

Name: Dr. C. Kenneth Meyer

Current City: Urbandale, Iowa

Hometown:



Occupation/Career:

Dr. C. Kenneth Meyer is Thomas F. Sheehan Distinguished Professor of Public Administration, Department of Public Administration, Drake University. He has held teaching, research and administrative positions at a number of major universities prior to his tenure at Drake University. His research covers many areas of the disciplines of public administration, political science, criminology, and police science. Overall, he continues to be publishing scholar and has over 250 publications in print. His latest books are Public Personnel Management; The Sources of Violence in America; Organizational Change: Technology, Workforce, Workplace; Conducting the People's Business; Managing America's Organizations; and Managing Public Sector Organizations.

Education:

Professor Meyer is from Minnesota and holds the B.A., M.A., M.P.A. and Ph.D. degrees. He has taught management courses in Germany, Spain, Japan, Korea, Panama, Okinawa, and Guam and conducted seminars throughout the United States (Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Virginia, Washington, D.C., South Dakota, Minnesota, and New York, Nevada, and Idaho).

Professional/Personal Goals in Participating in DrakeSmart 2011:

Professor Meyer has led eleven other classes on exploratory missions in Europe and is enthusiastic about the content of this course that was selected and developed by the class participants. He believes that we can better understand and develop the context of the environments in which we live, play and work in, especially if we know how to create economic and ecological sustainability. He is concerned about the interface between rural and urban ecosystems and how we might use new and proven methods of governance, financial and economic development, etc., in our effort to develop a more hospitable environment for our children. He believes that the concept of civic enhancement will help in the development of an overall philosophy that makes us better suited to simultaneously protect while utilizing the resources over which we have stewardship obligations and responsibilities. Last, he is anxiously waiting to join the class participants in a stimulating learning trip in Europe and knows that everyone will return to campus with a greater appreciation and understanding of the culture, history and people of Europe. He is also an optimist for he is soliciting ideas for the SMaRT: Boundary Testing course that will be offered during the spring, 2012! Any suggestions? Green Urbanism has been suggested as a theme with programs in Dublin, Edinburgh, London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, and Madrid.

By structuring the course to invite a comparative analysis between how some of the most innovative and creative programs in America operate with those that are taunted as important ones in St. Petersburg, Berlin, Krakow, Prague, Munich, Florence, and Rome, we as learners should begin to understand if our own jingoistic and ethnocentric notions dissipate. Once we understand the different values held by people, we can better understand what works and what doesn't, and perhaps begin to answer the "why" questions of management and policy analysis.

In the final analysis, international education coupled with a study-abroad experience, should lead to the development of civic enhancement and increased inter-cultural awareness, which in turn will facilitate our ability to interact and lead in a world community. Also, the study-abroad model by providing access to different cultures and ways of doing things will indirectly diversify our own views on what is largely a homogeneous campus.

This year, the class began with a regional conference on "***Food Policy, Social Justice, Hunger and Sustainability—A Cross-National Perspective,***" and highlighted the complex inter-relations between the methods of food production, energy consumption, environmental sustainability, healthy eating and the competing philosophies on how best to enhance and protect today's global food systems.

Panel sessions featured presenters who are directly involved in food policy issues at the "grassroots" level and at the regional and national levels in production, research, teaching, and advocacy. The conference represents a balanced approach to the pros and cons associated with topics as varied as how food systems effect our health and environment, Iowa's role in feeding the world—from the farmer's perspective--to food security and justice issues and the competing technological, scientific and global economic and political issues which affect food and agricultural policy.

Food security and justice issues are receiving heightened consideration as food scarcity continues to plague many areas of the planet and how food policy has become a contentious issue from an ideological and scientific perspective. It is important to note, that in the "cradle" of food production prowess, nearly 15 percent of Iowans are faced with food insecurity, and about 800 million people worldwide are hungry and chronically undernourished. Thus the question remains: Is access to food a right or privilege? And what role should we as consumers have on how food is produced, packaged, and marketed in our economies and communities.

Personal:

He is married to Marjorie Ann Meyer, the father of three children Heidi, Elizabeth, and Maria (deceased), and has four grand children—Lauren, Sydney, and Isabella Heisler and Abigail Axell.