Symposium I: Diversity, Inequality, and The Achievement Gap: Challenges in Higher Education

Tuesday February 4, 2014  | From 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Rutgers University- Camden
Campus Center, 326 Penn Street

SPEAKER
Felix Matos Rodriguez, Ph.D.
President, Hostos Community College

Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, PhD took office as the 6th President of Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College in 2009. Trained as a social scientist, Dr. Matos Rodriguez previously held leadership positions in foundations, universities, policy centers, and branches of government in which he combined his scholarship with social policy, advocacy, and change. A former Secretary of the Department of the Family for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Dr. Matos Rodriguez formulated public policy and administered service delivery in the following programs: Child Support Enforcement, Adoption and Foster Care, Child and Elderly Protection, Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Child Care, and Head Start. While at Hostos, Dr. Matos Rodriguez is on leave from his tenured position as a Professor of Black and Puerto Rican/Latin Studies at Hunter College where he teaches courses on Caribbean, Latin American, and Latino History. He has also served as director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter, which is one of the largest and most important Latino research centers in the nation. Dr. Matos Rodriguez has received a number of awards for his excellence in educational leadership and community service.

Symposium II: Poverty, Race and Educational Inequality: Implications For Policy And Practice
Wednesday February 19, 2014  | From 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Rutgers University- Camden  | Campus Center, 326 Penn Street

This symposium frames the issues of educational inequality as one of social justice. Compared to whites, significant gaps for African-American and Hispanic students are evident in virtually every measure of achievement: NAEP math and reading test scores, high school completion rates, college enrollment and college completion rates. There is considerable debate about the causes and potential solutions for achieving equity for all in education. This debate covers a number of sectors from financing education to practice models at the instructional level and system-wide reform. The addition of charter schools, portfolio schools, and a variety of other approaches to public education is shaking the public education establishment and provides some hope for those working toward equity in education. There is agreement that America will not be able to resolve the crisis of unemployment, or global competitiveness unless it addresses the undereducation of students of color. This symposium features perspectives from national leaders and experts that are engaged in creating change in K-12 education. The symposium strives to expand knowledge about research, policy, and practical solutions for combating educational inequities throughout the country.

SPEAKERS

Arcelio Aponte
President, New Jersey State Board of Education

Arcelio Aponte has over twenty years experience providing administrative management, project management and public development. He is currently the President of the New Jersey State Board of Education and brings over seventeen years of progressive and successful leadership role in both local government and public education. Mr. Aponte also serves as Director of Operations and Management for Economic Development in the City of Newark through which he provides management leadership for economic development, city planning, housing, workforce development, and community among other areas. Before joining the City of Newark, Aponte served the Associate Vice President for Facilities and Construction Management at New Jersey City University where he developed and managed the University’s $500 million capital program that included campus real estate development and expansion, construction of new facilities, renovation of existing buildings, capital maintenance upgrades, and development of the campus’s master plan.

Eric Lerum
Vice-President of National Policy

As the Vice-President of National Policy at StudentsFirst, Eric Lerum possesses over ten years of experience in educational leadership which has utilized and public education. Prior to joining the school in a number of education policy roles in Washington, DC. One of his most remarkable roles was serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Education in DC through which he led school reform efforts including the mayoral takeover of the school system and the successful Race to the Top application. Mr. Lerum is a graduate of the Washington College of Law at American University. Prior to joining StudentsFirst, Eric Lerum served as the Legislative Counsel to the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Recreation of the DC Council and as a policy analyst for the DC Board of Education. Mr. Lerum developed his interest in public education and youth justice as a Fellow in the New Jersey Governor’s Constitutional Literacy Project during his time at American University.

James Jennings, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning
Tufts University

Dr. James Jennings teaches courses on social policy and conducts research on neighborhoods in the areas of local economic development, public housing, and public education. Dr. Jennings has worked with community organizations and foundations interested in designing and evaluating place-based strategies for neighborhood revitalization. He played a key role in the success of Boston’s Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, resolving a major promise neighborhoods grants to connect schools and communities more effectively. Some of his books include Urban Spaces: In Search of Community and Place and Twentieth-Century Philadelphia: Place, Community, and Race, Neighborhoods, and the Misuse of Social Capital. Dr. Jennings also served as Special Editor for Race, Politics, and Policy in Neighborhoods and Development U.S. Cities, published by The Annals.
Impoverished urban communities in the United States are located at the nexus of massive and growing social, economic, and political inequality. The City of Camden, once the “biggest little city” in America, is today one of the nation’s poorest and most violent cities. Its fate is linked to decades of racism, economic apartheid, and governmental failure that has trapped generations of families and children in cycles of poverty, despair, and hopelessness. Camden City is a microcosm of the realities facing urban neighborhoods all over the United States. In such places the confluence of race, poverty, and inequality has resulted in enormous gaps in education, health, employment, wealth among communities of color. These are the same communities that represent the fastest growing population groups in the United States and as such are crucial to the future growth and prosperity of the nation.

