
17th Annual Western Regional Conference

May 15 – 17, 2014
The W Hotel
San Diego, California



Speaker Biographies

Assemblymember Toni Atkins
Speaker-Elect of the Assembly
California State Legislature

Assemblymember Toni Atkins was first elected to the California State Assembly in November 2010 to represent the 76th Assembly District. In 2012, she was re-elected to represent the newly redrawn 78th Assembly District. During her second term, she was unanimously voted as the 69th Speaker of the Assembly in 2014. Assemblymember Atkins previously served as a member of the San Diego City Council, a position she held from 2000-2008. During her tenure on the Council, she served as a member of a number of the Council's policy issue committees and as Acting Mayor in 2005 when the previous mayor resigned. Assemblymember Atkins has battled for affordable housing throughout her career, leading the charge to enact the nation's first Housing State of Emergency in San Diego. She also worked to create the first inclusionary housing policy and secured \$55 million in housing funds for the construction of new affordable housing units throughout San Diego. Assemblymember Atkins's other priorities include encouraging economic development, healthcare and issues affecting veterans. Issues of concern to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community have also been a high priority for Assemblymember Atkins as she represents the highest concentration of LGBT residents in San Diego. Assemblymember Atkins serves on the Housing and Community Development, Health, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture and Joint Legislative Audit Committees. She is chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Homelessness and represents the Assembly on the Ocean Protection Council and the California Historic and Cultural Endowment.

Jennifer Clark
Communications Manager
Institute for Women's Policy Research

Jennifer Clark is the Communications Manager for the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), overseeing the Institute's media relations, publications production, and online communications efforts on a range of issues including women's roles in the workforce, single mothers, Social Security, paid sick days and paid family leave, and the status of women in the United States. In between roles at IWPR, she served as the Income Security Outreach Manager at the National Academy of Social Insurance, managing a Social Security education project, which provided funds to nearly 30 organizations working to educate vulnerable populations on the importance of Social Security.

Lori Coyner, MA
Director of Accountability
Oregon Health Authority

Lori Coyner recently joined the Oregon Health Authority as Director of Accountability and Quality where she oversees the quality and incentive metrics for Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). CCOs are the basis for Oregon's healthcare transformation effort for Medicaid enrollees. Prior, she served as the Director of Measurement and Reporting at the Oregon Health Care Quality Corp. Ms Coyner is an accomplished biostatistician and was responsible for the development of Quality Corp's quality and utilization reporting system and measure development. Additionally, she has many years of experience working in academic settings at Oregon Health & Sciences University and the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She maintains her faculty appointment in the OSHU Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine where she teaches Introduction to Biostatistics.

Kelly Dittmar, PhD
Assistant Research Professor
Center for American Women and Politics

Kelly Dittmar is an Assistant Research Professor at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). At CAWP, Dr. Dittmar manages national research projects, helps to develop and implement CAWP's research agenda, and contributes to CAWP reports, publications, and analyses. She also works with CAWP's programs for women's public leadership, assisting with program development, implementation, and marketing. Dr. Dittmar completed her PhD in Political Science, with an emphasis on women and politics, from Rutgers University in the fall of 2011. She has published multiple book chapters focusing on gender and political campaigns. Prior to returning to Rutgers, Dr. Dittmar was an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow in Washington, DC. She served as a legislative aide to Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-3), handling a portfolio including labor, education, social welfare, social security, and women and children's issues.

Liz Helms
President & Chief Executive Officer
California Chronic Care Coalition

Liz Helms has over a decade of experience in the public relations field including coalition building, grassroots advocacy, strategic planning and policy development. Her vision and breadth of experience has made her a leader in the healthcare arena and a recognized advocate in California. Ms. Helms currently is the President/CEO of the California Chronic Care Coalition, an alliance of non-profit, social consumer and provider organizations united to improve the health of Californians with chronic conditions or diseases. She is the San Diego University of Best Practices Coordinator and was instrumental in bringing the clinical pharmacist on the care team to the Right Care Initiative. She co-founded the TMJ Society of California, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to bringing about changes in healthcare practices and laws to improve treatment for TMJ sufferers. Helms has been the catalyst within the chronic disease community working with the California administration's health policy division on healthcare reform, including implementation of prevention, wellness and coordination of care. In 2013 she was elected to the board of directors to the California Healthcare Performance Information System representing California's consumers.

