child Welfare Act: A Panel Discussion Connie Bear King, Sioux City Office of Indian Education, Andrew Small, BlueDog, Olson & Small Law Firm & Frank LaMere, E3-NATURE
12:20 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch Speakers: George Boykin & George Sayavong Sanford Community Center Entertainment by Las Estrellas de Jalisco
1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	General Session: Over-representation of Minority Youth in Juvenile Corrections: A School-Community Perspective Marilyn Charging, Sioux City Community Schools
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	General Session: DMC and Native American Youth Terry Medina, Winnebago Tribal Court
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Closing: Reducing DMC in Woodbury County Judge Todd Hensley, District Associate Judge, State of Iowa Stephen Pearson, 3 rd Judicial District, Juvenile Court Services
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<i>Siouxland DMC Committee Meeting directly follows conference closing.</i>

2nd Annual Siouxland DMC Conference Registration Form

“Understanding Cultural Differences Among Siouxland Youth”

June 4, 2004

Please type or print clearly!

Name _____

Title _____

Organization/ Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (_____) - _____ Ext _____ Fax (_____) - _____

E-mail Address: _____

Special requests: (meals, special needs) _____

No Registration fee! Just fax this registration form & workshop selections to (319) 335-4964.

Concurrent Sessions (please check one in each column)

Session I 10:10 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.	Session II 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.
<input type="radio"/> Iowa’s Efforts to Impact DMC <input type="radio"/> Race and Juvenile Justice Detention: Practice & Reform <input type="radio"/> Child Health and Welfare: A DHS Perspective <input type="radio"/> Role of a Prosecutor in Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare	<input type="radio"/> Understanding and Promoting Cultural Identity with High Risk Youth <input type="radio"/> Bringing People to the Table to Help Woodbury County’s Minority Youth <input type="radio"/> Vulnerable Minority Youth: Understanding and Addressing their Needs in an Alternative Education Setting <input type="radio"/> Iowa’s Indian Child Welfare Act: A Panel Discussion

Please note: The National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice reserves the right to change workshop topics and/or schedule.

Continuing Education Credits & Fees:

	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Legal Education- Federal	\$ 15.00 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Legal Education- Iowa	<i>\$15 fee covers both Federal & State CLE’s</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education Units	\$ 15.00 _____
<i>CLE’s & CEU’s= ~4-5 hours*</i>	
Total Fee Enclosed	\$ _____

*Call (319) 335-4965 for details.

In order to process your continuing education credits, one of the following must be checked:

- Please invoice my agency (purchase order): PO # _____
- My check or money order is enclosed: Check # _____ Amount: \$ _____
- I will bring a check to the conference.***

If paying by check or money order, please mail completed registration & payment to: National Resource Center/FCP, University of Iowa, 100 Oakdale Campus, #W206 OH, Iowa City, IA 52242-5000. NRC Federal ID#42-6004813

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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Keynote: Cultural Diversity or Adversity: A Matter of Choice

As a means of governing, democracy has much to offer; however the rule of the majority can not be applied to matters of social services including addressing the direct needs of a multi-cultural demographic. Justice and fairness can not be derived by imposing the needs and methods successful with the majority on a cross section of diverse minority populations. Such practices are the cause of institutional bias that adversely impact society and especially minority populations even in the absence of any hostile racial bigotry or hostile intention. The presentation will address the stereotypical and destructive impact of a great deal of work done under the guise of "cultural diversity training" and provide a research based concept of understanding cultural identity that has both personal relevance for self examination as well as practical utility for staff training, promoting youth development, and public policy.

Presenter: Jon McCaine

Concurrent Session I: 10:10 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Iowa's Efforts to Impact DMC

Several state level interventions are underway to impact DMC. Iowa continues to maintain an active DMC Committee that includes members of minority communities, a broad base of juvenile justice system related staff, local planners, researchers, community activists, and so on. In January 2002, the Committee initiated the DMC Resource Center at the University of Iowa School of Social Work, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice. Several data-related initiatives are underway including the Justice Data Warehouse. Data specific to Woodbury County will be discussed. The community allocation process provides funding for local use to impact child welfare and juvenile justice issues of greatest importance to communities and encourages targeting DMC-related issues. Funding is also being provided to implement a local program to divert youth from detention in Polk Co. These items will be the topic of the presentation and discussion.

