



2025 WCMA Summer Conference

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(listed alphabetically)

Nora Barr

Nora Barr is a rising senior at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, double majoring in Political Science and Business Administration with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship. She currently serves as president of UWGB's Student Association of Management and just finished her one-year term as a student member of the Cofrin School of Business Advisory Board. This summer, Nora is interning at Constellation energy on the Retail Operations Enrollments & Terminations team.

Valeah Foy

Valeah Foy is the Division Administrator of the State and Local Finance Division (SLF) within the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR). SLF supports local governments with property assessment/taxation, distributes shared revenue and property tax relief, and trains local government officials. She has been with DOR since 2011. Prior to her current role, Valeah was the SLF Deputy Administrator and Local Government Services Bureau Director. She has background in finance with a Master of Business Administration in Finance and International Management and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Valeah truly enjoys supporting Wisconsin local governments.

Kyle Gulya

Kyle Gulya is a Shareholder and Chair of the Government Law Group. Kyle advises both public and private sector employers with employment- and labor-related issues including regulatory compliance, antidiscrimination practices, contractual and workplace policy matters, and personnel management. He handles numerous aspects of labor-management relations from advising clients during union organizing campaigns to serving as chief negotiator during collective bargaining negotiations. He also advises clients regarding complex internal investigations and effectively resolving personnel disputes. Kyle frequently advises clients regarding employment agreements, independent contractor agreements, covenants not to compete, and confidentiality agreements. Kyle also assists clients with crisis communications and effectively handling crisis situations, and he regularly advises clients regarding Wisconsin's Public Records Law and Open Meetings Law.

Shawna Keating

Shawna Keating is a Career Advisor with the Career Planning & Professional Connections office at UW-Green Bay. She specializes in working with students majoring in Public Administration, Political Science, and other social science programs in the Public & Environmental Affairs unit of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. She earned a Master of Science degree in Counseling and Student Personnel, with an emphasis in College Student Affairs, in May of 2023. Shawna is passionate about helping students discover rewarding career paths and connecting them with opportunities that can help them achieve their goals. She has been with UW-Green Bay since August 2023.

Danny Langloss

Danny Langloss has served as the City Manager of Dixon, Illinois, for the past eight years, where he has been a driving force behind the city's economic and community transformation. When Danny assumed this role, Dixon faced significant challenges, including a lack of collaboration and alignment among local government, private businesses, not-for-profits, and citizens. Recognizing the need for purpose and partnership, Danny applied the six critical elements of thriving communities—Leadership, Strategic Partnerships, Community Engagement, Quality of Life, Building on Strengths, and Capturing Momentum—to build strong relationships and unite key stakeholders around a shared vision.

Under Danny's leadership, Dixon has experienced remarkable progress. The city has grown and achieved major development milestones, including the growth of manufacturing, the construction of two new hotels, the addition of new retail, food, and fueling options, and the "Viaduct Point" riverfront expansion. His leadership team has also secured over \$30 million in grants, accelerating Dixon's development and positioning it as a model for thriving communities. Danny's passion for purpose-driven leadership continues to inspire others to create unity and build a brighter future.

Kevin Lehner

When Kevin Lahner is not managing the City of Janesville, Wisconsin (pop. 65,000), he can be found exploring the road less travelled by canoe, hiking boots or one of his troves of mountain bikes. Mr. Lahner served eight years in Waukesha and previously managed Burlington, Wisconsin. He also served several roles in Keller and Flower Mound, Texas. He is actively involved with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, specifically in helping promote and shape legislation. Mr. Lahner is the chair of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association's Professional Development Committee and is an adjunct instructor in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In addition to his master's degree in public administration from the University of North Texas, he is a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia and Leadership ICMA. He received his undergraduate degree in Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. When not in the wilderness, he tries to keep up with his wife Jessica and four children, all of whom are smarter than him.

Patrick Leigl

Patrick Leigl is a Shareholder in the Government Law Group. He focuses his practice on labor and employment, litigation and government law. He has ten years of experience serving as a city attorney and assistant district attorney.

Patrick's experience includes significant work in all areas of labor and employment law, including employee disciplinary actions, police and fire commission proceedings, discrimination claims and collective bargaining. He has extensive litigation experience including all phases of litigation, administrative hearings and numerous jury trials. Patrick's municipal, county and government experience encompasses a wide range of issues involving governance, operational, public records and open meeting issues, real estate transactions and tax incremental financing (TIF) and other forms of government financing.

