Using Public Deliberation to Find Common Ground
Faculty Bios
Tuesday Aug. 9
4:00 - 5:00 pm

David Holwerk joined the Kettering Foundation as director of communications and resident scholar in June 2009. Holwerk oversees the production of deliberative issue books. He is active in the foundation’s research on the public-government relationship and the role of media and journalism in democracy. Before coming to the foundation, Holwerk worked for more than 30 years as a journalist at newspapers in Kentucky, Minnesota, and California. He worked as a copy editor, reporter, editorial page editor, managing editor, and editor-in-chief. He managed staffs that won numerous national awards, including two Pulitzer Prizes. Holwerk is a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He spends his spare time fishing, writing country music, and perfecting his recipes for hot sauce and barbecued chicken.

Jean Johnson is a vice president of the National Issues Forums Institute and senior fellow at Public Agenda and has studied public attitudes for more than three decades. She is the principal author of a series of influential Public Agenda reports on K-12 and higher education. She has published articles in USA Today and The Huffington Post and appeared on Bill Moyers’ Journal, CNN, and MSNBC. Between 2008 and 2012, she co-authored three books with Scott Bittle: Where Does the Money Go? Your Guided Tour to the Federal Budget Crisis; Who Turned Out the Lights? Your Guided Tour to the Energy Crisis; and Where Did the Jobs Go?—all from HarperCollins. In 2012, she published You Can’t Do It Alone: A Communications and Engagement Manual for School Leaders Committed to Reform (Rowman & Littlefield). Johnson holds degrees from Mount Holyoke College, Brown University, and Simmons College.

Betty Knighton is the Director of the West Virginia Center for Civic Life, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes public dialogue on issues that affect the quality of life in West Virginia. A primary focus of her work has been building a network for civic engagement in the state through collaborative partnerships with educational, civic, faith-based, and governmental organizations.
Through the Center and its many partners, she works with West Virginia communities to develop the capacity to frame public issues, to facilitate community discussion and to develop processes connecting dialogue and public action. Betty is currently coordinating What’s Next, WV? – a statewide initiative designed to bring West Virginians together in communities throughout the state to talk and plan together for stronger local economies.

**John R. Unger II** (D - Berkeley, 16), is the Minority Whip of the West Virginia Senate. Pastor Born January 24, 1969, in Martinsburg, West Virginia Education B. A., West Virginia University, Phi Beta Kappa’s Albert Lee Strum Scholar; Harry S. Truman Foundation Scholar; University of Hong Kong; International Development Center (Oxford); B.A., M.A., University of Oxford, Rhodes Scholar; M. Div., Wesley Theological Seminar (Washington, D. C.) and the Lutheran Theological Seminar at Gettysburg Affiliations Chair, Council of State Government (CSG) Children and Youth Task Force; Chair, Southern Legislative Council (SLC) Education Committee; Member, Executive Committee, National Conference of State Legislatures; United Way of the Eastern Panhandle; American Red Cross; Boards of Directors: Habitat for Humanity; Family Resource Network for the Eastern Panhandle; EVAK K9 Search and Rescue Team; Founder, West Virginia Campus Compact; WVU Office of Service Learning; Graduate, Leadership Berkeley; Chamber of Commerce; Martinsburg Rotary; West Virginia Farm Bureau; Recipient, American Institute of Public Service’s Jefferson Award, 1993; United States Presidential Award for National Service, 1991; USA Today’s ALL-USA College First Academic Team, 1992; Time Magazine College Achievement Award, 1990 Legislative Service Elected to the Senate 1998-2014 Legislative Positions Held Majority Leader, 80th and 81st Legislatures; Chair, Select Committee on Children and Poverty; Chair, Committee on Children and Families; Chair, Select Committee on Redistricting, 2011; Chair, Joint Legislative Commission on State Water Resources; Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 78th and 79th Legislatures; Vice Chair, Committee on Economic Development, 79th Legislature; Vice Chair, Commission on Interstate Cooperation, 78th Legislature Other Public Service Chaplain, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department and Past Chaplain, Hospice of the Panhandle; Founder, Past President, WV International Trade Development Council; Deputy Director, Berkeley County Emergency Services; Board Member, Berkeley County Development Authority; Local Emergency Planning Committee; Chairman, Children’s Summit for the Eastern Panhandle’s Future; WV State Democratic Executive Committee; Policy Advisor, Hong Kong Legislative Council; Special Assistant to the Director, United States Refugee Program (Hong Kong); Member, United Nations Operation Provide Comfort, 1991, Northern Iraq; Coordinated relief efforts during monsoons and riots in Calcutta with Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity, 1990; Iraq Humanitarian Relief Mission, Save the Children, 2003 Religion Pastor of Lutheran United Methodist and Episcopal Churches