

Nonprofit Conference 2019

Presenter Bios

Key Note

[Dr. Geoffrey Nagle](#)

President and CEO, Erikson Institute

Geoffrey A. Nagle, PhD, MSW, MPH, is president and chief executive officer of Erikson Institute, a leading force in improving the lives of young children and their families through knowledge, research, service and advocacy, and the nation's premier graduate school in child development.

Dr. Nagle, an internationally recognized leader in the early childhood field, joined Erikson in January of 2014 after serving as the founding director of the Tulane University Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Tulane University School of Medicine. There, he worked closely with Louisiana government leaders to strengthen the state's early childhood system and expand high-quality early care and education. His advocacy resulted in Quality Start, Louisiana's child care quality rating and improvement system, and the School Readiness Tax Credits program, which, since implementation in 2008, has benefited Louisiana residents with tax credits in excess of \$90 million in support of quality child care.

At Erikson, Dr. Nagle has championed new strategies that draw from Erikson's core strengths to broaden the institute's impact in the complex and ever-changing early childhood arena. He has driven the development and implementation of a new strategic plan that addresses how Erikson will work to transform the early childhood workforce, inform the use of technology in early childhood, improve support for families and communities, and influence leadership and policy to benefit young children, families, and communities. Under his leadership, Erikson launched a master of social work degree program, the first in the nation to integrate a child development perspective into a social work curriculum. Working with faculty, he established a groundbreaking global partnership with China's largest private preschool provider that brings Erikson's unique perspective on early childhood to the education of thousands of early learning professionals. He has also deepened Erikson's advocacy efforts and relationships at the community level and created a new Early Childhood Leadership Academy to provide advocates and lawmakers with an informed understanding of how policy shapes programs and practices in early childhood.

Dr. Nagle earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Duke University and master's degrees in both social work and public health from Tulane University. His doctorate, also from Tulane, is in mental health policy research.

The Brain Game

Mindy Binderman Executive Director

Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)

Mindy Binderman is the founding executive director of GEEARS: the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students. Mindy leads GEEARS' efforts to inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on early learning and healthy development for children ages birth to five. Mindy serves as GEEARS' lead advocate, fundraiser and spokesperson. She partners with the Board of Directors on strategic planning and works to strengthen relationships with community partners. Mindy has had an extensive career in advocacy and government relations for nonprofits and corporations in Maryland and Georgia. She served as director of government relations and public affairs for the Baltimore Jewish Council and as vice president of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of Maryland before establishing her own successful lobbying firm based in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1999. For several years, Mindy also served as adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins University where she taught a graduate level seminar in advocacy.

Prior to coming to GEEARS, Mindy served as the advocacy director of Voices for Georgia's Children from 2007-2010. Mindy was the recipient of a Harvard Business School Club of Atlanta's Social Enterprise Initiative scholarship in 2015 and completed the Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program. She is a member of the Leadership Atlanta class of 2012 and currently chairs the School Governance Council of North Springs Charter High School. She serves on the advisory board of Jumpstart and is a board member of Voices for Georgia's Children and Limmud Southeast, an organization devoted to Jewish learning.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mindy received her bachelor's degree from Newcomb College, Tulane University, and her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law. Mindy is married to Warren Binderman and has three children.

Meet the Funders

Danielle K. C. Gray

Program Officer & Office Manager, R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation

Danielle Gray started her tenure with the R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation in 2008 as the Grants Manager. Over the years she has assumed increasing responsibility for a myriad of the Foundation's operational and programmatic functions. In 2014 Gray was promoted to Program Officer and is primarily responsible for the Foundation's education portfolio. Gray's previous experience spans both the non-profit and for-profit sector with roles in development, association publishing, and business administration.

Gray holds an ABJ in Newspaper Journalism from the Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of Georgia and an MPA concentrated on Nonprofit Management from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Gray resides in Decatur with her husband and son where they are members of St. Thomas More parish and watch a lot of soccer.

