
PRESS RELEASE

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GENERATIONS UNITED WELCOMES UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

(Washington, D.C.) – Generations United announces its new United Nations (UN) representatives: **Sara Peller, L.C.S.W.**, associate director of Programs for Seniors at DOROT, INC.; **Susanne Bleiberg-Seperson, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology at Dowling College, Oakdale, NY and chair of the Long Island chapter of the New York State Intergenerational Network; and **Kristin Bodiford, Ph.D.**, visiting assistant professor at Dominican University's Graduate School of Social Work.

They join Generations United's lead UN representative **Kevin Brabazon**, adjunct associate professor at New York University.

"The United Nations continues to be the primary body involved in developing social and economic policy internationally," said Brabazon. "It is exciting that Generations United has established an accredited presence there and is making its voice heard on critical issues. I am proud to be a small part of this effort and look forward to positive social change over the next 15 years as the UN develops its 'post 2015 development goals' and works on human rights issues for women, children and elders"

"As an organization that holds NGO consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2005, we appoint designated representatives who we believe have proven expertise in intergenerational practices and policies and will represent us well at the UN," said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United.

"I am very pleased that Sara Peller, Susanne Bleiberg-Seperson and Kristin Bodiford not only join our lead delegate, Kevin Brabazon, but that they also agreed to represent us and the intergenerational voice at select meetings and events conducted by the United Nations," Butts continued. "We're grateful for their commitment and willingness to serve."

Generations United's UN representatives are assets in the nonprofit's work to integrate intergenerational perspectives into the UN's work including the areas of aging, youth and families, which results in recommendations to its member countries:

Kevin Brabazon is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Administration at NYU Wagner, and an Adjunct Associate Professor in statistics and technology management in the Leonard N. Stern School of Business. He has also lectured in gerontology at La Guardia College, City University of New York, and in Intergenerational Studies at Dowling College. He received his MPA from Wagner. He has a special interest in intergenerational services and, as a consultant to the Brookdale Foundation, developed a national network of services for grandparents and other relatives raising grandchildren. He has been president of the New York State Intergenerational Network since 1991. He has published articles and a book, "Intergenerational Approaches in Aging" with Robert Disch.

Sara Peller is associate executive director of Programs at DOROT, Inc. Prior to assuming this position, she was the Director of the Homelessness Prevention Program, the agency's transitional housing program for homeless seniors.

“Representing Generations United at the United Nations is a perfect fit,” Peller explained. “I am interested in dispelling the myths of aging by creating opportunities to foster friendship and encourage dialogue between the generations.” She has also written and produced both fund raising and training videos for DOROT. In addition to her Social Work degree from Hunter School of Social Work, she has a Master of Arts degree in Dance Therapy from New York University.

Susanne Bleiberg-Seperson is a professor and chair of the Department of Sociology at Dowling College, Oakdale, NY and Chair of the Long Island chapter of the New York State Intergenerational Network. She is the co-editor of *Elder Care and Service Learning: A Handbook* and past executive editor of the *Journal of Business and Economic Studies*. She has been a member of evaluation teams of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as well as an outside evaluator at numerous colleges. A past president of the New York State Sociological Association and the Dowling College faculty union, she is the former director of the Center for Intergenerational Policy and Practice at Dowling College. She received her doctorate from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Kristin Bodiford is visiting assistant professor at Dominican University’s Graduate School of Social Work. She is a Taos Institute Associate and principal of Community Strengths. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from Tilburg University and an MBA from University of California at Davis. Kristin incorporates an intergenerational lens in all of her work, from community building projects focusing on violence prevention to teaching courses in research methods, family-centered policy, and trauma informed and restorative practices. “It is a critical time to be representing intergenerational perspectives as the UN is developing a holistic and inclusive post 2015 development agenda so that the voices, rights, needs and strengths of all ages - including those most often left out, children, youth and older persons - are considered and included in the planning process.”

Generations United’s past accomplishments include:

- Planning and presenting at three program from 2010-2012 including “A Cross-National Comparison of Perceptions of Aging and Older Adults from an Intergenerational Perspective (2012).
- Donna Butts speaking at UN Headquarters in New York City as part of their [20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family \(IYF\)](#), an opportunity that stemmed from Generations United’s two-year work with the UN as the expert leader in developing the celebration around intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion.
- Participating in four Expert Group Meetings on intergenerational issues.

About Generations United

For nearly three decades, Generations United has been the catalyst for policies and practices stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. We believe that we can only be successful in the face of our complex future if generational diversity is regarded as a national asset and fully leveraged. www.gu.org

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