

**Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Nongovernmental Witnesses**

House rules require nongovernmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. **Name:** Tarryl Clark

2. **Organization you represent:** Stearns County, Minnesota / National Association of Counties (NACo)

3. **Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:** Commissioner Tarryl Clark is an accomplished local official with over 15 years of public service across the state of Minnesota. Commissioner Clark served in the MN Senate Leadership from 2006-2011, and currently serves on the Board of Commissioners for Stearns County, Minnesota. Commissioner Clark also serves in several leadership roles within NACo's Policy Steering Committees, including serving as Chair of the Telecommunications & Technology Policy Steering Committee and serving as Vice Chair of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Policy Steering Committee. Commissioner Clark also serves as a Board Member of NACo's Broadband Task Force, a group organized to address the issue of the digital divide and the role of county governments in closing the digital gap. Commissioner Clark also serves as a member of the FCC's PrecisionAg Connectivity Task Force's Mapping and Analyzing Connectivity on Agricultural Lands Working Group

4. **Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:** Commissioner Clark served as the Digital Divide/Digital Equity Workgroup Leader on NACo's Broadband Task Force, which convened county officials from across the country to discuss and define the county role in broadband deployment and accessibility

5. **If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:** I serve as the First District Commissioner for Stearns County, Minnesota. I also stand before the committee on behalf of NACo as Chair of the Telecommunications & Technology Policy Steering Committee as well as Vice Chair of the Rural Action Caucus

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.

Tarryl L Clark, Esq.
County: 705 Courthouse Square St. Cloud, MN 56303 email: tarryl.clark@co.stearns.mn.us

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Stearns County Board of Commissioners, District 1

2019-Present

2021 Chair of five person governing board governing the county's operation, administration, budget and finances including approval of budgets, tax levy and resource development. Develop and approve pertinent county ordinances, policies and partnerships. Participate in planning initiatives and partnerships. Liaise with constituents and community groups including communicating, convening and educating. Elected November 2018.

Board/Task Forces Including:

State: Association of Minnesota Counties Delegate and Board Member, Human Services Policy Committee Chair; Housing and Economic Development Workgroup, Transportation Funding Workgroup; State Competency Restoration Task Force Member; Minnesota Inter County Association Board and Treasurer; State Community Health Services Advisory Committee, Chair Elect; Transportation Alliance.

National Association of Counties: Telecommunication and Technology Steering Committee Chair and Rural Action Caucus Vice-Chair; Member of Healthy Counties, Resilient Counties, Arts and Culture Commission; Broadband Task Force Member and Closing the Digital Divide Work Group Lead. Past Subcommittee Chair of Human Services and Education Steering Committee and Member of Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee.

Regional/County: Central Minnesota Council on Aging Board Member, Coalition Advancing Healthy Families Joint Powers Board, Vice-Chair, Community Corrections Advisory Board, Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, Dairy Advisory Committee, Delinquent Refuse Account Appeals Panel, Environmental Services Fee Appeals Panel, Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation Board Alt., Human Services Advisory Committee, Human Services Board, Noxious Weeds Appeal Committee, Regional Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers Board Alt., Regional Rail Authority, Resource, Training and Solutions Board, St Cloud Airport Advisory Committee, St Cloud/Benton/Sherburne/Stearns Joint Airport Zoning Board, SHIP Community Leadership Team, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Commission Board, Past Chair.

Consultant

1994-Present

Connect people, ideas, strategies, and solutions that strengthen organizations and communities by removing barriers and creating opportunities through leading or facilitating high impact collaborative initiatives which bring about policy and system change.

Local, state, regional and national work with public institutions, nonprofit organizations, coalitions, and community based groups. Range of services including system redesign, strategic direction, planning and trouble-shooting; board and fund development; advocacy, organizing and public policy development; messaging and communications; training; community engagement; coalition building; assessment and outcome measurement; project development and management. Trained in and utilize Future Search, Transformational Leadership, other strategic models.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Inver Hills Community College

2016-2017

Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs

- Responsible for oversight of all academic areas and large multi-million budget

- Successfully lead reaffirmation of national accreditation
- Brought in to serve on interim basis following college's multiple semesters of declining enrollment and budget challenges; reduced budget while setting stage for future budget stability and leveraging opportunities for increasing enrollment and success of underrepresented students.

