

# New Frontiers in Poverty Research and Policy Summit on Poverty

November 9, 2005  
The Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill, NC

*Sponsored By:*

**Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**Introduction by Bill Friday, former President of UNC**

**8:45 a.m.**

**Confronting Poverty: What Role for Public Programs?**

**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

The public social safety net in the U.S. comprises a set of programs, benefits, and supports designed to maintain a minimum level of financial resources and to ensure that people do not lack the basic necessities of life. Historically, families receiving AFDC have been categorically eligible for Medicaid, and many states developed combined application procedures for AFDC, Medicaid, and food stamps. Education and job training, child care, and/or child support services are examples of other public safety net programs that help people move toward economic self-sufficiency. Other public child-focused programs, such as Head Start, have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. Have such programs been effective? What role should they play in the future?

Moderator - **Dan Gitterman**, *UNC, Public Policy*

**Alice O'Connor**, *UCSB, History*

**Peter Edelman**, *Georgetown, Law*

**David Ellwood**, *Harvard, School of Government*

**William Sandy Darity**, *UNC, Economics & The Institute of African American Research*

**Family Structure, Poverty, and Family Well-Being**

**10:45 - 12:15 p.m.**

Given what we know about the interrelationships between family structure, family transitions, child or adult well-being and poverty, how can social policy best address poverty in the family arena? Consider how family processes and stability differ by population subgroups defined by race, ethnicity, nativity, and social class. What potential does social policy designed to influence family transitions and stability have to improve family well-being and alleviate poverty?

Moderator- **Kathie Mullan Harris**, *UNC, Sociology*

**Isabel Sawhill**, *Brookings Institution*

**Wade Horn**, *DHHS, Administration for Children and Families*

**Marsha Garrison**, *Brooklyn Law School*

**Greg Duncan**, *Northwestern University, Institute for Policy Research*

**Moving Out of Low-Wage Jobs: Opportunities and Barriers**

**12:45 - 2:15 p.m.**

*Boxed lunch will be served with this panel.*

What are the chances that people are able to move out of low wage jobs in the United States? Have opportunities for mobility out of low wage jobs decreased in recent years? What are the main factors that (a) facilitate and (b) impede peoples' ability to escape such jobs? Are some groups of people (defined by their demographic characteristics, for example) more or less able to move out of low wage jobs?

Moderator- **Arne Kalleberg**, *UNC, Sociology*

**Richard Freeman**, *Harvard, Economics*

**Tim Kane**, *Heritage Foundation*

**Marvin Kusters**, *American Enterprise Institute*

**Katherine Newman**, *Princeton, Sociology & The Woodrow Wilson School*

## Community Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Since the 1960s, when poverty alleviation and economic development were in two different "silos," there has been considerable integration of the two schools of thought, research and policy. Many now see economic development (broadly defined to include community development) as an effective strategy to alleviate persistent poverty. How is poverty being reframed and addressed through community economic development strategies? How effective are these strategies?

Moderator- **Jesse White**, *UNC, Office of Economic and Business Development*  
**Michael Sherraden**, *Washington University of St. Louis, Center for Social Development*  
**Suzanne Morse**, *Pew Partnership for Civic Change*  
**Karl Stauber**, *Northwest Area Foundation*  
**Anita Brown-Graham**, *UNC, Institute of Government*

*Please note that the final panel will take place in Carroll Hall, Room 111.*

## Katrina's Lessons: Moving Forward in the Fight Against Poverty

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Hurricane Katrina had a profound impact on public perceptions of poverty in America. This new awareness has created an opportunity for creative thinking about the causes of poverty and innovative ways to combat it. What are the most important lessons of Katrina in understanding poverty in America? What concrete steps should be taken by government and the private sector to alleviate the kind of concentrated poverty that was so evident in New Orleans? How can we take advantage of this unique moment to build coalitions to change government policies affecting low-income Americans?

**Introduction by Gail Agrawal, Dean of the UNC School of Law**

Moderator- **John Edwards**, *Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity*  
**William Julius Wilson**, *Harvard, Kennedy School of Government*  
**Jared Bernstein**, *Economic Policy Institute*  
**Tim Kane**, *Heritage Foundation*  
**Anna Burger**, *Change to Win*  
**Ray Boshara**, *New America Foundation*

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The entire proceedings of the Summit will be published in volume 10, issue 1 (June 2006) of the *Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal*. The *Employee Rights & Employment Policy Journal* is a faculty-edited, peer-reviewed journal that publishes diverse perspectives on legal and law-related topics focusing on the well-being of employees in the workplace. Published twice a year, the Journal is multi-disciplinary in approach. Its co-publishers are the Institute for Law and the Workplace at Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology and Workplace Fairness. For more information, please visit [www.kentlaw.edu/ilw/erepj/index.html](http://www.kentlaw.edu/ilw/erepj/index.html).