Atiba Mbiwan,
Associate Director, The Zeist Foundation

Atiba Mbiwan joined the staff of The Zeist Foundation, a family foundation based in Atlanta, in October 2006 to fortify their traditional grantmaking in the areas of Education, Arts & Culture and Health & Human Services. Atiba also supports the foundation's "place based philanthropy" in the Edgewood neighborhood of Atlanta, which began in 1994 with foundation investment in a school based pediatric clinic model and has since evolved into a multifaceted education, health and affordable housing initiative.

Prior to joining The Zeist Foundation, Atiba served as the Program Officer responsible for Education and Fostering Understanding grantmaking at the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation from 2001-2005. In this capacity, he managed a portfolio of 125 nonprofits based in Boston, New York City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, coastal South Carolina and the state of Georgia.

Before joining the philanthropic world, Atiba worked in the nonprofit field with a range of organizations that touched on youth development - serving homeless families across Georgia, supporting young social entrepreneurs in the southeast region and building quality after school programs around Atlanta. He was instrumental in creating and sustaining AmeriCorps Programs in Georgia throughout the 1990s and has been a consultant with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

In addition to beginning his career as a high school Math teacher and eventually serving as a middle school Math teacher in the 1980s, Atiba has been involved with the start-up of charter schools in Georgia in the 21st century. During his tenure as a high school teacher-counselor, he was chosen to be a National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Fellow at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

For over two decades, Atiba has served as Coach and Coordinator of the BRAG (Bike Ride Across Georgia) Dream Team and he currently serves on the governing board of Community Farmers Markets and the Grant Park Conservancy. Additionally, Atiba serves on the Advisory Board of the East Coast Greenway Alliance, the Penn Center in St Helena Island, SC and the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition. In a professional capacity, Atiba serves on the Steering Committee for the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance, Foundation Center South Advisory Board and in 2014-15 academic year served as the arts funder representative on Governor Deal's Arts Learning Task Force.

Atiba is married to Tiffany Friesen and they are parents of three adult children (graduates of Spelman & Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, Cornell University and Syracuse University), and three grandchildren. He earned his B.A. in Economics & Urban Studies at Brown University ('82) and he spent a semester at the University of Lagos in Nigeria (Fall 1980).

[Lisa Medellin, M.S.W.](#)

Director of Programs, Healthcare Georgia Foundation

Lisa Medellin serves as Director of Programs for Healthcare Georgia Foundation, and is a member of the executive leadership team at the Foundation. She oversees the Foundations' strategic grantmaking programs, management of program staff and programmatic partnerships for the Foundation. She ensures all programs and initiatives deliver desired results for the Foundation by focusing on implementing grantmaking strategies that accomplish the mission and vision of the Foundation. Lisa has been instrumental in the design and development of the Foundations' grant making process, policies and procedures. She is the primary liaison between the Foundation's philanthropic partners, and the non-profit sector both in Georgia and nationally. She provides thought leadership to the Foundation on identifying new strategic funding opportunities, cultivating key partnerships, and directs the allocation of the Foundation's annual distribution of \$3.8 million. Since joining the Foundation in 2005, she has been responsible for awarding over \$57million in grants in Georgia. Lisa has successfully implemented a multitude of Foundation health initiatives and programs during her tenure. Her grant portfolio expertise includes; Health Equity, Childhood Obesity, Health Policy, Behavioral Health and School-Based Health. She is currently leading the Foundation's largest funding investment since inception *The Two Georgias Initiative*-a five-year comprehensive funding program to support achieving greater health equity among rural populations in Georgia.

Prior to joining the Foundation, she held senior management positions with Emory University-Rollins School of Public Health, the American Cancer Society-National Home Office, and Planned Parenthood of the Southeast. She has vast knowledge and expertise in program development, non-profit administration/management and developing strategic partnerships. She is currently serving on the board of Wellstar-Atlanta Medical Center and the Georgia School Based Health Center Alliance. In 2019, she has been newly appointed to serve on the steering committee for the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance. Lisa has a long history of volunteering for various organizations in a leadership capacity including the Southeastern Council of Foundations, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, DeKalb County CASA, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta - Women's Legacy Council and the Junior League of Atlanta. Lisa received her M.S.W. from the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana and completed her undergraduate degree from Illinois State University.

