



AFP NEWS

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Abbie von Schlegell, CFRE Named AFP Distinguished Fellow for Contributions to Fundraising, Philanthropy

(Pittsfield, MA) Abbie von Schlegell, CFRE, a. von schlegell & co, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, has been named a 2018 Distinguished Fellow by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), the largest community of charitable fundraisers in the world.

The Distinguished Fellows Program recognizes individuals who have made significant leadership contributions to philanthropy and the fundraising profession, and who will continue to advance ethical and effective fundraising through their volunteer and advisory work. The designation represents the pinnacle of service to the profession and to the tenets of giving, volunteerism and philanthropy

With more than 40 years of experience in the development field, von Schlegell, CFRE has served as a consultant with several national firms for half of her career, and then and as a senior development officer with four institutions. She has held key development positions at Stanford University, The University of Chicago, The Shakespeare Theater in Washington, D.C., and Enterprise Community Partners in Columbia, MD. In 2007, she returned to consulting and established her own firm in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts. She is also currently a Certified Governance Trainer with BoardSource, in addition to her own work with clients. She very much enjoys her board service on nonprofit boards, currently Tapestry Health in Massachusetts and the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires. She often provides pro bono consulting to others with “Buy me a latte and let’s get together!” sessions.

A champion of women in philanthropy, von Schlegell was the editor of the first book on the subject, the best-selling handbook *Women as Donors, Women as Philanthropists*, published by

Jossey Bass in 1993. She has spoken widely about the issue, written many articles and continued research in the field, serving on numerous panels and committees to explore how women give and engage with philanthropy.

“I am humbled and honored to be selected as a 2018 AFP Distinguished Fellow,” said von Schlegell. “I first became aware of AFP—then NSFRE—more than ten years after I became a development officer -- in 1980 and soon got involved in the Chicago Chapter I earned my CFRE in 1987, so now it has been more than 30 years! Many AFP colleagues have been wonderful mentors and long-time friends. The professional education I have received from the many AFP conferences is outstanding, and I treasure the relationships that have developed.”

AFP represents more than 33,000 individuals and organizations, all working to generate philanthropic support for countless social causes around the world. The 2017 Distinguished Fellows will be honored at AFP’s International Fundraising Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April of next year.

“Our Distinguished Fellows are the epitome of the consummate fundraising professional,” said Mike Geiger, president and CEO of AFP. “Not only are they extraordinary practitioners who have raised incredible sums of money for their organizations, but they have given back so much to the fundraising community. We wanted a program that properly recognized outstanding leaders in the profession, and I can’t think of anymore more worthy of being a Distinguished Fellow than Abbie von Schlegell. All of us at AFP look forward to working with Abbie in the years to come as we strive to promote giving and volunteering in STATE and around the world. They are leaders and mentors, innovators and guides. We look to them for direction and advice, experience and expertise. They represent the best of our profession.”

More information about the Distinguished Fellows program can be obtained by contacting Michael Nilsen at (425) 241 – 4675 or mnilsen@afpnet.org.

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Since 1960, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) has been the standard bearer for professionalism in fundraising. The association works to advance effective and ethical philanthropy by providing advocacy, research, education, mentoring, collaboration and technology opportunities for the world’s largest network of professional fundraisers. AFP’s 33,000 members raise more than \$100 billion annually for a wide variety of charitable organizations and causes across the globe. For more information, go to www.afpnet.org.

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