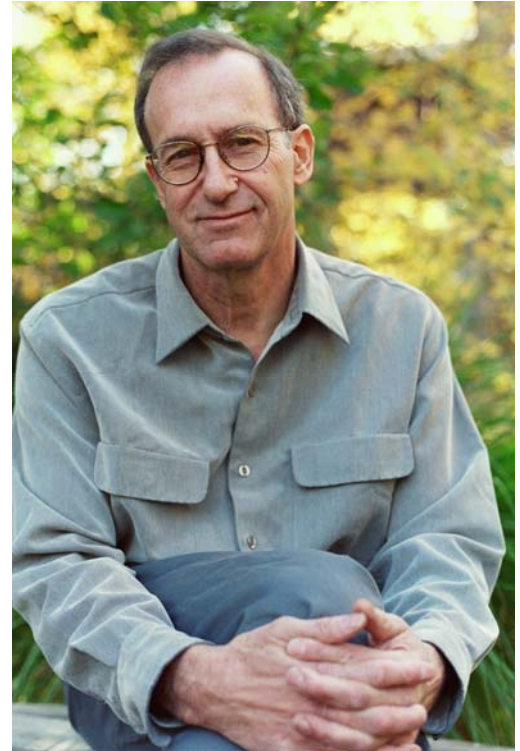


Keynote Speaker – Bernie Mayer

Competition and Cooperation: Seeing the Forest and the Trees

The story of the human experience is defined by how we have handled the essential but contradictory challenges of competition and cooperation. The origin of this challenge exists in the earliest stages of life's evolution and continues to this day. Our future on this planet is dependent on how we learn to handle this challenge. Today's public culture is not encouraging. We do not seem able to compete with respect or cooperate when essential. As conflict specialists, we work on this issue every day of our professional lives. But we often fall into a dualistic trap, believing we have to choose between cooperation and competition. In fact, competition is an essential feature of cooperation and cooperation of competition. I will address how we can understand what we do in terms of life's most fundamental challenge and how in return we can offer the insights and skills of conflict intervention to changing the public culture so that our most serious conflicts are address in a wise and more courageous manner.



Bernie Mayer, Ph.D., Professor, Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, Creighton is an internationally-recognized leader in the field of conflict resolution. Bernie has facilitated many complex and controversial environmental conflicts, commercial and organizational disputes, interpersonal conflicts, public decision-making processes, and has an extensive background in family mediation as well. Bernie is a founding partner of CDR Associates, a pioneering conflict intervention firm, located in Boulder, Colorado. He is also on the faculty of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame University. He has provided consultation, mediation, facilitation and training for many federal, state and local agencies in the US and Canada and has extensive international experience in setting up dispute resolution programs and working on complex issues such as ethnic relations, conflicts between governments, corporations, and non-governmental organizations, and community and family disputes. Bernie is the author of many books and articles including *The Dynamics of Conflict Resolution: A Practitioner's Guide*; *Beyond Neutrality: Confronting the Crisis in Conflict Resolution*, and *Staying With Conflict: A Strategic Approach to Ongoing Disputes*. Both *Beyond Neutrality* and *Staying With Conflict* were named as the outstanding book of the year by the CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution.