

Speaker Bios



Paul Amato, Ph.D., is the Arnold and Bette Hoffman Professor of Family Sociology and Demography at Pennsylvania State University. He has published more than 100 journal articles and five books, including *Alone Together: How Marriage in America is Changing* (Harvard University Press, 2007). Dr. Amato received the Reuben Hill Award from the National Council on Family Relations in 1993, 1999, 2001, and 2008 for the best research article on the family; the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award from the American Association of Family and Conciliation Courts in 2002; the Distinguished Career Award from the Family Section of the American Sociological Association in 2006; and the *Ernest Burgess* lifetime achievement award from the National Council on Family Relations in 2008.



Mary Myrick, A.P.R., is the Program Director for the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NHMRC) and Founder and President of Public Strategies, Inc. (PSI), an Oklahoma-based project management and social marketing firm (with offices in the Washington, D.C., area, Colorado, and Texas). She and her team of over 100 employees provide a variety of services, including strategic planning, project management, advocacy, program development, technical assistance, event planning, and public relations. Under Ms. Myrick's leadership, PSI has worked closely with senior policy officials to develop the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, the first statewide, comprehensive effort to deliver information and education services designed to strengthen relationships and marriage, with a focus on low-income families.



Ellen Holman, MSc., Communications and Outreach Manager for the **TwoOfUs.org** national media campaign. Ms. Holman also co-manages the strategic communications and outreach component of the NHMRC. She has coordinated state and national media relations, the development and distribution of academic publications, and national conferences and media events. She is an accomplished writer and analytical thinker, and has worked with local, state, and federal government agencies to manage public relations for federally funded research grants and service delivery programs, as well as Web site marketing and content development.

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Speaker Bios (*cont.*)



Patrick Patterson, M.S.W., M.P.H., serves as NHMRC's Program Manager at PSI. Prior to joining PSI, Mr. Patterson worked for the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in Philadelphia, with responsibility for Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood, and Community and Faith-based grantees and initiatives in six states (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV). Before entering federal service, Mr. Patterson was Program Manager for the Sisters of Charity Foundation of the South Carolina Statewide Fatherhood Initiative. Mr. Patterson has provided training statewide, nationally, and internationally on father absence and its impact on families.



Peter Picard, Vice President, TRU, led the ground-breaking research with young adults that informed the development of NHMRC's Two of Us campaign. In addition to specializing in branding and communications issues at TRU, Mr. Picard has spearheaded several social marketing investigations among teens and young adults, on critical topics such as teen smoking, underage drinking, illicit drug use, safe driving, teen and young adult pregnancy, sex and technology, and teen dating abuse. Notably, Mr. Picard has identified critical communication needs that exist on all these issues, and has helped design real-world strategies to address those needs.



Kris Tremaine, M.S., M.B.A., senior vice president, ICF International, provides strategic oversight to NHMRC and its **TwoOfUs.org** public education campaign. Ms. Tremaine has more than 18 years of experience providing communications solutions to government, nonprofit, and private sector clients. She is an expert in social marketing and developing cost-effective communications plans that include media and public relations, advertising and branding, partnership development, community outreach, creative materials development, high-profile events, and multicultural communications—all of which are centered on changing behavior and informing various target audiences.