



American Marshall Memorial Fellowship  
Summer 2012



**Nancy Bui-Thompson**

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Mrs. Nancy Bui-Thompson was elected to the Sacramento Municipal District Board of Directors in November 2008, representing over 200,000 constituents in Sacramento County. SMUD is the sixth largest publicly owned utility in the country and is known for innovative energy programs. She serves as President of the Board for 2012. In addition to her duties as an elected official, Nancy is a technology and management professional. She is currently a Program Manager for one of California’s largest health-plan providers – Blue Shield of California. Nancy was a consultant for two of the world’s largest and best-known consulting companies: Accenture and Deloitte. She has served as a consultant to executive-level management for the State of California, Chevron, Bank of America, Delta Dental and Sutter Health, bringing efficiency and project management to their organizations. She has worked on the implementation and management of some of the country’s largest public information systems (\$350M and \$700M system implementations). Nancy is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor’s of Science in Economics and Management Information Systems.

I truly am living the American Dream. My family immigrated to the United States in 1975 from Vietnam. My two sisters and I were raised by a single mother and we spent time on welfare when she couldn’t find enough work to support our family. I worked my way through college and am the only person in my entire family to ever graduate from college. Today, in addition to supporting my mother and extended family, I take advantage of as many educational *and* life enriching opportunities as possible. I sleep very little, and have a “work hard, play hard” philosophy. My friends call me “high octane” or “cruise director” - I’m constantly on the go and love scheduling dinners and events for my husband and friends. I’ve dabbled in enology and have a wine collection of over 1000 bottles. To fulfill my need for athletic competition, I captain and play on competitive tennis teams along with playing in corporate golf tournaments. I’m an active volunteer and feel it’s very important to give back to my community. I founded a program called Bear HUGS (Hope You Give Someone) which has provided an opportunity to speak to children about child abuse. I sit on national and local advisory boards for various non-profits – New Leaders Council, Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission and American Leadership Forum to name just a few.

**Nathan Cook**

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Nathan Cook currently serves as the Manager of Government and Community Relations for McKesson Specialty Health, the US Oncology Network. Prior to this he was District Director for US Congressman Pete Olson in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of Texas, where he oversaw the day-to day operations of the district offices, ensuring the constituents were served and well-represented by their Congressman. His previous professional



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experience includes four years as Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Texas Region, for US Senator John Cornyn. Nathan also served in the US Army Reserves from 1997 to 2005, spending one year on deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Balad, Iraq from March 2004 to February 2005. Outside of work, Nathan serves as the Chairman for the Board of Directors for the Lone Star Veterans Association (LSVA), of which he is also a co-founder. The LSVA is a non-profit organization designed to be a grass-roots social network for Post-9/11 veterans in Houston and the surrounding areas. The organization's mission is to make Houston the best city for returning veterans by providing information, services, membership and camaraderie.

I was born in Kailua, Hawaii, but my parents moved their small-business to Texas when I was three, so although I was denied an opportunity to grow up in "paradise," I was blessed to be raised in the small town of Cut & Shoot (no joke), Texas. As such, I am a "country boy" at heart, meaning that I enjoy having a lot of space, privacy, and nature all around me. Growing up, my parents always said I should be a lawyer or politician because I talked so much. I think they were right, although I have never had the urge (or patience) to attend law school. I studied political science at Texas A&M University, which was a great experience for me. I feel my time there was truly formative for the my professional career in politics thus far, being able to attend the Bush School of Government and Public Service and have exposure to some of the world leaders who would make visits to speak at President George H.W. Bush's Presidential Library. Outside of my work in politics and government relations, I enjoy philanthropic activities on behalf of military veterans, but I also spend a lot of time jogging, writing, and landscaping my property. My long-term goal is to eventually write and publish a novel, but my current work (both professional and philanthropic) keeps me so busy that I have not made the time to write enough.

### **Lindsey Holmes**

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Lindsey Holmes is a member of the Alaska House of Representatives where she has represented West Anchorage since being first elected in 2006. She was born and raised in the district she represents. Rep. Holmes currently serves on the Legislative Council, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Labor & Commerce Committee; additionally she serves on the House Finance Budget Subcommittees for the departments of Health & Social Services and Law. In addition to her public service, Rep. Holmes works as an attorney in private practice specializing in corporate real estate and energy law. She also clerked for Alaska Supreme Court Justice Warren Matthews. Rep. Holmes holds a Bachelor's degree from Middlebury College, a Master's degree from Stanford University, and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School. She currently serves on the boards of the Nature Conservancy's Alaska Chapter, the Anchorage Concert Foundation, and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation.

I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. I spent many of my summers on an island, driving boats, pulling crab and shrimp pots, and running free. With the notable exception of losing my mother while still in high school, it was a pretty idyllic childhood. I left the state for college, and over the next 10 years lived in Vermont, Buenos Aires, Washington DC, California, Mexico City, Chicago and Barcelona. I woke up one day and decided I missed my mountains and ocean, and my family and friends, so I moved home and bought a house a half block from where I grew up, and have never regretted it. I love to hike and ski,



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I play a mean game of tennis, and am an avid scuba diver (but only on vacation in warm places). I have a rather manic work schedule which includes being a Representative in the state house, a part time attorney, and running for reelection every two years. I don't like to be bored!

