



### **Instructor Biographies:**

#### **Chris Bennett**

Chris is passionate about big ideas that create lasting positive impact. His 10+ years of experience as a pastor working with small, medium, and large congregations have equipped him to engage organizational challenges at a variety of levels. Chris' energy and passion combined with big-picture thinking have helped teams create and deliver innovative and exciting solutions to organizational problems. In 2016, he adapted "start-up" principles for nonprofits and faith communities and developed a capacity- building pre-accelerator for nonprofits and faith-based organizations. Since then, over 29 organizations have moved their mission and impact forward through this accelerator model. Chris is a graduate of Virginia Tech, from which he holds a BA in Communication Studies, and Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond), from which he holds a Masters of Divinity.

#### **Sue Kindred**

Sue Kindred, is a business strategist for nonprofits who is dedicated to helping grow and expand their impact. Frequently called "the nonprofit whisperer," Sue has more than 30 years' real-world "been there done that" experience. She brings a breadth and depth of insight, vision and understanding that will help create organizational transformation with practical results. Her motto, "Alone is hard, together is better," is the heartbeat of her work in building strong relationships, identifying opportunities and collaboratively guiding strategic direction. In 2016 she produced Alchemy, a national conference for nonprofit storytelling and she is currently the resident story expert at the online fundraising site Asking Matters. Additionally, she provides training programs and workshops for Community Foundation for a greater Richmond. Originally from Texas, Sue resides in Richmond, Virginia and enjoys spending time with her dog, Archie; reading, writing, exploring history, traveling and always seeking the next adventure.

## **Shelley Smith**

Shelley D. Smith is the owner of Premier Rapport. “At its very core, Premier Rapport is all about THE CONNECTION,” she says, referring to one of her books about the opportunities we must connect on many levels in our professional lives. Her business consulting firm serves companies of all sizes with executive coaching, organizational design and development, talent development, facilitation, behavioral assessments (The Predictive Index), and much more. Her focus produces better results with higher returns through leadership development and corporate culture overall engagement. Shelley has business certifications from Cornell University, and has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout her 30+ year professional career. Before opening her own firm, she worked with Marriott International’s Hotels Division, eventually transitioning into the Hotel Franchise sector. She is the Social Science Domain lead for Mission 6 Zero, a further focus on Workplace Culture and its impact across all sectors. As part of her busy schedule with Premier Rapport, she writes blogs and hosts video blogs on the hottest topics in business, including talent development, and regularly tapes “The Culture Hour.” She also makes regular guest appearances on various podcasts with some of the most influential business leaders in today’s marketplace. She is the Lead Science Officer of the Social Domain at Mission 6 Zero and Advisor at Cowork Gloucester. Shelley is the current past President of Peninsula Women’s Network, the longest continuously operating women’s network in Virginia. She is an active member of the Peninsula Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), as well as a board member and program chair. She is involved with many other nonprofit organizations such as Network Peninsula, as well as the Boys and Girls Club. She is the one of the local DisruptHR757 organizers and executive board member for Southeastern VA Catholic Charities. Shelley works directly with the CEO performing 360 assessments, meeting facilitations, that focus on the team opportunities for professional development to yield higher returns for all those they assist in the community.

## **Rob Levit**

Rob Levit is a gifted facilitator and consultant who has worked extensively with educational, corporate and nonprofit clients on strategic planning, team development and leadership skills. He is known for his inclusive, engaging and interactive style that fosters learning, collaboration and clarity for participants. Rob has provided keynotes, trainings and facilitations for a wide array of organizations including the Governor’s Office for Children, Maryland Nonprofits, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, American Nurses Association, ASHRM, Talbot County Public Schools, Anne Arundel Medical Center, The World Bank, Maryland Fund for Excellence, Heim Lantz, The New Jersey Hospital Association, Leadership Development Institute, Northwestern Mutual, the TEACH Institute and Hospice of the Chesapeake among many others.

Rob is a multi-award winning nonprofit leader including the 2011 Martin Luther King Peacemaker Award, 2012 Mentor of the Year Award and a 2013 Innovator of the Year Award from The Maryland Daily Record as well as two Community Trustee awards from Leadership Anne Arundel. Rob is also a Licensed Consultant from Maryland Nonprofits’ Standards for Excellence Institute®, a Certified Trainer in Workplace Conflict Resolution from the Mediation Institute at Eckerd College and holds an Executive Leadership Certificate from Cornell University.

## **Jeanne Allen**

Jeanne Allen is an expert in board and leadership development, strategic planning, change management, and volunteer engagement. She works at the intersection of Strategy, Innovation, and Leadership in the nonprofit sector. Jeanne is passionate about effective nonprofit management and leadership, and building relationships with and between all the stakeholders: volunteers, members, staff and board leadership. Additionally, Jeanne is an Instructor in the Duke University Nonprofit Management Certificate Program (NC) where she teaches Board Development and Governance, Strategic Planning, Social Media Strategy and Policy for Nonprofits, and Volunteer Engagement. The students are professionals in the nonprofit sector. For several years, she has been an occasional Newswire Contributor for Nonprofit Quarterly (NPQ). Jeanne is an instructor in the initial year of the Nonprofit Management Institute, sponsored by NetworkPeninsula (VA). Jeanne is a BoardSource Certified Governance Trainer with expert knowledge of effective governance principles. Additionally, she is a Certified Instructor in the Service Enterprise Program, sponsored by Points of Light Foundation. As a volunteer, she is the local organizer for NC Tech4Good, planning monthly meetings on technology hot topics for nonprofits. Her career has been across the spectrum of nonprofits: national (Girl Scouts USA National Headquarters) state and regional nonprofits as a staff member, local nonprofits as a board member and management staff, and as a volunteer with local organizations.