Presenter: Dave Kuker

Race and Juvenile Justice Detention: Practice & Reform

This workshop presents the more closely studied effects of legal, extralegal, and processing factors on the case outcomes of whites compared to African Americans to better understand the treatment of youth in the juvenile justice system. Following this trend, an interpretation of the symbolic threat thesis and the racial stereotyping of blacks as dangerous and data covering twenty-one years (1980 through 2000) from Black Hawk County juvenile court is used to examine the relationship between race and detention with juvenile court decisions. More specific, the study focuses on the extent detention is used, the factors that predict the use of detention and detention length, and the extent detention status influences decision making at intake and judicial disposition. The issue of detention will be discussed also in the context of nation-wide trends and what is occurring in Woodbury County. Strategies and interventions for reducing the reliance on secure detention will conclude the discussion.

Presenter: Michael Leiber and Kristan Fox

Child Health and Welfare: A DHS Perspective

Presentation and discussion will center on benefit programs offered through our agency that are geared toward children. This includes, but is not limited to: Family Investment Program (FIP) which is Iowa's cash assistance program for families in need who qualify; Food Assistance, (FA) a federal USDA nutrition program that is available to all eligible individuals and families; Medicaid, which provides medical coverage for members of a family depending on family composition and need; and the Diversion program which is devoted to breaking down barriers to employment and allowing individuals and families to remain self-sufficient and not receive the cash assistance program.

Presenter: Anita Bekish

Role of Prosecutor in Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare

This workshop provides perspective for the role of the County Attorney's Office in work with minority youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Demographics of Woodbury County will be reviewed followed by discussion of the overrepresentation of minority youth and especially the Native American youth in these systems. The history of the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) and Iowa's 2003 version will be presented along with the required procedures for working with Indian children. Potential strategies for the Siouxland community to reduce disproportionality in conjunction with the Woodbury County Attorney's Office will be identified and discussed.

Presenter: Dewey Sloan, Sr.

Concurrent Session II: 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Understanding and Promoting Cultural Identity in High Risk Youth

Youth struggle to make sense of the difficulties they have experienced in life and we seek to develop a new picture of the possibilities in addressing these problems. We also seek to provide a greater understanding of the forces that have shaped them, how they view themselves as well as how they view the world around them. While exploring the impact of early developmental trauma and abuse, distortions in thinking and developing stronger critical thinking skills are standard in quality programs, reassessing and examining their self perceptions in more personal ways are often absent. This is particularly true relative to examining themselves as individuals shaped by cultural and ethnic influences. This can be effectively accomplished by blending tradition cognitive-behavioral approaches with innovative nontraditional strategies and methods.

Presenter: Jon McCaine

Bringing People to the Table to Help Siouxland Youth

Focus of this session will be the coalition building skills needed when governmental departments, community organizations and other stakeholders join forces to deal with difficult community issues like disproportionate minority contact and confinement. A special emphasis will be given to community involvement, goal setting, resource development, leadership development, and public awareness campaigns.

Presenter: John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas

Vulnerable Minority Youth: Understanding and Addressing their Needs in an Alternative Education Setting

This session will begin with a brief examination of the national and local populations enrolled in alternative educational settings. This introduction will include current enrollment statistics, in particular those related to minorities, as well as the characteristics of these at-risk youth. The session will continue with an exploration of how individuals in the educational system can successfully identify and address the needs of vulnerable minority populations. Key points of discussion will

include understanding different cultural perspectives and learning styles, creating a culturally comfortable classroom, and culturally sensitive teaching strategies.

Presenter: Kathy Schuver

Iowa's Indian Child Welfare Act: A Panel Discussion

This workshop highlights Iowa's Indian Child Welfare Act enacted in July 2003 to keep Indian children with their extended families. We will discuss what our research has shown us about the disproportionate high numbers of the Native children being removed from their families and placed in stranger placements. The panel will present on ICWA past, present, and future, to what is currently being done to address the problem and how this relates to Juvenile Court Services.

Panel: Connie Bear King, Sioux City Office of Indian Education, Andrew Small, BlueDog, Olson & Small Law Firm & Frank LaMere, E3-NATURE

General Sessions & Closing: 1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

General Session: Over-representation of Minority Youth in Juvenile Corrections: A School-Community Perspective

This session will focus on factors that create an increase in the numbers of minority students who enter the juvenile corrections system as well as the risk factors that create this situation. Specific emphasis will be placed on the school setting and how community agencies can work to offset this problem.