**Danielle North**

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Danielle North serves as Director of Operations for the Detroit Public Schools' Office of Charter Schools. In this role, she is primarily responsible for monitoring schools' compliance with authorizer, federal, and state reporting requirements. Prior to this, she was professionally trained and nurtured in a grassroots setting at Warren Conner Development Coalition. This afforded her the opportunity to become co-founder of a high-performing grade 6-12 charter school with a team of residents, business leaders, community organizers and a charter management organization. She managed the project from an idea and planning phase to a charter contract award. The school will open in fall 2012. Danielle's other professional experiences include managing a neighborhood farmer's market, serving as a community liaison to a City of Detroit council member, and leasing and developing affordable housing. She's a member of the Neighborhoods Taking Action Steering Committee. Danielle holds a Bachelors of Science in Sociology from Central Michigan University and plans to enter law school in the fall of 2013.

I'm extremely passionate about my professional work in the City of Detroit because I was born and raised here and I'm a product of the public school system. The eldest of four children, I'm the epitome of a big sister, extremely protective, caring and, some say, bossy. I love to sing and write music and I'm working on a gospel album to be released this year. Most people from where I grew up don't graduate from college, establish and maintain successful careers, become homeowners, or survive. I have done all of the above and not only am I surviving – but I continue to strive for greatness. I have an amazing husband and a beautiful 2 ½ year old son. My son motivates me more than anything else in this world to continue to be a productive citizen. He deserves nothing less as an example.

**Danya Trent**

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Danya Trent is the Program Director for F-16 Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan programs at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. This position includes technical, cost and schedule responsibility for multiple contracts collectively valued at approximately \$1B. Prior to her current position, Danya completed a nearly two-year assignment working directly for the company president. In her 12-year career with Lockheed Martin, she has also held leadership positions in the Supply Chain Management and Business Ventures organizations. Danya holds a bachelor's degree in International Management from Texas Christian University and an MBA degree from Southern Methodist University. She has also completed several Lockheed Martin leadership development programs including the Lockheed Martin Leadership and Executive Assessment & Development (LEAD) program and the Finance Leadership Academy program.



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I have lived my entire life in Texas, but have travelled extensively within the US and around the world since I was a teenager. I have always had a love for travel and experiencing new cultures, but always love to come home too. My husband and I share a passion for the great outdoors, especially the mountains. Hiking and skiing are my favorite activities, but since there is a shortage of mountains nearby I settle for cycling most of the time. I also have a very big heart for animals of all varieties, especially dogs. My long bike rides often involve admiring the beautiful country-side and saying “hi” to all of the cows, horses and goats that are so common in Texas. I am an avid reader and enjoy a broad range of books including non-fiction, biographies, historical books, and I do love a good novel!

**Mark Vargas**

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Mark Vargas is President of Mission Infrastructure, a project management and development-consulting firm based in Los Angeles. Mark has over 13 years of experience working in the government and political arena, and five years of private sector experience in the public works construction industry. Mark served as a Special Assistant to California Governor Gray Davis, as well as several other state-level elected officials. He has several years of political and campaign experience at the local, state, and federal level. Mark is currently a delegate to the California Democratic Party (CDP) and a member of the CDP Rules Committee. Mark is a LEED® Accredited Professional, registered with the United States Green Building Council and has six years of experience in a project management oversight capacity. He is currently overseeing projects on behalf of the Port of Los Angeles, the San Bernardino Airport, and the East Valley Water District. Mark is a member of the Little Hoover Commission; an independent state oversight agency created in 1962 to investigate state government operations and promote efficiency, economy and improved service. He is also a member of the Personnel Commission for the Los Angeles Unified School District. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for Grand Performances, Southern California's largest presenter of free performing arts programs. Mark received his B.A. from the University of Southern California, with Honors, in Political Science and International Relations, and has completed graduate coursework at the University of California at San Diego in the area of Latin American Studies.

I am a native of Los Angeles and the son of immigrants from Mexico and Colombia. I thoroughly enjoy what my home city has to offer by way of being an enormous center of cultural diversity and appreciation. I enjoy learning about the arts, culture, and personalities from all over the world, and am fascinated by “melting pots” such as Los Angeles and how cities deal with the stresses and benefits of having multi-ethnic populations. More than just admiring a concert or play or object of art, I enjoy observing people’s interaction with art, and how it serves as a tool to bring people together. I’m also passionate about the global struggle to overcome our global warming challenges, and am proud that my home state of California has moved aggressively to develop renewable sources of energy. I’m lucky that, as my own boss, I can chose to work on development projects that satisfy my soul as well as my pocketbook, so I have spent a great deal of time blurring the lines between work and advocacy on energy efficiency and alternative energy projects in and around the Ports of Los Angeles. I ride my bicycle to work, which is rare for Los Angeles and rarer still for an American!