Susan Kendig, JD, WHNP-BC, FAANP**Director of Policy****National Association for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health**

Susan Kendig, JD, MSN, WHNP-BC, FAANP is an attorney and nurse practitioner with over thirty years of experience in the healthcare industry. As President of Health Policy Advantage, LLC, Ms. Kendig provides policy analysis, consultation and strategic development support for healthcare providers and community organizations responding to a rapidly changing healthcare environment. Her primary areas of focus include patient safety, primary care, and clinical integration, including Patient Safety Organization, ACO and Medical Home initiatives. She is a professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she coordinates the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner program and teaches graduate level health policy courses. Active in public service at the state and national level, Ms. Kendig has served on the CMS Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee, the Missouri Patient Safety Commission, the Missouri Office on Women's Health - Women's Health Council and the Missouri Task Force on Prematurity and Infant Mortality and is a Missouri Health Connection board member. She is a Past Board Chairperson of the National Association for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) and now serves as NPWH Director of Policy. Ms. Kendig is an appointee to the National Women's Law Center, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health and the ACOG Well Woman Visit Advisory Committees. In addition to her leadership responsibilities, Ms. Kendig is also leading the seventh revision of the educational guidebook *Women's Health Nurse Practitioner: Guidelines for Practice and Education*.

Representative Lois Landgraf**Colorado State Legislature**

Representative Lois Landgraf graduated summa cum laude from the University of Maryland and, later, received her MBA from the University of Washington. Traveling often with her husband of 35 years, Jim, a retired Army Lt. Colonel who served in the Air Defense Artillery, she assumed leadership positions in the military community. While stationed in Germany, she served as a chairwoman of the Red Cross. She originated a foster care program so that American children would receive foster care from Americans in Germany. After settling in Fountain, Colorado, Representative Landgraf continued to serve her community, becoming more politically active as the restraints of military life were removed. She was elected to the Fountain City Council. She served on the Colorado Municipal League's Policy Committee. She also served on the Fountain Economic Development Board. She organized the "Bark in the Park" to help raise funds for Fountain's K-9 unit. Active in the El Paso County Republican party, she served as secretary for the County GOP, and is a member of the El Paso County Republican Women Club. She was El Paso county volunteer coordinator for President Bush's 2004 campaign and the El Paso Women's Coalition Coordinator for Senator McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. In 2012, the people of Fountain and surrounding communities elected Lois Landgraf as their Representative to the Colorado General Assembly.

Representative Polly Lawrence
Colorado State Legislature

Representative Lawrence has served the 39th District since 2012. She is the House Minority Whip and is a member of the Joint Judiciary, House Judiciary, Transportation Legislation Review, and Transportation & Energy Committees. Representative Lawrence is founding member of the Rocky Mountain Minority Contractors Association, a PTA President, a Volunteer for Girl Scouts of America and Boy Scouts of America, a Volunteer and Counselor with Muscular Dystrophy, a Sponsor for the National Sports Center for the Disabled, and a Member of the Roxborough Women's Network. Representative Lawrence graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Fine Arts.

Representative Lauren Matsumoto
Hawaii State Legislature

Representative Matsumoto traces her roots in Hawaii back to 1859. She is the sixth generation to be born and raised in the islands, and is a member of the prestigious Daughters of Hawai'i. Her great-grandfather founded Peterson's Upland Farm in 1910, and the farm is celebrating its 103rd anniversary this year as a family-run business supplying fresh eggs to our communities. She attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she earned a degree in Film Production from the Academy of Creative Media and minored in Business and Japanese. After graduating from the University of Hawaii, Representative Matsumoto went on to win the title of Miss Hawaii 2011. She represented Hawaii at the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas, where she was a Quality of Life Finalist, won the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Award for most money raised in the country (which benefitted Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children), and won the Talent portion by performing a jump rope routine to the theme of Hawaii 5-0. Representative Matsumoto's first experience with the Hawaii State Legislature was with her documentary "Farm Grown," which aided in the passage of the Feed Subsidy Bill.

Representative Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff
Colorado State Legislature

Representative Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff was elected in November 2012, and she is currently serving her first term in the Colorado State Legislature for House District 47. Representative Navarro-Ratzlaff is a small business owner, conservative activist, wife and mother of two daughters. The Representative and her family currently reside in beautiful Pueblo, Colorado. She has worked as an educator for the Colorado Department of Corrections and Las Animas High School and the Rural Development Division of the United States Department of Agriculture. She has also been a community leader in several positions; she has served on the Las Animas City Council, Kountry Kids Advisory Board of Directors and was appointed by Chief Justice Mullarkey to the 16th Judicial Review Committee.

Sherri McCarthy
Manager, State Affairs for Western Region
American Chemistry Council

As Manager for the State Affairs for the Western Region of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), the major trade association representing the U.S. chemical and plastics industry, Ms. McCarthy is primarily responsible for implementing advocacy, grassroots and communications programs on the ACC's priority public policy issues. Over the course of a decade, Ms. McCarthy's role has been elevated to include representing ACC policy positions at business forums, managing and providing strategic insight to outside media/PR consultants, representing ACC in live television interviews and

at public events with elected officials, developing state-specific advocacy materials, acting as an information liaison between ACC departments, developing collaterals for colleagues addressing legislation of importance to the chemical and plastics industry, and writing, editing and offering insight on the most effective message delivery mechanisms to reach various audiences.

