

# **Story Skill/Share: Covid Response and Resilience**

## ***Creative Ways of Organizing and Engaging Across Physical Distance***

### **May 7, 2020**

#### **Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA)**



**Patricia Carrillo joined ALBA in February of 2017 as its Executive Director.** She has over a decade of experience working in the non-profit sector, including working as ALBA's Business Education Program from 2006 to 2013. In that role, she developed tools and curricula for beginning farm entrepreneurs, increased alternative financing opportunities for small scale organic farmers, and advocated for socially-disadvantaged beginning farmers. Aside from financial management, Patricia's skills also include grant management and reporting, budgeting and record keeping for small businesses, small business development consulting and training, and program monitoring and evaluation. Prior to returning to ALBA, Patricia took on the role of Finance & Operations Director at the YWCA Monterey County and later went on to become Program Director at the Housing Resource Center of Monterey County, where she was responsible for the

administration and management of all HRC programs, including homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, Veteran assistance, security deposit guarantee, financial literacy and home ownership programs. Patricia is a Salinas native and holds a B.S. in Business Administration from San Jose State University, with a specialization in Business Management.

#### **Christopher Brown, Development Director**

Christopher Brown started at ALBA in March 2012 and is a native of Berkeley, California. He studied economics at University of California Berkeley and spent five years in the finance and investment field before entering UCLA's Anderson School of Management to earn his MBA. Upon graduation, Chris pursued opportunities in the international non-profit field, taking an assignment as a small-business consultant in Ukraine. This led to a project management role in Kiev, followed by others in Romania, Georgia and Montenegro over the course of a decade. His most recent position was as a Washington, DC-based project manager for a research grant studying how to link small farmers to market opportunities in Mongolia and Rwanda. After nearly 15 years away, Chris is delighted to return to California to apply his experience and education toward advancing the economic development among beginning farmers in the Salinas Valley and Central Coast region.

## *Dream of Wild Health*



**Neely Snyder is the Executive Director at Dream of Wild Health.** Neely Snyder grew up in the Twin Cities area and brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit management and administration. Neely's professional career began in 2000 at East Side Neighborhood Services Way to Grow program and later developed her professional expertise at Native Americans in Philanthropy where she graduated from the first cohort of the Circle of Leadership, a development program designed to educate and empower Native American leadership in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. She also worked at the MN Urban Area Health Education Center with University of Minnesota Physicians and most recently spent 6.5 years with American Indian Cancer Foundation as Operations Manager where she also led Powwow for Hope, a community healing event and fundraiser. Neely is an enrolled member of St. Croix Chippewa and direct descendent of Red Lake Nation and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Her passion is working toward building stronger, healthier

Native American communities. Neely holds a Bachelor's degree in Media Business from the Minnesota School of Business. Her volunteer activities include serving on the Board of Directors at The Family Partnership and as a Tiwahe Foundation grant reviewer.

## *Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA)*



**Janssen Hang is the Senior Organizer, Farm Manager and Co-Founder of the Hmong American Farmers Association.** Janssen grew up growing, harvesting and selling vegetables for the local food economy and currently runs his family-owned value-added business making spring rolls and egg rolls at the downtown Saint Paul Farmers Market. A 2001 Saint Olaf graduate in Biology and Asian Studies, Janssen has over 20 years of experience in agriculture, 12 years in small business management, and 7 years as a licensed-real estate agent. Janssen is also one among just a few certified Hmong Mekongs (cultural broker). Janssen likes to spend his free time with his wife and three sons in the outdoors.

## *Practical Farmers of Iowa*



**Liz Kolbe is the Horticulture and Habitat Programs Manager.** Liz works primarily in horticulture, focusing on cooperators' program research, pesticide drift issues, and field day and event planning. A native of Grinnell, IA, Liz received her B.A. in Environmental Science at The Colorado College, focusing on renewable energy in the West and the impacts of ethanol production. She worked as the Program Coordinator for the State of the Rockies Project, eventually shifting her academic focus to agriculture and landscape. Liz moved eastward for graduate school, earning her M.S. in Environmental Science with a specialization in Agroecosystem Science at The Ohio State University. While at OSU and based at

the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, OH, Liz worked with the Agroecosystems Management Program and was a "super-volunteer" at Local Roots Market. In addition to exploring farm and food scenes around the country, Liz enjoys playing sports, scouring garage sales, and reading short stories on the front porch. She also serves on the board of directors for Wheatsfield Coop.