

Reimagining Systems-Level Changes for Economic Equity

July 29, 2021

Speaker Bios



Rev. Cory Anderson
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

Rev. Cory Anderson is a relentless collaborator. He builds and maintains local and national partnerships, launches bold initiatives, and strategizes to ensure the Foundation pursues equity for all Arkansans.

In addition to his role at the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Cory also serves as the interim executive director of ForwARd Arkansas. Cory understands collaboration because it has been his career. For seven years at The Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland, he supported state-level child advocacy organizations and helped lead the KIDSCOUNT Initiative. He is currently a BME Public Voices Fellow. He also serves on the boards of Arkansas Baptist College, the Urban League of Arkansas, the Association of Black Foundation Executives, and Neighborhood Funders Group.

Cory is married to Dr. Phillis Nichols-Anderson, CEO of a national educational management organization. He is pursuing a master's degree in theology from Anderson University. The Andersons have four children, two in college, one making movies in Hollywood, and a corporate attorney. They also have three grandchildren.



Christi Baker, (Moderator)
Asset Funders Network

Christi Baker is a Program Officer with Asset Funders Network. After founding Chrysalis Consulting Group in 1999, Christi Baker has served as the principal for the company, which facilitates transformation by providing coaching, training, curriculum development, technical assistance, writing, business planning, facilitation and specialized research services to individuals and organizations working toward greater well-being. Clients have included local community-based organizations, national nonprofit intermediaries and individuals. With expertise in applied research, qualitative methods, facilitation, program design, coaching and financial health, Christi has authored various publications and training manuals and has facilitated numerous trainings, meetings and planning processes.

In addition to consulting, she served as asset building program manager for Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA), executive director for HomeownershipSF and deputy director for San Diego Neighborhood Housing Services (now Community HousingWorks), and assisted coordinating NeighborWorks® America's Campaign for Home Ownership. Christi has 22 years of experience in the community development field through her consulting practice and employment. She serves on the national advisory council for the NeighborWorks Center for Homeownership Education and Counseling (NCHEC). She has also been a faculty member of the NeighborWorks® Training Institutes since 1996. Christi holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in anthropology and archaeology. She is a certified coach from the Coaches Training Institute and International Coach Federation.



Denise E. Herrera, PhD, MCHES, Con Alma Health Foundation

Dr. Denise Herrera, Executive Director of Con Alma Health Foundation, works with communities and partners statewide to improve the health status and access to healthcare services for all in New Mexico. The Foundation employs the following tools to achieve its mission: grant making and program-related investments, serving the role of neutral convener, and advocating for health policies that address the health needs of all New Mexicans.

Denise has devoted much of her academic and philanthropic career to leveling the playing field for underserved populations to receive quality health services and education. Her proudest accomplishment was establishing the “Herrera Internship Endowment” in 2016 – which provides internship and scholarship opportunities for Latina students throughout New Mexico. The fund, managed by the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation, was developed to honor Denise’s parents and grandparents who didn’t have the opportunity to pursue higher education.

Previously, Denise was a Senior Capacity Building Officer with St. David’s Foundation, where she ensured philanthropy take into consideration the organizational health of nonprofits to achieve their mission. She managed a large research and evaluation portfolio with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation’s largest philanthropy focused solely on health. She has provided programmatic and evaluation expertise on national advisory committees and issues related to leadership development, community health, and civic engagement efforts in rural and urban areas in the U.S. and abroad. Denise completed her BS in Health Education from the University of New Mexico, MS in Family Studies and Human Development from the University of Arizona, and PhD in Health Education from the University of Texas-Austin.



Jeffrey S. Kim, The California Wellness Foundation

Jeffrey S. Kim is a program director at The California Wellness Foundation where he currently manages strategy and grantmaking related to the Economic Security & Dignity portfolio.

Prior to joining Cal Wellness in April 2005, Kim was associate director of development for the National Conference for Community and Justice – Los Angeles Region. Before that, he worked for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center as deputy director for its legal services department.

Kim serves on the board of directors of the Asset Funders Network and Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties. Previously, he was appointed to the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. He has also served on the board of directors of Grantmakers in Aging, the steering committees of the Funders Oral Health Policy Group (a national network of funders in oral health) and the Los Angeles chapter of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy.

A member of the State Bar of California, Kim earned his law degree from the University of Michigan and his bachelor's degree in economics from Yale University.