

LEADERSHIP

bismarck-mandan alumni association

JULY 2017

HEATON WINS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

BY CATHRYN SPRYNCZYNATYK

Rev. Gary received the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 2017 Leadership Bismarck-Mandan graduation on May 24.



A 2005 graduate of the Leadership program, Heaton helped create Welcome House, Inc., which connects local families with temporary shelter and supportive resources that lead to self-sufficiency. He also served on the Welcome House board of directors for 5 years.

Heaton is committed to serving his community. From 2000 to 2008, he served as a pastor and developer at Living Water Lutheran Church in Mandan. Since 2008, he has been a Chaplain for Sanford Health and served as the Executive Director for AID, Inc. In addition to these remarkable commitments, Gary volunteers for prison ministry at the North Dakota State Penitentiary. He is also a member of the Dacotah Lions and past officer of the Council of United Way Agencies. He was also a part of the team that wrote the 10 year plan to end long-term homelessness in Bismarck-Mandan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Leadership

BISMARCK - MANDAN

NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

Thursday, Aug. 3 @ 7:05 p.m.

Bismarck Municipal Ballpark — 303 West Front Avenue



Join LBMAA for a night at the ballpark. Take in a game, network with Leadership alumni and enjoy an all-inclusive ballpark buffet!

Tickets are \$25. Tickets are limited and are expected to sell out! To purchase tickets, visit

www.bismarckmandan.com/events or call

701.223.5660.

FEATURE MEMBER



KARLA BUZICK

CLASS OF 2011

OFFICE & TECH MANAGER

THE CONSENSUS COUNCIL

What does the first 60 minutes of your day look like? I arrive at work with my little dog (Ruby) in tow and fire up the computer! Most of my daily work is office duties: paying bills, depositing checks, invoicing customers, managing our budget and things of that nature. Depending on what month it is, I may be working on sending out grant letters to our community innovation grantees, gathering all our finances for year-end reports or preparing for our annual International Legislators Forum. We are a small staff of only three people, so we all wear many hats!

What was your first job? As luck would have it, my high school best friend's parents owned a company called Action Pack, which was a pre-sort mail service. Right before graduation, my friend's mom told me that if I needed a job to stop in and she'd hire me.

What would someone be surprised to know about you?

I'm a pretty open book. What you see is what you get.

What project, or achievement are you most proud of? My volunteer work with Dakota Outright is something I'm very proud of. We are a small but determined group and have worked very hard to continue our mission of increasing visibility, providing resources, advocating for equality and working to provide safe spaces for the LGBTQIA community. We are an all-volunteer board and do this work above and beyond our day jobs. When I look at all the things we have accomplished over the years, I am truly amazed and honored to be involved with such hard working and dedicated individuals.

How have you been involved in the community? I serve as a board member of the N.D. Human Rights Coalition (NDHRC), a statewide agency that works to effect change so all people in North Dakota enjoy full human rights. I've been a member of Dakota Outright since 2011, and currently serve as the President, a role I have been in for about four years now. I am also part of an LGBTQ+ statewide advisory committee that works with domestic violence programs to help improve services for the LGBTQIA community. I am an active member of the BSC Embracing Diversity Team. I also served on the Bismarck Mayor's Human Relations Committee as a member and vice-chair.

How could others become involved in that service? NDHRC has an application that needs to be completed. The term is three years and may be renewed for two consecutive terms. We have 12 board member positions. Dakota Outright is always looking for board members to help us continue our work for the LGBTQIA community. Our process is simple—we ask anyone who is interested to submit a letter of interest and meet with our board for an informal interview. We have a maximum of 12 board members that serve two year terms with no limit on the amount of consecutive terms they may serve. We also have a variety of sub-committees that we encourage the community to be involved in.

What is a favorite quote or words that mean a lot to you?

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. —Ralph Waldo Emerson