

2022 ATHENA Finalist

Dr. Alicia Schatteman



Alicia grew up in small towns in Ontario, Canada. She graduated with a bachelor's degree, the first in her family, from the University of Ottawa and then a master's degree from Trent University. During and after her studies, she worked for several local governments in Ontario.

In 1997, she emigrated from Canada for an internship in Altoona, Pennsylvania, moved to a cultural and heritage commission and then to the New Jersey Historical Society. In 2001, she became the executive director of a local historical society and then completed a master's degree from Syracuse University. After four years, she left her position to begin a doctoral program in public administration at Rutgers University. She graduated in 2009 and then served as a visiting professor at John Jay College in New York City. Her family moved to DeKalb in 2010 to begin a faculty position at Northern Illinois University. Now an Associate Professor, she is also the Director of the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies. Since 2015, she has lived in Sugar Grove with her husband and their six children.

She works to connect with broader nonprofit audiences through presentations, social media, and her podcast All Things Local. She has also consulted with over 50 government and nonprofit organizations.

She has served as a board member for the DeKalb County History Center, St. Mary School Committee, the DeKalb Area Arts Council, and is currently on the Board of the Sugar Grove Library Foundation and the INC Board, a community mental health alliance in Aurora.