**St. Cloud Technical and Community College
Academic Dean**

2013-2016

- Provided collaborative division leadership working with up to 100 faculty and staff to enhance academic program quality, faculty development, teaching, and student success. Directed instructional management functions and operations in technology based programs including computer programming, network administration, health information technology, advertising, web design and development, legal support, and administrative support along with natural sciences, social sciences and mathematic disciplines. Increased enrollment in general education, developmental math redesign and expanded college level offerings,
- Administered \$4.5 million salary and non-salary budgets; schedule and faculty assignments; classroom, laboratory and facility scheduling; programs – accreditation, articulation agreements, partnership agreements, program advisory boards; community relationships; program and discipline action plans; training; utilizing StrengthsFinder and appreciative inquiry; implementation of collective bargaining agreements, policies and procedures; aligning with academic affairs, colleges and system's strategic directions and goals.
- Promoted, facilitated and supported innovative and collaborative cross program, division and community efforts including development of STEM initiatives; high impact action and success plans to increase student success in sciences; innovative expansion of opportunities for underrepresented students including the Orion Academy targeting diverse high school students who struggle with science and math; shortening pathways to completion for students. Recruitment and retention plan development to increase women in STEM related programs including participation in Women in STEM Tech boot camp (2016).
- Developed and cultivated internal and community relationships and collaborations including with other MnSCU institutions, K-12 and community partnerships, and industry. STEM related partnerships with St. Cloud State University. removing barriers to and increasing opportunities to transfer to MnSCU universities. Interacted with elected and appointed officials, media and external constituents.
- Enhanced educational opportunities community resources for service members, veterans and their families through embedding internal changes and developing innovative campus based community HomeFront Resource Center for service members, veterans and their family members leading collaboration of community stakeholders.
- Fund development and friend raising for HomeFront Resource Center. Partnership with SCSU on STEM related grant opportunities. Support legislative fund and capital investment requests. Support external funding including scholarships, grants, and small donor development.
- Active leadership and involvement in variety of campus and MnSCU teams and initiatives including MnSCU capital investment scoring, HLC Quality Check Up Steering Committee, Executive Leadership, Shared Governance, AASC, Charting the Future planning team and campus committee, Diversity Committee, Team for Academic and Student Success, Cyclones Care intervention team, and Enrollment management.
- With faculty, presented on Orion Academy Project at Higher Learning Commission (2016 and League for Innovation in the Community College (2016); with faculty will present two sessions at STEMTech 2016; MnSCU Executive Leadership Development Program 2015-2016.

Recruited from faculty to apply for Dean position, served as interim Dean in a realigned division. Prior to beginning position, consultant on enhancement of Veterans, Service Members and their Families

Initiatives including survey development, project development, external collaboration development, credit for prior learning in-service.

Part-time Faculty, Political Science

Taught policy issues, government and political process to traditional and under represented students; active learning approach utilizing multiple instructional methods, assessment, materials and technology; connecting historical and contemporary issues; utilizing local experts to reinforce student learning (2013).

Blue Green Alliance, National Co-Chair JOBS21!

2011-2014

- Lead national initiative bringing together often divergent groups of labor, environment, and industry to create local jobs, leverage public investment in economic and workforce development, and gain bipartisan support at the local, state, and national levels for targeted industries including: transportation, manufacturing, renewable energy, energy efficiency, recycling, green chemistry, broadband internet, and smart grid technologies.
- Facilitated successful energy industrial efficiency stakeholder process of heavy industrial energy users and others including mining, pulp and paper, MN Department of Commerce, St. Paul Port Authority, US Steelworkers, Sheet metal workers, and other BlueGreen Alliance labor and environmental partners. Culminated in recommendations including energy efficiency bonds enacted in 2014. Key leader of coalition securing enactment of Minnesota solar standard and other clean energy initiatives in 2013.
- Communicated and conducted events with federal, state, and local officials; significant communication with media through multiple platforms.
- Coalition building, strategic assessment and direction, policy development and advocacy, public and media communication, round table development and facilitation, presented at workshops and provided training.
- Fundraising including small donor program development, individual donor and grant related. Clean Energy and Jobs Coalition Steering Committee; Energy and Jobs Association; Member, United Steel Workers.