Presenter: Marilyn Charging

General Session: DMC and Native American Youth

Native American youth are overrepresented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems despite efforts to reduce the overrepresentation. The Indian Child Welfare Act addresses some concerns, however, community action is necessary to better address the needs of Native American youth. Terry Medina will speak from the heart as well as the statistics as a juvenile court officer for the Winnebago Tribal Court near Sioux City in Nebraska. His focus is on positive youth development through culture, youth activities and substance abuse prevention. He is also working to establish resources that will better serve the needs of Native American youth and children.

Presenter: Terry Medina

Reducing DMC in Woodbury County and Siouxland DMC Committee Meeting

Judge Todd Hensley, Chair of the Siouxland DMC Committee, will close the conference with an interactive session to engage community members, judges, attorneys, juvenile court officers, social workers, police officers, case managers, educators, and other stakeholders in finding local solutions to DMC. Actions intended to impact DMC in Woodbury County and outcomes to be achieved will be identified. The Siouxland DMC Committee will convene following the closing of the formal the conference.

Facilitators: Judge Todd Hensley & Stephan Pearson

PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES

Connie Bear King, an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, is the executive director, of the Sioux City Office of Indian Education. She oversees a tutoring and cultural enrichment program for Native children at the Sanford Community Center throughout the school year. The Sioux City Office of Indian Education is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with The Sioux City Community Schools. Connie facilitates and works with the Community Initiative for Native Children and Families (CINCF). During the 2003 legislative session, she successfully helped get an Iowa Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) passed. Ms. Bear King also serves in a variety of national, state, and community positions. She currently is the vice-chair of Native Family Resource Center in Sioux City which provides services for Native children and families.

Anita Bekish, B.A., has worked for the Department of Human Services since May 1972. In addition to being a supervisor, she has acted in the capacity of Community Liaison for Benefit Programs in Woodbury County for the last seven years. Anita started at DHS as an Income Maintenance worker and was promoted to a supervisory position after a year and a half. Anita has, at one time or another, supervised every Financial, Medicaid and Food Assistance program within the agency. She also acted as a program trainer for new staff for several years. Anita received Bachelor's degrees in Sociology, Psychology and English from Briar Cliff University in 1971.

Dr. George Boykin, B.A., has served on the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors since 1985 and is the Executive Director of the Sanford Community Center. He is a member of the following organizations and boards: Rotary Club, Board Member of Goodwill Industries, Int'l Member of the Child Protection Committee of Marian Health Center, Siouxland United Way Executives Committee, NAACP, Minority Coalition, Co-Founder/President of the Siouxland Community Health Center, Member of Board of Trustees of Mercy Hospital, and Member of the Iowa Supreme Court Select Committee. Mr. Boykin received a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Morningside College in 1971 and an honorary doctorate of human letters in 1995.

John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, M.S.W., is Administrator of the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs in the Department of Human Rights. John-Paul has developed, coordinated and presented training and technical assistance for educational institutions, governmental agencies, community organizations, businesses, health organizations and social service systems across the United States, Mexico, Canada and Central America. His areas of expertise are Cultural Competence, Community Development and Strength Based Family Centered Practice. John-Paul is also adjunct faculty at The University of Iowa School of Social Work. Other government appointments include member of the Statewide Educational Equity Committee for the Iowa Department of Education, Chair of the Governor's Taskforce on Minority Health and member of the state DMC Committee. John-Paul is also chairs the Statewide Latino Conference.

Marilyn Charging, M.A., is the Director of Educational Equity for the Sioux City Community Schools. She is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota. She has been employed in the field of Educational Administration and Indian Education for over twenty-five years, and has served as a consultant, grant-writer, teacher, administrator and advocate for at-risk children and youth. She currently serves as a Board of Director for Casa Latina, Mary Treglia Center, Native Family Resource Center and Siouxland Diversity Coalition, and is actively involved in promoting multi-cultural understanding and harmony among all races. Marilyn received her undergraduate degree in English and Speech and a Master's Degree from the University of South Dakota in Educational Administration.

