

**PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM
SPRING 2017
PARTICIPANT BIOS**

**KEVIN CARRICO
SAINT FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES**



Kevin Carrico is a child welfare provider for Saint Francis Community Services (SFCS) in Salina, Kansas, where he has worked for almost 20 years. In 1994, Kevin graduated from Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska. (He received his bachelor's degree in communications and political science from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.) After four years as a lawyer in private practice, Kevin joined SFCS where he now serves as provider relations representative and vice president of legal services. In his work, Kevin communicates daily with SFCS program and administrative leadership on matters related to social work service delivery, legal risks, courtroom dynamics, and practice expectations. Kevin also engages regularly with Saint Francis social workers and support staff to discuss staff performance

improvement and quality assurance with the goal of improving services to children and families.

Kevin and his wife, Kelly, have two children in elementary school in Salina. Outside of work, Kevin and Kelly find great joy keeping busy with the activities of their children.

Kevin will be hosted by the Wuhou New Zone Youth Development Center in Chengdu, Sichuan.

**JO NELSON
TOTAL ACTION FOR PROGRESS**



Jo Nelson is the director of the This Valley Works project at Total Action for Progress in Roanoke, Virginia. In this role, Ms. Nelson manages 15 programs with more than 30 funding sources. Programs primarily focus on economic stability of individuals and families. They encompass the broad areas of homelessness, education, employment training, ex-offenders, veterans', and two-generational services. Programs are funded through a variety of sources at the federal, state, and local level including the United States Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs; the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; and United Way of the Roanoke

Valley. Ms. Nelson supervises a staff of approximately 35 professionals whose backgrounds range from case managers to employment specialists.

In addition to managing staff and budgets, she is also responsible for program design and development, grant writing, collaborative efforts in the community, and oversight of two Boards of Commissioners who advise the project and the agency. She serves on the Roanoke Pride's Prism Foundation as the community liaison to other non-profits. She is a certified Results Oriented Management and Accountability Implementer, as well as a Certified Fatherhood Facilitator.

Ms. Nelson has more than 30 years of experience in non-profit management in both Louisiana and Virginia. Earlier in her career, Ms. Nelson served as director of development for Virginia's Explore Park; executive director of the Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging; Lynchburg YWCA Family Violence Prevention program coordinator; and adjunct faculty in human services at Central Virginia Community College. She holds a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in counseling from Louisiana Tech University.

Ms. Nelson will be hosted by Chin Khusliin Zam (Genuine Wish Road) in Bulgan, Mongolia.

MICHAEL PECHTER
PLAY ON, PHILLY



Michael Pechter is a musician and educator who is passionate about catalyzing social change through community projects. At Play On, Philly!, an El Sistema-inspired music program, Michael serves as lead teaching artist and program coordinator, contributing to the educational and logistical aspects of the program. In addition to teaching general music for kindergarten through eighth grade students, Michael also leads Play On, Philly's new Talent Development Initiative. In collaboration with a consortium of music organizations in Philadelphia, including the Philadelphia Orchestra and Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, this initiative seeks to address the enormous obstacles young people of color face in the

classical music world.

In 2015, Michael formed a community group based on audio engineering and adult learning in partnership with the Free Library of Philadelphia. He is also the founder and curator of an event series called *Candlelit*, which creates intentional music-listening experiences. The series is promoted on the web as well as through a podcast that Michael hosts and produces. By collaborating with independent musicians, this project will create a new space for artists outside of the venue circuit. The podcast will reimagine how local communities engage with local music.

Michael is a trained pianist, guitarist and drummer and writes, records and performs with his ensemble throughout Philadelphia. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rutgers University, and is working on his master's degree in education at Rider University.

Michael will be hosted by the Arts Center of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar.

ELIZABETH TYSON
THE WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS



Elizabeth Tyson is a program associate in the Science and Technology Innovation Program and a collaborator with the China Environment Forum at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. She designs, facilitates and hosts strategic workshops and conducts research on environmental protection, civic participation and natural resource governance using participatory methods like citizen science, crowdsourcing and novel technology.

She is particularly interested in transdisciplinary research to address complex environmental challenges.

Elizabeth completed a dual master's of science degree in the human dimensions of natural resources from Colorado State University and El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Chiapas, Mexico. Her thesis work studied the application of a mobile data collection system for community based natural resource monitoring and carbon accounting on coffee farms in southern Mexico.

Prior to graduate school, Elizabeth proudly served as an AmeriCorps field educator in Alaska, leading a team of Alaskan youth in trail maintenance, invasive species management and environmental education.

Her research is punctuated by a healthy obsession with data visualization, design, languages and culture, preferably experiencing language and culture through biking, swimming in the surf, backpacking and rock climbing.

Elizabeth will be hosted by Green Hunan in Changsha.