PUTTING RESEARCH TO WORK: Improving Low-Wage Jobs and Public Policies to Support Vulnerable Workers

Saturday, March 7, 2009
8:30 am to 5:00 pm
with reception to follow
969 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

The cost of registration is $55.
Six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for a registration fee of $70.
The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration is a licensed State of Illinois provider of continuing education credits for social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors.

Please register no later than Friday, February 27, 2009
To register on-line, please go to:
https://ssanet.uchicago.edu/rsvp/centennial/

Free parking for symposium guests is available at the parking lot located on Ingleside Avenue between 60th and 61st Street.
If you have a disability or need assistance, please contact 773.702.1250 by March 2, 2009.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Sheila H. Akabas Professor Columbia University School of Social Work; Director, Center for Social Policy & Practice in the Workplace
Evelyn Z. Brodkin Associate Professor University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
Aixa Cintrón-Vélez Senior Program Officer Russell Sage Foundation
Mary Corbett Clark Executive Director Winning Workplaces
Kimberly A. Chum LEO Internment Lecturer University of Michigan Joint Program in Social Work & Anthropology
Sandra K. Danziger Professor University of Michigan School of Social Work & University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Sheldon H. Danziger Henry J. Meyer Distinguished Professor University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Director, National Poverty Center
Laura Dresser Associate Director University of Wisconsin-Madison Center on Wisconsin Strategy
Anna Haley-Lock Assistant Professor University of Washington School of Social Work
Heather D. Hill Assistant Professor University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

Robertah Rehner Iversen Associate Professor University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice
Waldo E. Johnson, Jr. Associate Professor University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
Anne Ladky Executive Director Women Employed
Laura Lin O’Neal & Collegiate Professor University of Michigan School of Social Work
Virginia Parks Assistant Professor University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
David J. Pate, Jr. Assistant Professor University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Helen Bader School of Social Welfare
Jennifer L. Romich Assistant Professor University of Washington School of Social Work
H. Luke Shaefer Assistant Professor University of Michigan School of Social Work
Margaret C. Simms Senior Fellow and Director Low Income Working Families Project, Urban Institute
Jennifer E. Swanberg Associate Professor University of Kentucky College of Social Work; Executive Director, Institute for Workplace Innovation
Carrie Thomas Associate Director Chicago Jobs Council
Elaine Waxman Doctoral Candidate University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
This symposium brings together many of the nation’s top social work and social policy scholars and practitioners to discuss the implications of the changing labor market on low-income working families. Beginning with an historical introduction to social work’s role in the employment field, this symposium will highlight the richness of its enduring contributions to knowledge about macroeconomic labor market trends, employer strategies and practices, and job conditions at the front-lines of today’s firms. The symposium is designed to engage participants in a discussion of the relative merits of different avenues for improving low-wage jobs and public policies intended to support vulnerable workers.

The day’s sessions will:

- Consider the realities of low-wage jobs under changing labor market conditions
- Engage in solution-focused discussions about promising public policy and employer-based interventions
- Identify strategies for translating knowledge into public policy and employer practice
- Highlight social work’s longstanding commitment to addressing work-family issues among disadvantaged populations.

**SCHEDULE**

**FIRST SESSION**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:15–10:45 am</td>
<td>The Realities of Low-Wage Jobs in Today’s Economy</td>
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<td>11:00 am–12:30 pm</td>
<td>Promising Interventions to Improve Low-Wage Work</td>
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<td>12:30–2:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Hour Keynote Address</td>
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**SECOND SESSION**

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<tr>
<td>2:15–3:45 pm</td>
<td>Low-Wage Employment and Public Policy</td>
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**THIRD SESSION**

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<tr>
<td>3:45–5:00 pm</td>
<td>Putting Research to Work: Transforming Knowledge into Effective Public Policy and Employer Practice</td>
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**FOURTH SESSION**

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<td>5:00–6:00 pm</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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Speakers include Jennifer E. Swanberg, University of Kentucky; Elaine Wexman, University of Chicago, Kimberly A. Clum, University of Michigan, and Anna Haley-Lock, University of Washington.

Discussion leader: Aixa Cintin-Vilez, Russell Sage Foundation

Speakers include H. Luke Shaefer, University of Michigan, Julia R. Henly, University of Chicago, Jennifer L. Romick, University of Washington, and David J. Pais, Jr., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Discussion leader: Evelyn Z. Bandkin, University of Chicago

Speakers include Sandra K. Danziger, University of Michigan, Laura Lein, University of Michigan, Sheila A. Akabas, Columbia University, Anne Lalky, Women Employed, Carrie Thomas, Chicago Jobs Council, Mary Corbitt Clark, Winning Workplace.

Our lunchtime speakers will provide an overview of macroeconomic and public policy changes affecting the economic well-being of disadvantaged workers and provide two perspectives on key social welfare policy challenges facing the Obama Administration.

Speakers include Virginia Parks, University of Wisconsin, Center on Wisconsin Strategy.

### Registration and Continental Breakfast

### Welcome and Introduction

### Julia R. Henly, Associate Professor

### Susan Lambert, Associate Professor

### Margaret C. Simms, Urban Institute

### Introduction by Waldo E. Johnson, Jr., University of Chicago