

Executive Biography for Kent Walters

Kent Walters is the Senior Vice President at Goodwill Greater Milwaukee & Chicago, bringing nearly 30 years of expertise in crafting and executing innovative strategies and lean solutions. As a seasoned leader, Kent has consistently focused on efficiency and impact, delivering mission-critical results while spearheading expansive operations. His work is dedicated to providing employment, training, and advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Throughout his 24-year career at Goodwill, Kent has been a staunch advocate for the AbilityOne program. He has provided executive leadership and oversight for seven federal contracts, including one of the largest single contracts at Naval Station Great Lakes, where approximately 500 individuals with disabilities have quality jobs. Kent oversees a workforce of over 1,100 employees, playing a pivotal role in the division's success particularly in serving recruits and sailors through a large AbilityOne food service contract at Naval Station Great Lakes.

From 2018 to early 2023, Kent led transformative initiatives within Goodwill's laundry operations, affecting positive changes in culture, mission alignment, and quality jobs for individuals with and without disabilities in Milwaukee through five AbilityOne contracts as well as several large commercial contracts.

He is also actively involved with the National Council of SourceAmerica Employers (NCSE), attending quarterly meetings, participating in the Public Policy Committee, and serving on the Subcommittee on Competition. Over the years, Kent has presented at the annual training conference as a subject matter expert on topics such as the impact of Kaizen events on assisting individuals with disabilities and the operation of contracts without the use of 14c. Kent is passionate about fostering and strengthening collaborative relationships with major stakeholders, government agencies, and community organizations. He aims to continue this passion within a leadership role at NCSE, working with Nonprofit Agencies in the region and throughout the country. Currently, Kent is serving as the North Central Regional Representative for the NCSE Executive Committee.

Kent holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and an MBA in Finance, both from Western Michigan University. His educational background and wealth of experience make him a dynamic leader driving meaningful change for Goodwill and the communities it serves. Additionally, Kent serves on the board of Independence First of Milwaukee, currently as Treasurer, supporting individuals with disabilities in achieving their independent living goals.

Priority Statement:

As the representative for the North Central region, my focus will be on advancing employment opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities by collaborating with SourceAmerica and NPAs in the region on each of the current critical areas of focus. I am committed to identifying and implementing innovative solutions that enhance program outcomes, ensuring a strong and sustainable impact.

I will provide strategic guidance to the NCSE Executive Committee and SourceAmerica by offering firsthand insights into the effects of policy changes and advocating for practical and

effective adjustments. I will lead efforts to strengthen and defend the AbilityOne Program through committee work, partnerships, and stakeholder collaboration. My focus will be on continuous improvement, innovative employment and contract practices, and achieving mission success for both the government and NPAs, ensuring the program's long-term sustainability.