

Marilyn Foster Kirk, CFRE

Marilyn Foster Kirk, CFRE, is Vice President with The Alford Group, a national consulting firm with offices in Chicago, Seattle, and New York. Marilyn's experience in the nonprofit sector includes more than 35 years as a fundraising professional in educational, faith-based, and cultural organizations and as a consultant to nonprofit organizations. She has served in senior leadership roles with the University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, the Kansas State Historical Society, and Westmar College.

Her expertise includes executive and board leadership development, fundraising program analysis and planning, strategic planning, major and principal gifts, and fundraising ethics. Marilyn holds the Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, from Kansas Wesleyan University and the Master of Education degree from the University of Oklahoma. In addition, she pursued doctoral studies at the University of Kansas and holds diplomas from the Institute for Educational Management, the Graduate School of Education, at Harvard University and from the Executive Leadership Institute, the Center on Philanthropy, at Indiana University.

She is the recipient of her alma mater's Young Alumni and Alumni Achievement Awards, the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the President's Award from the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She is a past president and board member of AFP Chicago. She is also an active volunteer with professional and community organizations and is a frequent instructor and presenter on nonprofit management and fundraising topics.