Janice T. Edmunds-Wells, M.S.W., is Minority Health Liaison for the Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Community Health. Prior to coming to Iowa Janice served as a social work consultant and program developer for several organizations in Philadelphia. She is on the boards of several Iowa organizations including the University of Northern Iowa Global Health Corp., Project EXPORT, Project Bright Move (Waterloo), Coalition Against Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence and ex-officio board member of the National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance. Janice received her BS from Pennsylvania State University and MSW from the University of Iowa.

Kristan Fox, B.A., is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa majoring in political science. Ms. Fox and Dr. Michael Leiber are currently examining juvenile justice decision making in the state of Iowa with a particular emphasis on the influence of race, gender and time. She will attend graduate school in Public Policy at the University of Northern Iowa in Fall 2004.

Judge Todd Hensley, J.D., has been District Associate Judge, Third Judicial District since October of 2000. Before then, he served as Assistant Public Defender for Woodbury County from 1988 to 2000. Currently, Judge Hensley is Co-Chair of the Woodbury County DMC Committee. He received his B.A. from Morningside College in 1984 and his J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1988.

Dave Kuker, B.A., is a Program Planner for the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights. He has been involved in various capacities in DMC issues for the past 13 years.

He is a staff person for Iowa's Disproportionate Minority Confinement Committee, which is a Committee of Iowa's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. His other responsibilities include administration of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act formula grant funding. Dave is an active member in Iowa's Gender Specific Services Task Force for Girls. His career has been focused primarily in Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice issues. Dave has a B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa.

Frank LaMere is a noted social and political activist from the Siouxland region who was instrumental in the passage of the Iowa Indian Child Welfare Act in 2003 and a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Mr. LaMere is employed by E3-NATURE, a non-profit organization headquartered in Rapid City, South Dakota, where he works to develop social and energy policy for tribes and first nations in the United States and Canada. He is committed to empowering Native people and services on the Democratic National Committee. He is an acclaimed motivational speaker who remains dedicated to Indian children and families. Frank also manages and coaches the North Americans, a world-class fast pitch softball team that mentors youth about alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

Michael J. Leiber, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology and Criminology and the director of the Sociology Graduate Program at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Leiber has published and presented on issues related to juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, and race/ethnicity. Dr. Leiber also conducted a study on race and juvenile justice decision-making in Iowa. These results appear in The Contexts of Juvenile Justice Decision Making: When Race Matters, University of New York Press, 2003. He serves on the State of Iowa's Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, Chairs the DMC Committee, and serves as a consultant for OJJDP.

Terry Medina is an enrolled member of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska and was raised in Sioux City, IA. For over 25 years, Mr. Medina has worked with Native American youth as a youth counselor, coach and in the juvenile justice system. For the past 15 years, Mr. Medina has been a Probation Officer for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Mr. Medina is a board member of Dana College's Social Work program out of Blair, Nebraska and serves as a field supervisor. Medina also serves on the Planning Council for the Nebraska Network of Fathers and Families. In January of 1997, Mr. Medina was appointed to and continues to serve on the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Mr. Medina has served on the Nebraska DMC Committee and served one term on the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Ethnic & Cultural Diversity committee and presented at their national conference. Mr. Medina has also served eight years on the Winnebago Public School Board of Education including five years as Board President. He continues to be involved in Indian education by serving on numerous boards and committees pertaining to Indian youth. He has traveled around the country as a presenter and speaker to both youth and adults in the areas of motivation and cultural sensitivity training and enhancement for law enforcement, social services and such. Mr. Medina is a certified mediator in the State of Nebraska and is also a trainer with the Nebraska Mediation Center in Walthill, Nebraska. He is currently involved in an effort to develop regional and national resource centers for tribal nations that address the needs of Native American youth and children.

Jon McCaine, Ph.D., currently serves as the Senior Vice President and National Clinical Director for Youth Services International. He is responsible for the design and oversight of developmental programs for high-risk children and adolescents across the country in residential and community based services. Dr. McCaine is also the Clinical Supervisor for a consortium of specialized programs; the Discovery Network for delinquent sexual conduct; the Choices Network for substance abuse and sales; the Futures Network for pre-adolescents; as well as newly formed consortium of programs for high-risk girls, Athena's Circle. Prior to joining YSI Inc., Dr. McCaine served as Clinical Director of the state of Arizona's Department of Juvenile Corrections where he was responsible for statewide development, coordination, and monitoring of the agency's mental health, crisis support, and cognitive-behavioral developmental programs. He was the architect of the state of Arizona's specialized, intensive treatment programs for serious delinquent violence, sexualized behavior, and substance abuse for high-risk youth that gained national recognition as innovative model programs. As a speaker and trainer in much demand, Dr. McCaine has provided ongoing training for city, county, state, and federal agencies and school districts. He continues to present addresses across the country most notably in the areas of Family Violence, Intervention Strategies with High Risk Youth, and Residential Program Design and Operations.