Laura Nolan

Laura Nolan serves as the Associate Director for Business and Government Outreach and is the institute director for Wisconsin and Illinois Municipal Clerks. Additionally, she serves as the manager, providing association and conference management services for the Wisconsin Finance Officers Association. She holds an MS in Community

and Organizational Leadership and boasts an impressive track record spanning over 25 years in the fields of business, education, and healthcare. Notably, she spent 15 years as a key executive for an assisted living company. Leveraging her extensive background in management, workforce development, and human resources, Laura offers valuable expertise for consulting, training program development, and addressing contemporary challenges facing both government and businesses.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Laura actively contributes to her community by participating in the Brown County Dementia Friendly Coalition and the Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness.

Aaron Oppenheimer

Aaron Oppenheimer currently serves as city administrator in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Sun Prairie is the second largest municipality in Dane County with a population of 39,419. Previously, Aaron has served as village administrator of Bellevue, Wisconsin (population 14,500) and as village manager in two municipalities in Michigan. Aaron received his MPA from Northern Illinois University. Aaron is a Past President of WCMA (2018-2019) and in 2024 he received WCMA's Prestigious Meritorious Service Award. He recently concluded his service as Chair of WCMA's Ethics committee.

Leah Roe

Leah Roe is the embodiment of a powerhouse: a Certified Leadership Coach (CPCC & PCC), revered Organizational Trust Expert, & dynamic Culture Consultant. Holding the reins as the Founder of The Perk, she fearlessly redefines leadership.

Her journey is nothing short of legendary. After being laid off during maternity leave, she didn't falter – instead, she founded The Perk, a premier leadership & culture development studio, the very next day. What followed was a meteoric rise, building a 7-figure profitable empire in just 5 years.

Leah's mission goes beyond coaching & consulting; she's here to empower you with the unwavering belief that anything is possible & to make you feel unstoppable. With a touch of her magic, she infuses fun & a human touch into every facet of her work. Her coaching approach is a symphony of celebration & unapologetic action, yielding not just results, but extraordinary transformations. In the consulting arena, she engineers cultural revolutions & propels team performance, always on a bedrock of psychological safety & unmatched efficacy. A true champion of greatness, Leah not only simplifies & demystifies exceptional leadership but also stands as the visionary creator of the CLEAR Leadership Operating System.

Her experience, shaped through adversity, includes a leap from CPA to People & Culture Executive at a groundbreaking remote-first Health IT firm. It was there that she ignited her true calling for shaping people, culture, & leadership. Leah's transformative impact has touched the lives of countless leaders, skillfully shaping a foundation of excellence from mere beginnings—infusing trust, communication, alignment, & engagement into their very core.

She's not just here to elevate leadership, culture, & personal growth; she's here to rewrite the rules. Join her, & let's paint a new paradigm of unapologetic awesomeness.

Josh VanLieshout

Josh VanLieshout is the City Administrator for the City of Sturgeon Bay. Josh serves as the chief administrative officer of the city and is responsible for the efficient administration of all affairs of the city. Josh has been an

integral part of economic development and tourism success within Sturgeon Bay as he is the key liaison to industrial, commercial, professional groups, citizens and organizations.

The City of Sturgeon Bay Community Development Department is responsible for coordinating the overall growth and physical development of the city. The Community Development Department prepares and coordinates long-range plans for the City's future growth. The role of the Community Development Department is to coordinate activities relating to planning, economic development, and growth management. The Department provides guidance and assistance to achieve and maintain harmonious development of the city that meets the needs of existing and future residents, and which best promotes the City's welfare, character, convenience, prosperity, and efficiency.

Nick Zavos

Nick Zavos joined League staff in 2024 and serves as Assistant General Counsel. Nick's responsibilities include providing legal assistance to municipal attorneys and officials through telephone inquiries, written opinions and amicus briefs, workshop presentations, and published articles. He also assists in writing League handbooks and planning an annual institute for municipal attorneys. Nick graduated from the University of Michigan Law School, and previously worked as a Deputy Mayor in the City of Madison and as a staff attorney as the Wisconsin Legislative Council.