

David B. Wheeler Bio

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David B. Wheeler's journey is a testament to a life led with purpose, vision, and unwavering dedication to making a meaningful impact in politics, business, and international relations. Born in 1965 in Norwalk, Iowa, USA, to parents dedicated to political activism, David's formative years were shaped by an early exposure to the dynamics of political campaigns. By the age of 10, he had already played a role in a successful state house campaign and Jimmy Carter's 1976 Presidential campaign, marking the beginning of his lifelong commitment to political involvement and civic engagement.



David's early political journey saw him contributing to over two dozen campaigns across Iowa, including significant roles in Tom Harkin's and Tom Vilsack's campaigns, as well as involvement during Vilsack's tenure as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. His dedication to public service was further demonstrated through his appointments as an Iowa House of Representatives Page, a U.S. Senate intern, and his efforts to reinvigorate the Iowa Young Democrats, leading to his election to the Young Democrats National Committee from 1987-89.

After completing his university education, David embarked on a professional career that began in the legal field, where he worked as a paralegal for two prominent law firms in Des Moines and Chicago. This experience laid the groundwork for what would become a remarkable journey into the world of entrepreneurship and event management.

At the age of 24, David founded Protocol International, Inc., a live event management firm based in Chicago that specialized in orchestrating high-profile events for an impressive roster of corporate, non-profit, and international government clients. Under his leadership, Protocol International became a global force, managing over 2,500 projects across more than 50 countries and all seven continents for *Fortune 500* clients, non profit organizations, and governments around the globe.

David's entrepreneurial spirit did not stop with Protocol International. He continued to push boundaries, managing the first marathon in Antarctica, producing the first Presidential candidate forum live on MSNBC focused on cancer issues, and orchestrating groundbreaking events such as lowering the level of the Mississippi River for a community festival, and producing the first professional sports event in Russia.



As the Senior Vice President of Ambassadors LLC, the largest publicly traded meeting and event management firm, David played a critical role in the company's growth and eventual sale. He then founded Embark LLC, focusing on communication events, government relations forums, and complex marketing events, including then Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign launch in 2007. Embark was merged into Clarion Events Ltd. of London in 2016. David also co-founded Conference IQ LLC, establishing it as the world's largest directory of business events and professional speakers.

In his pursuit of global impact, David helped launch Global Higher Education Group LLC as an investor and Co-Founder, aimed at providing international students with scholarships and educational opportunities through a matchmaking platform. This initiative underscores his commitment to fostering global education and creating high-paying jobs in the USA, UK, and Europe.



David's public service aspirations led him to run for the North Carolina State Senate in 2018 and 2020 and for NC Commissioner of Insurance in 2024. Despite facing challenges in these highly competitive races, his campaigns were marked by integrity, resilience, and a deep commitment to his constituents.



Currently, as the Co-Founder and President of American Muckrakers PAC, Inc., David continues to influence the political landscape, demonstrating his dedication to accountability and ethical governance. His significant appointments, including as a founding member of the Chicago-Galway Sister Cities Committee and the US Trade and Commerce Commitment appointment of the International Trade and Commerce committee, and various leadership roles, reflect his broad contributions to fostering international relations and community development.

David graduated from the University of Iowa in 1987 with a major in political science and an emphasis in economics and attended Drake University Law School, enriching his understanding of the legal and economic dimensions of his endeavors. David is a proud father of three children and lives in the mountains of Western North Carolina, near Asheville, NC.