

2022 Symposium Session: "Three Amazing Local Success Stories"

Hear from three local nonprofit leaders as they share their stories, challenges, and successes!
Moderated by Sheli Gartman.

Ali Rabe is the Executive Director at Jesse Tree, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing eviction and homelessness in the Treasure Valley. Prior to joining Jesse Tree, Ali worked with local governments and service providers in their efforts to prevent and end homelessness in the Bay Area. She spent the early years of her legal career supporting refugees and other displaced populations around the world. Her experiences there led to her passion to prevent homelessness from happening to people and communities. Ali is a proud alumna of The College of Idaho and holds a J.D. from William & Mary Law School. She has served as a State Senator for District 17 and is currently running for State Senate in District 16.



Kenton Lee is the founder of Because International, a nonprofit based in Nampa, Idaho with a mission to use products as solutions to alleviate poverty around the world. Their first project is an adjustable shoe called The Shoe That Grows. All of their shoes are produced in Kenya working with partners to get them to kids around the world. Recently, they started an Accelerator to empower global entrepreneurs to have success with their own ideas for world-changing products.

"The Power of Small Things: It Started With Shoes..."

Fifteen years ago, Kenton had a crazy idea for a shoe that could adjust and expand its size. Fast forward to today and now almost

400,000 pairs of The Shoe That Grows have been distributed to kids in over 100 countries through his organization Because International. But they didn't stop there - the mission continues with the Because Accelerator as they train global entrepreneurs to have success with their own ideas for world-changing products.



Patty A. Miller is the Director of the Basque Community History Project for the Basque Museum & Cultural Center. Patty is a 3rd generation Idahoan of Basque ancestry. For over twenty-two years in her role as Executive Director, Patty conducted educational programs and presentations for the museum and worked on the expansion of the museum's collections and on outreach through exhibits. She oversaw the restoration of the historic house that is part of the Museum complex, worked on establishing the "Basque Block" area in downtown Boise and helped establish a language-immersion preschool in 1998 that is one of the off-site activities of the museum and cultural center. Patty stepped down as Executive Director in January 2016 to work with a team of researchers to document the histories of communities with a Basque presence in the American West. The Basque Community History Project includes collecting photographs, archival materials, and some artifacts as well as conducting video interviews with individuals. These materials have greatly expanded the Museum's collections and are already contributing to exhibits being created. Much of the information is being made accessible to the public through the Museum's website.



Sheli Gartman is a Business, Teams and Executive Consultant, Strengthsfinders & Personal Growth Coach, Keynote Speaker, CEO of WICON and most importantly... An Accidental Comedian. :) She resides in Meridian, Idaho with her miraculous, Red-headed children, and two spoiled rotten standard poodles.