Mary Kay Owens, RPh, CPh
Executive Director, Institute for Healthcare Innovation Strategies
President, Southeastern Consultants, Inc.

Mary Kay Owens has over 20 years experience in providing services to government agencies, public and commercial health plans, academic institutions, health information technology groups, care management companies, industry and professional healthcare associations in areas such as care coordination assessment, HIT, Medicaid/Medicare program operations, policy and reimbursement, appropriate medication use, utilization management, auditing methods, and fraud detection. Ms. Owens formerly served as the Director of the Florida Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program and Chair of the National Medicaid DUR steering committee and as a senior healthcare fraud investigator and auditor within the Florida Medicaid Agency for Health Care Administration. Ms. Owens is a pharmacist by training and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy. She serves on the National Pharmacy Work Force Center Technical Advisory Panel and as a consultant to the Florida Center for Medicaid and the Uninsured. Owens was recently appointed as Secretary of the National Alliance for Integrated Medication Management. Ms. Owens has authored several publications including *Identifying and Quantifying the Cost of Uncoordinated Care* and *The Healthcare Imperative: Lowering Costs and Improving Outcomes*. She also writes healthcare policy issue briefs, journal articles, and content for educational programs and Internet sites.

Elaine Patterson
Consultant
American Chemistry Council

Elaine Patterson has over 30 years of government relations advocacy experience at the federal and state levels. She recently retired as the Director of Government and Public Affairs at Olin Chlor Alkali Products after 18 years with the company. She managed government, public, media, and community relations for Olin Chlor Alkali and its 10 North American locations. Previously, Ms. Patterson managed state and grassroots programs for the Chemical Manufacturing Association (now the American Chemistry Council) in Washington, D.C. She also has worked on the staff of Congresswoman Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and for the Public Safety Committee of the Connecticut Legislature. She completed the LSU Orsi School of Business Executive Development Program, and has a Certificate in Corporate Citizenship from Boston College. Ms. Patterson is now a consultant to

the American Chemistry Council's Chlorine Chemistry Division, providing advocacy support on key issues such as disinfection.

Sharon Pinkerton, JD
Senior Vice President, Legislative & Regulatory Policy
Airlines for America

Sharon Pinkerton was named Senior Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Policy for Airlines for America (A4A) in February 2011 and leads policy development on legislative and regulatory matters, working with Capitol Hill and the administration. Ms. Pinkerton joined A4A as Vice President of Government Affairs in April 2006, where she was responsible for overseeing all aviation-related issues before federal, state and local governments. Before joining A4A, she served as assistant administrator for aviation policy, planning and environment at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Prior to her appointment at FAA, Ms. Pinkerton was transportation counsel to House Aviation Subcommittee Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) and served on Capitol Hill for nearly 10 years.

Representative Marie Poulson
Utah State Legislature

Elected in 2008, Representative Marie Poulson represents House District 46 in Utah's Salt Lake County. This is a unique district including both urban areas and four ski resorts. Representative Poulson is a retired high school English and history teacher and initially entered public office because of her interest in educational issues. During her six years at the legislature, she has served as a member of the Education, Political Subdivisions, Natural Resources, Transportation, Economic Development, and Social Services Standing Committees and Public Education and Higher Education Appropriations Committees. She is also a member of the liaison committee for Utah's Native American tribes and a member of the Health Reform Task Force.

Senator Pat Spearman
Nevada State Legislature

Senator Pat Spearman is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Army where she spent 29 years. She is the founding pastor of Resurrection Faith Community Ministries and CEO of Power Zone Community Resource Center. She holds a bachelors degree in political science from Norfolk State University and a Masters of Divinity from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. She is currently pursuing a PhD in business administration. While in the Army, she graduated from the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and Command and General Staff College. Senator Spearman served as the chair of both the San Marcos Independent Consolidated School District and the San Marcos Municipal Airport Commission. She received an appointment to serve on the Texas Department of Human Services Advisory Council as well as a Congressional Review Committee for Military Academy Selection. Her policy experience includes education, transportation, health and human services and the environment both at the local and global levels.

Senator Jackie Winters
Oregon State Legislature

Jackie Winters began her governmental service in 1959 at Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in the medical records unit and later joined the staff of the Portland Model Cities Program. In 1969 she was recruited by Governor Tom McCall to be supervisor of the Office of Economic Opportunity's New Resources Program. In 1979 Governor Victor Atiyeh appointed Senator

Winters as an ombudsman. During this service, she helped create the Oregon Food Share Program, which grew in 2010 to include a statewide system of food banks serving Oregon's neediest families. In addition to a fulfilling government career, Senator Winters also opened three successful Jackie's Ribs restaurants, currently only catering services for special events. In 1998, voters of District 31 elected Senator Winters as their State Representative, the first African-American republican to achieve this honor. She was re-elected to this office in 2000. In 2002, 2006 and again in 2010, she was elected as State Senator for District 10.