Stephen Pearson, B.A., is Juvenile Court Officer for the Third Judicial District Juvenile Court in Sioux City, Iowa. Mr. Pearson is a graduate of Morningside College. Prior to his current position he worked with Youth Services International in Baltimore, Maryland. He serves on the statewide and county Minority Health Coalition and on the state and county DMC Committee. Mr. Pearson is the local technical assistance coordinator in Woodbury County for the DMC Resource Center located at the University of Iowa School of Social Work, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice. He also serves on the statewide DMC Committee.

George Sayavong, B.A., has been the Minority Youth Outreach Services Specialist and Supervisor at the Sanford Community Center since 1993. George provides gang prevention and intervention for at-risk students. He supervises other outreach workers at all school sites in the area. George is the organizer and facilitator of an eight-week summer program based at the Sanford Center. Before that, he worked for five years as an interpreter for Laotian and Thai people involved with cases in the Woodbury County Courthouse, Juvenile Detention Center, police departments and hospitals for the tri-state area of Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska. George holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Spanish from the University of South Dakota.

Kathy Schuver, M.A., is a teacher for Woodbury County Alternative High School where she has taught at-risk students for the past two years. Prior to that Kathy worked for seven years as an instructor for adults and youths with mental disabilities. Kathy has BA degrees in Secondary Education and History from Briar Cliff University with additional endorsements in sociology and psychology. She is also currently finishing her M.A. in Special Education at Morningside College.

Dewey P. Sloan, Sr., J.D., is Assistant County Attorney in the Woodbury County Juvenile Division. His caseload responsibilities include delinquency prosecutions, waivers, modifications and consultations with Juvenile Court Officers, Child In Need of Assistance petitions, removals, modifications and consultations with Iowa Department of Human Services caseworkers, and Termination of Parental Rights petitions. Mr. Sloan earned his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law (1988), M.A. from University of South Dakota (1972), and B.S. from Morningside College (1964). Previously Mr. Sloan taught junior high sciences at North Jr. High in the Sioux City Community Schools from 1964-73. Mr. Sloan has provided seminars on Juvenile Law or Juvenile Court for the Sioux City Police Department, Civic Organization, Schools, Foster Parents, and Guardian ad Litem. He served on an Advisory Committee of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) from 1994 to 2003.

Andrew M. Small, J.D., is a partner at BlueDog, Olsen & Small in Bloomington, Minnesota where he has practiced law since 1991. His practice includes all aspects of Tribal governmental operations including development of courts, child welfare protection, promulgation of codes of law, economic development planning, natural resources and water protection, sovereignty defense, housing, taxation, welfare, tribal membership, domestic relations, treaty rights negotiation and litigation. He also engages in practice before the Internal Revenue Service. Andrew served as general counsel and special counsel for various Tribes in six states and is admitted to practice in fourteen Tribal jurisdictions throughout Indian Country as well as the United States Supreme Court. He has served as an Associate Judge for the Lower Sioux Indian Community since 1995. He previously served as the Children's Court Judge for the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Community from 1994 through 2002, and as special Judge for the Crow Tribe and Northern Cheyenne Court of Appeals. He is a member of the National American Indian Court Judges Association. Mr. Small received a B.A. in Spanish and History in 1974 and his law degree from the University of Montana in 1981.

Beverly A. Wharton, M.B.A., became the President of Briar Cliff University, a Franciscan and Catholic University, in February of 2003. Prior to serving as interim president at Briar Cliff University since June 2001, Wharton was employed by MidAmerican Energy Company from 1976 to 1999. Her executive experience at MidAmerican included serving as senior vice president for regulatory and legislative activities, senior vice president for energy delivery, president of the Midwest gas business unit and senior vice president of support services. Wharton holds a B.S. from Southern Illinois University and a M.B.A. from University of South Dakota.