Breakout Session Presenters

Shell K. Berry

President and CEO, Community Foundation for the CSRA

Shell Knox Berry is the President and CEO of the Community Foundation for the CSRA. Shell has professional skills in non-profit management, finance and business; however, it is her passion and vision for her community that makes her work for the Community Foundation impactful. Her professional background includes development for the Atlanta Ballet, investment banking for Banc of America Securities, and ownership of a retail business.

She has served her community through significant volunteer and leadership roles throughout her adult life, most significantly as Board President of the Augusta Ballet and Board President of the Westobou Festival. Shell was a member of the Leadership Augusta Class of 2018, the Leadership Georgia Class of 2011 and has served as an elder, deacon, and volunteer, at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church. Additionally, Shell works to raise awareness and money for the Press On Foundation, which supports important childhood cancer research initiatives. Previously, Shell has served on the Georgia Public Broadcasting Foundation Board of Directors, the Historic Augusta Endowment Board of Trustees, and Symphony Orchestra Augusta Endowment Board of Trustees, the Mary Warren Foundation Board of Directors, the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy Board of Directors and the Community Foundation for the CSRA Board of Directors. She has a BA in communications from Wake Forest University and a Masters of Management from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

She lives in Augusta, Georgia with her husband, Reab Berry, Jr., and their three kids.

Sharon Blitch

CFO Manager, SME

Sharon Blitch received her BBA in Accounting from Augusta University. Before starting her SME career in 2016 she managed day-to-day activity as Club Controller for Champions Retreat Golf Club. She specializes in accounting system analysis, process streamlining, advanced reporting, and also holds a QuickBooks Pro Advisor Certification for Desktop, Online and Point of Sale. She consults with a variety of businesses, from small mom-and-pop shops to large, national brands. She is currently growing SME's CFO Services division, with the goal of partnering with business owners and stakeholders to provide additional insight into the operations and finances of their businesses, allowing more informed and timely managerial decisions, planning and growth initiatives for their businesses.

Troy Breitmann, CFP, CTFA,

Vice President & Trust Officer, Queensborough National Bank & Trust Co.

Troy Breitmann has extensive experience in helping individuals and families accomplish the goals established by their estate and trust planning. Prior to joining Queensborough National

Bank & Trust, Troy spent 12 years with the Medical College of Georgia Foundation and the University Healthcare Foundation as the Director of Planned Giving and Chief Development Officer, respectively. In 2008, Troy received the Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award presented by the Central Savannah River chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals. Troy has been a Certified Professional Planner for more than a decade. He is the current President of the Augusta Estate Planning Council in addition to being an active member of the Savannah Estate Planning Council. Troy has served as a past member of the Georgia Planned Giving Council and is a Past President of the Board of Directors of Child Enrichment, Inc.

Rick Donaldson CEO, M3 Agency

Rick Donaldson is a native of Rockville, Maryland. He moved to Augusta, Georgia in 1995 as the General Manager of Jones Intercable Advertising and Production.

His previous experience included: outdoor advertising, cable and broadcast television, direct mail and a variety of digital platforms.. While employed at Jones Intercable he was recognized twice as the manager of the year during his five-year tenure. In 1998, he made the decision to go into the advertising agency business because he felt that agencies did not always put their clients' best interest first and he had specific goals and plans on how he would improve those relationships. In late November of 1998, he founded Mass Media Marketing, a full service advertising agency with in-house design, video production, media planning and placement, digital advertising and website design and hosting. M3 Agency is proud to have just celebrated 20 years in business and Rick currently holds the position of CEO and president.

He is participated as a board member for The Walk for Autism, past chair as the public relations committee for the Builders Association of Metro Augusta, past board member Augusta Players, past board member and contributor to the American Heart Association's Heart Ball and as a contributor to Lynndale, Red Cross and the United Way.

Rick is married to Amy. Children include recent college grad Sierra, son Blake attending Georgia Southern, Ellie who is in the 8th grade and youngest Reece, attending grade school and just turned 10 years old.

