

CNL Board Essentials Trainer Biographies

Julie Hardin, Executive Director, InConcert Sierra

Julie Hardin serves as the Executive Director of InConcert Sierra (ICS), a dynamic Nevada County nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting classical music. ICS presents renowned and emerging classical musicians to the community and produces concerts featuring its all-volunteer, high-level community choir, the Sierra Master Chorale, as well as the professional regional InConcert Sierra Orchestra. Since joining ICS in 1997, Julie has navigated the organization through significant changes and economic challenges, including the pandemic. Under her leadership and guidance, ICS boasts a world-class concert season that includes an exciting new collaboration with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, extensive and dynamic educational programs for all ages, a strong financial reserve, and a stellar reputation for excellence. Julie is currently spearheading a multi-million dollar capital campaign to build an elegant acoustic concert hall and event complex, ensuring sustainability for ICS and other local arts organizations and local nonprofits.

Previous to InConcert Sierra, Julie owned and operated Bouzy Rouge, a popular Nevada City restaurant known for its singing servers. It was there she met her husband, Ken Hardin, ICS's Artistic Director, solidifying her commitment to the musical arts. Julie moved to Nevada County with a varied background, including formal education and experience in corporate customer service, restaurant and business management, marketing, and public relations. Deeply passionate about her community, she has served on several boards and committees, including the Center for Nonprofit Leadership, KVMR's Classics DeClassified radio show (as a founding member), the Nevada County Arts Council, and the Nevada City School of the Arts Foundation. Currently, Julie serves on the board of trustees for Hospice of the Foothills and sings with the Sierra Master Chorale.

Wendy Willoughby, Managing Director, Center for Nonprofit Leadership

Wendy began working with the Center for Nonprofit Leadership in late 2008 and for over 14 years has had the pleasure and honor to learn from some of the most dedicated and passionate leaders in Nevada County's nonprofit sector.

Prior to CNL, Wendy served as the Development and Education Director at the Foothill Theatre Company in Nevada City. She holds a BA in Theatre and Dance from UC Irvine and while living in Southern CA, helped found the Vanguard Theater in Orange County and was an artistic company member and Development Director for the award-winning Los Angeles Theater troupe, Circle X.

Wendy also works for our Nevada County Fair as their Community Outreach Coordinator, managing several key areas of the annual Fair's activities. Being a 4th generation Nevada County resident, she was delighted to return to her home town to raise her family near dear relatives and friends. She lives with her husband, Matthew, daughters, Olivia and Simone, their 2 fluffy black cats and 2 of the sweetest black Labs in the world, Wheeler and Raina. She spends much of her free time attending NU High School Girls tennis matches and soccer games.

She has been dedicated to the support of her children's educational entities and served as the Board President of Tall Pines Nursery School for 4 years and then continued on the board of the Grass Valley Charter School Foundation, eventually serving as their Board President for 8 years. In addition to her efforts on behalf of the board, she is very proud to have been the creator and co-producer of the GVCS festival, the Blue Marble Jubilee. Wendy's newest adventure in service began in 2022 when she was elected to the Nevada Joint Union High School District's Board as one of the newest Trustees.