

Business World Alumni: 1982 - 2010

Where are they now?



Christine Smith

Principal
Baker Tilly

Business World Class of 1982



Accountants and Advisors

My Memories of Wisconsin Business World*

Even after all of these years, I remember the positive impression left by my advisor (one of the few women managers at that time in a regional electric company) and the strong bond I made with other high school students. My experience was one of the factors that led to my pursuit of a degree in business administration.

Where is Christine Now?

Principal of the State and Local Government Consulting group, Christine has served clients of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause since 1998. With over 20 years working with or in the public sector, she has extensive expertise in public sector management, and advises a variety of clients (municipalities, school districts, utilities, state agencies, institutions of higher education) nationwide on innovative approaches to optimizing resources and creating alternative revenue sources. She is excited about the many opportunities she has to help clients weather the current economic downturn by innovatively using their resources and facilitating non-traditional strategic alliances. A specialist in strategic planning, revenue alternatives, resource optimization, budget reduction and process improvement, her experience spans projects from large municipal procure to pay process reengineering projects to consolidated operations strategic planning initiatives. She has examined the full range of governmental functions from wastewater treatment to library services.

She recently led a study on behalf of the Wisconsin Local Government Institute exploring key factors related to transforming government. The study focuses on the need for proactive government transformation, and studies the variables prevalent in collaborative government initiatives. Specifically, it examines what needs to be in place for units of government to optimize resources through consolidated or shared services arrangements. The work is aligned with her practice's service offerings relative to community driven development and considers the alignment between government and regional economies.

Prior to Baker Tilly, she spent ten years serving as a legislative liaison, budget/program and policy analyst, and human resource specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. She speaks regularly to regional government leaders and is published in government association publications.

About Wisconsin Business World*

Business World® is a four-day program that brings high school students and business volunteers together on a college campus to learn about the challenges facing our economy. It is an opportunity that will enable students to prepare for their future in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

Student participants are divided into teams who function as an "imaginary" company for the program. With the task of turning your company into a financial success, you will create a unique product, develop marketing strategies and design a commercial. In essence, you will make all of the decisions that are demanded of real life company executives.

In addition, students interact with guest speakers, tour local companies and compete in an online business simulation.

Wisconsin Business World*

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