Kathy Keeley Executive Vice President, Georgia Center for Nonprofits

Kathy Keeley is the Executive Vice President of Programs at the Georgia Center for Nonprofits. She manages the membership, consulting and Nonprofit University program of the Center. She recently completed a successful turnaround of a nonprofit organization taking it from a million dollar organization to over six million in four years.

Keeley has started nine nonprofit organizations in her career, been the chief of staff for a mayor, had her own consulting firm that specialized in strategic planning for government and nonprofits, and completed special projects for a number of large corporations such as American Express and Caterpillar. Keeley is best known for starting the first loan fund in the country for women owned businesses and has worked in all 50 states and 30 counties in economic development, small business lending and strategic planning.

Keeley has been working in Augusta off and on since 1998 providing strategic planning, board coaching and consulting to numerous organizations. As part of GCN she recently completed an asset mapping of Augusta and it's nonprofits for the Community Foundation.

Kelly McCauley

CPA, Tax Manager SME

Kelly McCauley is a native of Augusta, GA. She graduated from the University of Georgia, Summa Cum Laude with Highest Honors where she earned her BBA in Accounting and Masters of Accountancy with an Emphasis in Taxation. Kelly is a tax manager at SME and she specializes in Business Tax, including Corporations, S-Corporations and Partnerships, Multi-State Taxation and Tax Provisions. She enjoys serving the client and learning about their business activities in order to minimize their tax liability.

Kelly is a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs as well as the American Institute of CPAs. She is a graduate of Leadership Columbia County (2015) and served on the Steering Committee for the Class of 2016. She serves on the Citizens Review Panel for the United Way of the CSRA and currently performs as the Treasurer for Child Enrichment, Inc. Kelly and her family attend Stevens Creek Church.

Julie Miller

Regional Manager, Georgia Family Connection Partnership

As the executive director of Columbia County Community Connections, Julie Miller leveraged more than \$10 million in grant funding from 2003-2018 to provide prevention programs for youth. In 2019, she became the regional manager for the Georgia Family Connection network focused on improving outcomes for children and families. She provides technical assistance and support to 14 Family Connection counties.

Julie has served as Board Chair for Hope House, a substance use treatment center for women in Augusta and on the Steering Committee for the United Way of the CSRA. She is a graduate of the 2011 Columbia County Leadership Class, and served on the board of directors for the Columbia County Library System and the Columbia County Forward Foundation. She is a member of the Martinez-Evans Rotary Club and serves on the board of the Mosaic Center. Julie is a lifetime certified trainer for Bridges Out of Poverty and the Strengthening Families Program.

Julie has a master's degree in public administration from Augusta University, a journalism degree from Georgia State University, and a fine arts degree from ABAC. She spent 18 years as a reporter and editor at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Julie and Doug, her husband of 42 years, have three adult children, five grand-children, and five dogs and one cat. She believes we all can help to change the world for the better.

[Tara Simkins J.D.](#)

Life Coach, Author and Founder of Soul Works

Tara Simkins left a successful twenty-year legal career to pursue a new calling ~ that of teacher, writer and co-founder of the Press On Fund. Inspired by her family's journey inside the world of pediatric cancer, Tara shares a unique understanding of what it means to potentially lose something very meaningful in your life, and in the face of such loss, to commit to living an extraordinary life. Her family's journey brought Tara to her knees. Literally. Tara's message is simple: "Deciding to fall deeper into Love (see below), to transform our difficulties and to summon the courage to press on is the privilege and practice of our lives." Her signature line, "XOXO + Press on," sums up this life philosophy.

Tara lives in North Augusta, South Carolina with her husband, Turner, her three sons, Nat, Brennan and Christopher, and their dog, Lucky.

[Lizzie Tinker](#)

Cyber Security Manager, Elliot Davis

Lizzie Tinker has more than 12 years of experience in IT and cybersecurity, including roles as assistant team chief of a cyber network defense team and network engineer for the Illinois Army National Guard. Currently Lizzie is a cybersecurity consultant with Elliott Davis and works with clients to analyze and improve their security posture through vulnerability assessments, architecture and design reviews and validations, social engineering and policy and procedure audits.

Lizzie holds twelve IT and cybersecurity certifications.