

## SENIOR FELLOWS AND FRIENDS

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### Recap of July 29th Wine & Cheese with Academic-Practitioner Dialogue

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

Our agenda evolved further at the last minute due to the absence of Sean McCandless, who had a family emergency (we missed you!) and the availability of our esteemed wine specialist, John Sporing. Here's how the evening went down.

We were delighted that Professor Emerita Larkin Dudley, Virginia Tech, was able to join us from Blacksburg, since both Amanda Olejarski and Kathy Webb-Farley had been her students. John Sporing handled introductions this time, interspersing them with interesting remarks about each of the pairings that went out in the invitation:

- Sauvignon Blanc and Goat Cheese
- Provence Rosé and Havarti Cheese
- Chianti Classico and Pecorino

Some of us were drinking wine and others weren't, and of course that didn't matter at all. The funniest thing that was said about this actually happened the day before, in an email from Dr. Olejarski that read, "I will be pairing my American yellow cheese singles (toddler said I could have ONE slice) with my \$4.99 bubbly Chard."

Based on who was in attendance, Dr. Webb-Farley focused her remarks on public engagement at the federal level. She walked us through the Kettering Foundation model depicted below (please go to that page to read more), and then shared observations from a five-agency project in which she participated during her stint as a

Presidential Management Fellow. Our free-ranging discussion gleaned the following food for thought:

- Some agencies were more removed from the public than others
- How the agencies defined stakeholders differed
- Stakeholders may have to be prioritized. How will that be done?
- The use of plain language (“What’s it going to mean?”) can sometimes disarm squeaky wheels before they take over the conversation
- Stakeholders may sometimes include perpetrators (this came up in connection with human trafficking)
- What the community *needs* is important – a solution that works here may not be appropriate there
- The nonprofit world’s double bottom line (paying equal attention to economic efficiency and social responsibility) is a useful lens

The intersection of academic, government, nonprofit, and corporate backgrounds, coupled with the open-mindedness and willingness to speak up that typifies SFF participants, made for an engaging conversation that could have gone longer.

### Participant affiliations

Appalachian State University  
ASPANational Capital Area Chapter  
Basic Concepts Ltd.  
Bureau of Economic Analysis, retired  
U.S. Army  
Virginia Tech  
Walmart  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Participants joined from Colorado Springs, CO, Columbus, OH, West Chester, PA, Boone, NC, Blacksburg, VA, and the DC Metro Area. Please consider joining us in the future.

Sincerely,  
Kitty Wooley



Read more about the model at <https://www.kettering.org/core-insights/democratic-practices>