Congressional Candidate

MN 8th District

2012

MN 6th District

2010

- Lead multiple teams, significant fundraising, organizing, volunteer recruitment, new ways to engage voters, and polling. Built significant coalition of stakeholder groups, public and private leaders, Senate districts, and volunteers including individuals across a broad political spectrum.
- Cutting edge use of online tools; public speaking and media communication to print, radio and TV; creative use of social media. Keynote and presenter at Netroots Nation.
- Strong 2010 campaign in the 6th including raising nearly \$5 million from over 45,000 individuals holding incumbent to one of the slimmest margins of victory for an incumbent majority member even as she emerged as a leader in the Tea Party surge – most expensive race to date at that time. Largest grassroots campaign ever seen in 6th district. First female Congressional candidate in the 8th district in 2012. Advanced leadership opportunities for women. Raised over \$1 million in competitive primary campaign.

Minnesota Senate, Asst./Deputy Majority Leader & State Senator

2005-2011

Elected by peers to the number two leadership position in State Senate eleven months after late December 2005 special election and re-election in November 2006. Overall budget, policy and political strategy; coalition building with allied groups; recruitment and work with new Senators.

- Public spokesperson for majority caucus communicating regularly with print, radio, television and online press. Held weekly media availabilities.
- Coordinated agency bills; strategic coalition development - significant work with stakeholder groups, staff and caucus development; fund raising.
- Vice Chair Rules Committee, Member E-12 policy and finance committees and co-chair education conference committee (2007); Higher Education policy and finance committees; Jobs, Energy and Community Development policy committee.
- Leadership and advocacy for excellent education including removing credit transfer barriers, realigning workforce development programs, technology use, capital investment, funding, and breaking down financial barriers to education. Co-Chair Education Conference Committee 2007.
- Governor's Workforce Development Council; Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council. Co-Chair State Warrior to Citizen.
- Council of State Governments: Executive Committee, Vice-Chair Financial Services Committee. Rising States Leaders Program (joint program with Canadian Government), Toll Leadership Fellow, member bipartisan delegation to Taiwan, BILLD Leadership Fellow and Steering committee.
- National Conference of State Legislatures: State Leaders Institute, Federal Liaison, Education Standing Committee Member, participant in several education related institutes including higher education. Presenter at national and regional conferences.
- Prior to election, Associate Chair State DFL party, DNC member, Association of Democratic Party Chairs. Emphasis on expanding base particularly young, rural, moderate, underrepresented groups not involved in party; communication; organizing; recruiting; executive and central committee; fundraising and budget. National Democratic Convention Delegate 2004, Platform Committee, Delegation Member 2008.
- **Minnesota Community Action Partnership, Executive Director 1998-2006**
- Provided leadership and oversight for statewide community based partnership including plans, activities, budgets, resource development, and operations for 501(c) 3, 501(c) 4 and PAC.
- Developed public policy, provided successful legislative representation and grassroots actions on broad range of issues impacting families, organizations and communities. Lead collaborative initiatives to create and implement high impact strategies to eliminate poverty and to strengthen communities.
- Spearheaded transformational leadership and member organization capacity development; collaboration and coalition development; training; outcome measurement development; facilitation; marketing; public and media communication; community capacity building; fundraising including federal, state and foundation grants; board and fiscal management.
- Co-lead, with the state, multiple groups within and between organizations and others to determine, develop and implement statewide web based data management system including managing multiple databases, security, data privacy, and outcome measurement.
- Lead transformational leadership training, plan development and implementation of local and statewide plans leading to increased organizational capacity and effectiveness in meeting identified goals.
- Lead implementation of innovative grassroots organizing mechanisms and efforts. Employed strategies successfully in collaborative advocacy efforts across a broad spectrum of challenges and opportunities impacting low-income individuals and families, service organizations, and communities.

- Leadership role in bringing together local, state, and regional organizations throughout the country, network groups, and coalition partners to develop and implement high impact strategies to eliminate poverty and to strengthen families and communities. Presented and trained in local, regional, and national conferences, trainings, and functions.
- Active involvement in Region V Regional Coordinating Council; State Community Action Association Executive Director's group; Mid-America Community Action Association, Treasurer.

Northwest Area Foundation Devolution Project, Regional Coordinator 1997-2000

Coordinated and provided technical assistance to devolution projects created after federal welfare reform in each of eight Midwestern and western states in the areas of public policy/advocacy, data/monitoring, and community capacity building. Oversaw additional grant funds, mapping and technology project, and media project. Planned and implemented grantee meetings; public speaking; trainings; trouble shooting; Future Search training and facilitation; resource connection.

Community Response Task Force, Director 1997-1999

Directed and facilitated efforts central Minnesota initiative comprising eight work groups with over 100 entities and individuals focused on system change and community supports following federal welfare reform. Provided leadership, oversight and technical assistance to each work group and coordinating council as well as to projects funded by task force. Collaboration building; policy development; advocacy; resource development; training; public speaking; community engagement; coordinating council and fiscal management.

Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, Public Policy Director 1995-1997

Public policy development and advocacy on broad spectrum of children and family related issues. Coordinated joint state devolution project with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Participated in and facilitated group efforts; coalition development; research; training; public speaking.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Legislative and Civil Law Attorney 1992-1995

Provided legislative representation for statewide legal services coalition and on behalf of low-income individuals. Practiced law in the areas of public benefits, seniors and family law including domestic violence. Training, public speaking, coalition development, and other community engagement.
Affirmative Action Director St. Cloud Area Legal Services.

Girl Scouts of Minnesota & Wisconsin, Lakes & Pines Human Relations Director/Affirmative Action Officer 1988-1994

Designed, initiated and monitored comprehensive diversity plan; investigated and mediated related issues; conducted trainings; developed nationally recognized education curriculum and training materials; coordinated events; advocacy; community education; and coalition work.

Program Director, Teen Outreach Volunteer Program. Designed and initiated peer education program aimed at preventing detrimental risk-taking behaviors in girls including development of educational curriculum and training materials. Recruited and trained volunteers; fundraising; community education; and coalition work (1988-1989).

Office of the Minnesota Attorney General, Law Clerk 1991-1992

Assisted state in federal and state civil litigation defense in Corrections Division. Drafted appellate briefs and summary judgment memoranda; responded to interrogatories.

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Law Clerk 1990-1991

Researched and analyzed issues related to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

St. Cloud Area Legal Services, Minnesota Justice Foundation Law Clerk 1989-1990

Research and direct client representation; extensive research on housing issues and rights leading to long paper on Establishing a Right to Housing in Minnesota. Volunteer law clerk 1989-1990 academic year. Minnesota Justice Foundation law clerk summer 1990.

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, Director 1988-1989

A founder and the initial director for community-based affordable housing and community building organization; developed partnerships with faith community, non-profits, businesses, and families. Oversaw all efforts including fundraising and management of over 400 volunteers and multiple committees; public relations; board and fiscal management.

YWCA of Maricopa County, Success Express Program Coordinator 1987-1988

Developed and coordinated federal pregnancy prevention demonstration project. Wrote and implemented curriculum; advocated on child, youth and family issues; recruitment, trainings/public speaking, and supervised staff; fundraised and managed project budget; developed training manuals, policies and procedures; public relations; coalition development; coordinated conferences and events.

**Center for Youth Resources dba Tumbleweed
Young Adult Program Coordinator, Individual and Family Counselor 1983-1987**

Designed and coordinated independent living program for homeless older adolescents. Provided individual, family and group counseling services for at risk teenagers and their families; advocacy; coalition development; developed training materials, policies and procedures; conducted trainings; trained and supervised staff; wrote and managed grants; public relations; public speaking. Promoted from Youth Care Worker/Case Worker (1983-1984).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (additional including): St. Cloud Rotary Board Member, Board & DEI Director; Neighbors For School Excellence Co-Chair, ISD742 Finance Study Group, Levy Leader, Career and Business Partnership; Minnesota Legislative Society Board Member; Wellstone Award Recipient, Athena Award Recipient 2018; St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, Governmental Affairs Committee; St. Cloud Area League of Women Voters; AAUW. HomeFront Resource Center, Past-Chair; Cloud Area Housing & Redevelopment Authority Commissioner, Treasurer; St. Cloud Economic Development Partnership; Ready 4 K policy, organizing and governance committees; Department of Commerce Advisory Groups on Energy Assistance and Weatherization; Various Department of Human Services Advisory and Ad hoc committees; Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Public Policy Cabinet; Greater Minnesota Housing Fund Board; Great River Roundtable; Early Care and Education Finance Commission; Minnesota Council of Churches' Commission on Life and Work; Great River Interfaith Partnership Organizing Committee; Big Leap for Early Learning; high school youth minister; current and past involvement with many other task forces and coalitions around family, children, senior and veterans issues.

EDUCATION:

William Mitchell College of Law, J.D. Cum Laude 1992
John F. Kennedy Public Service Scholarship

Arizona State University, M.Ed. Counselor Education 1986

Drake University, B.A. Sociology, Psychology 1983
President's Scholarship; Semester Abroad in London, England

Licensed to practice law in Minnesota. Continuing education including: legal, leadership, higher education