

SPEAKER BIOS
2010 MINNESOTA'S MANUFACTURERS' SUMMIT

William A. Blazar

Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Business Development, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Bill Blazar is Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Business Development at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. Blazar is responsible for the Chamber's public affairs program, including policy development, lobbying and elections. He also manages Grow Minnesota!, the Chamber's business retention and expansion program. He is a past member and chair of the board of the Minnesota Government Relations Council. Prior to joining the Chamber, he was Manager of Government Affairs for Target Corporation from 1987-1992. Before working for Target, Blazar was a freelance public policy analyst, specializing in state and local fiscal policy, economic development and telecommunications.

Blazar has a B.A. (Political Science) from Northwestern University and a M.A. (Public Affairs) from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.

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(651) 292-4658, bblazar@mnchamber.com

Jamie Woell

Manufacturing & Distribution Assurance Leader, McGladrey

Jamie Woell is a partner in the Twin Cities office of McGladrey & Pullen. He has over 20 years of experience and works with clients in the high-technology industries, manufacturing and distribution. He has significant experience in business acquisition and sales transactions and corporate restructuring.

Jamie is the leader of our manufacturing, wholesale, distribution and services (MWDS) industry team for the Twin Cities and other regional offices.

Jamie is a graduate of our business advisor program. This is a unique arrangement RSM McGladrey has with the University of Chicago to provide high-level business to our clients. The program, along with his years of business experience, allows him to provide a unique perspective in assisting his clients in increasing their shareholder value.

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Clyde Allen

Chair, U of M Board of Regents

Clyde Allen is retired following a career in the private and public sectors. He most recently served as treasurer and vice president for business affairs for Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. Before that he was the commissioner of Minnesota's Department of Revenue, the director of research for the Minnesota Taxpayers Association, and a computer specialist for Honeywell. A graduate of Yale University with a degree in political science, Allen has served on numerous governing boards, including Community Living Services Inc., a nonprofit social service provider, and Prairie Public Broadcasting Inc., both located in Fargo, North Dakota.

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Scott Thiss

Chair, MnSCU Board of Trustees

Scott Thiss, Edina, is president and chief executive officer for Sailforth, Inc., an Edina holding company with selected business investments. He previously served as president and chief executive officer for S&W Plastics, LLC, in Eden Prairie.

He previously served as chair of the board for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest business advocacy organization. He also is past chair of the board of the Normandale Community College Foundation. Thiss served the Bush Administration as a member of the inaugural Manufacturing Council, chaired by the Secretary of Commerce and is past co-chair of the Minnesota Manufacturers' Coalition.

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Thiss received a bachelor's degree and an M.B.A. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and holds a CPA certificate. He is a resident of the Third Congressional District and is appointed to an at-large seat on the board. He was appointed to the board by Gov. Tim Pawlenty in July 2006 for a six-year term expiring June 30, 2012.

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Cecilia Retelle

Manager, Education Policy, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Cecilia Retelle oversees education/workforce development and health policy for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce policy staff. She has completed coursework for a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota with a specialty in science.

For the past several weeks, she has been leading forums across the state on the Minnesota Chamber's K-12 education reforms that will be advanced at the 2011 Legislature. She serves on a variety of education boards including the Charter School Partners Board, Minnesota Online Learning Advisory Council and Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership.

As part of her college studies, she worked with children in grades K-8 in urban schools. She received her law degree from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, and passed the Minnesota bar exam in 2009. She also has a bachelor's degree in Foundations in Education from the University of Minnesota.

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Mike Gramse

Owner & President, MRG Tool and Die Corporation

Mike is a native of Faribault, Minnesota. He attended Faribault Area Vocational School for Tool and Die and was a machinist in the Navy for four years.

Mike left the Navy in 1972 and started Duo Tool and Die in 1979 with a partner. Duo Tool and Die dissolved in 1980 and continued on as MRG Tool and Die. The company has been in operation for 31 years, they currently have 45 employees and a 63,000 sq ft. facility. They produce metal stamping dies, plastic injection molds, automated equipment and special machines, and also production stamping and machining.

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Tom Wosepka

Chief Financial Officer, Douglas Machine

Mr. Wosepka is a certified public and managerial accountant, and holds an MBA degree from the University of Minnesota. Before joining Douglas Machine in February 2004, he held various management positions working in the United States and Europe for Honeywell, Schneider Logistics, and The Hub Group.

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Lauren Lonergan

Shareholder, Briggs and Morgan. P.A.

Lauren is a shareholder in the firm of Briggs and Morgan, Professional Association. She recently served as board vice president. Lauren is the head of the Business Litigation Section and practices principally in the areas of:

- Insurance coverage and regulatory litigation
- Business litigation
- Employment litigation

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Lauren has represented clients and tried cases in state and federal courts and argued appeals before the Minnesota appellate courts, as well as the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. Lauren's practice in the insurance area includes coverage litigation regarding environmental, products liability claims, employment claims, fiduciary liability claims and first party loss claims.

Lauren is a member of the Hennepin County Bar Association Insurance Committee and the American Bar Association Litigation Section Subcommittees on Insurance and Insurance Coverage. She has been listed in Minnesota Super Lawyers, as seen in Minnesota Law & Politics and has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America.

Born in New Milford, Connecticut, Lauren attended Carleton College and received her B.A. summa cum laude from Macalester College. She received her law degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota School of Law in 1982. Lauren joined Briggs in 1988.

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Jim Mulder

Lieutenant Governor Candidate, Horner 2010

Jim Mulder grew up in Renville, Minnesota and attended the University of Minnesota, Morris where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received a Master of Arts degree in public administration from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Jim is currently in the public administration doctoral program at Hamline University in St. Paul and has begun work on his dissertation.

For the past 21 years, Jim has been the executive director of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) where he led the administrative operations, legislative, and communications efforts that support Minnesota's 87 counties. During his tenure, Jim developed a comprehensive training program for member counties on managing change, revitalizing communities, and developing future leaders.

A highlight of Jim's career entailed his appointment as co-chairperson of the Meth Action Group by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Jim led a national educational campaign regarding the dangers and challenges of Meth on a community. Jim worked with state and federal legislators and officials to pass legislation that controls the sale and distribution of the ingredients used in manufacturing meth. Both AMC and NACo received acclaim for their leadership and work on this key public health and safety issue.

Jim also worked as the county coordinator and chief operating officer for McLeod County where he implemented policies and operational directions of the McLeod County Board of Commissioners. Jim oversaw a \$35 million county budget, directed personnel management, and served as spokesperson for the county.

Jim also worked for the House of Representatives in caucus research and as tax committee administrator conducting public policy research and analysis.

Jim has a long history of community service, which entails supporting and serving the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Alumni Association, Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville Planning Commission, and the National Council of County State Association Executives.

Jim has authored papers on rural and county development and received numerous awards for his work on developing communities and future leaders.

Jim and his wife Carmen reside in Roseville, Minnesota while Jim's son, Alex, is a junior at Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota.

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