This Signature Series Symposia provides the appropriate context for bringing together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to address the problem of growing inequality and its serious ramifications in the United States. America is at a crossroads and how it addresses these issues will determine its future domestically and globally. The four symposia that formed this series address a particular element, beginning with the role of the higher education sector in addressing inequality and the achievement gap. This is followed by a dialogue addressing poverty, race and educational inequality, as a panel discusses the implications for policy and practice in the K-12 sector. The third symposium in the series looks at urban violence and youth as the panel discusses how the Cradle to Prison and Grave paradigm can be shifted to one that leads to college, career, and prosperity. The final symposium addresses immigration reform and the policy imperatives to providing pathways for citizenships for thousands of undocumented residents.

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The urban violence symposium focuses on the causes and effects of urban violence in the nation with a particular focus on the cities of Camden and Philadelphia. There are places in America where the number of prisons built is determined by the number of Latino and African children that are born. The life trajectory for these young people is best described as the "cradle to prison pipeline". The term has emerged recently to describe the overwhelming odds stacked against kids born into certain neighborhoods. Children born into economically depressed areas with high levels of poverty face many, many challenges not faced by students in more affluent regions of our cities. The symposium features a nationally recognized local intervention called Cradle to Grave that uses service-learning to educate youth about the impact urban violence has on their lives and their families. Striving to advance knowledge regarding research, policy, and practical efforts to reduce crime in America’s most violent cities, the symposium offers a discussion-based format for dissecting the intricacies of urban violence.

**CRADLE TO GRAVE SPEAKERS**

**Heather Thompson, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies and Department of History
Temple University

Heather Ann Thompson is an Associate Professor in the Department of History and the Department of African American Studies at Temple University. She is the author of Whose Detroit: Politics, Labor, and Race in a Modern American City and has recently published an edited collection, Speaking Out: Protest and Activism in the 1960s and 1970s, as well as chapters on crime, punishment, and prison activism during the 1960s and 1970s in several edited collections. Thompson’s work on the current crisis of mass incarceration has found a wide audience in popular media and culture (she is consulting on two documentaries), as well as in scholarly journals and other publications. Currently, she is a visiting scholar at the Havens Center at Barnard College.

**Scott P. Charles, MAPP**
Director Trauma Outreach Coordinator 
Cradle to Grave, Temple University Hospital

Scott Charles has spent more than twenty years working with at-risk youth about the use of services for young people in urban school settings. He is currently the Trauma Outreach Coordinator for Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia where he also serves as Director of the Cradle to Grave program, an award-winning hospital-based violence prevention initiative that illustrates the harsh realities of gun violence for public school students and adjudicated youth. Mr. Charles’ work has been featured on NBC’s The Today Show, ABC’s World News Tonight, CNN’s Morning Edition, and in the feature-length documentary “Number One with a Bullet.” Mr. Charles has received several prestigious awards for his work including the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leaders Award, the American Cities Foundation’s Men Making a Difference Award, the Philadelphia Business Journal Woman of the Year, the National Council of La Raza’s Senior Leadership Award, the Center for American Progress’ Policy Solutions on Immigration Award, and in 2006, the Philadelphia Business Journal Women’s Leadership Award. Dr. Goldberg is a Professor of Surgery at Temple University, as well as Medical Director of the Trauma Program and Program Director of the General Surgery Residency at Temple University Hospital. Her research interests include critical care, breast surgery, and early identification of complications during penetrating chest trauma. Dr. Goldberg partners with Scott Charles for the medical service-learning component of the Cradle to Grave Program. She has received numerous resident and medical student teaching awards including Golden Apple Awards and the Lindback Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2006, Dr. Goldberg received the College of Physicians of Philadelphia Exemplar of Humanity in Medicine Award and was in 2006 Philadelphia Business Journal Woman of Distinction.

**Clarissa Martinez**
Director of Civic Engagement and Immigration National Council of La Raza

Clarissa Martínez-De-Castro is the Director of Civic Engagement and Immigration at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) where she oversees the organization’s work to advance fair and effective immigration policies and efforts to expand Latino policy advocacy and electoral participation. In 2007, Ms. Martínez-De-Castro served as special advisor to the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, a multi-sector network of national, state, and local organizations committed to advancing policy solutions on Immigration. Ms. Martinez-De-Castro has been a frequent commentator on the Latino electorate and on immigration issues on CNN, MSNBC, FOX, Univision, and Tedesumo, among others, and has appeared in The Washington Post, New York Times, La Opinion, and other major news outlets.

**Linda S. Bosniak, Ph.D.**
Distinguished Professor School of Law 
Rutgers University-Camden

Dr. Linda S. Bosniak is an expert in the areas of nationalism and transnationalism, immigration, and constitutional equality. As a Distinguished Professor of Law at Rutgers University-Camden, she teaches courses in anti-discrimination law, constitutional law and theory, immigration law, and citizenship law. Dr. Bosniak has authored the book entitled The Citizen and the Alien: Dilemmas of Contemporary Membership. In 2011, Dr. Bosniak was a resident fellow at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy in 2011 and was also the acting director of the Rutgers Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture and was a visiting professor of politics and visiting fellow in the program on Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) at Princeton University. Dr. Bosniak has also co-authored a report of The Constition Project on Highacomplishment After 9/11 and has participated in various law reform panels on immigration and citizenship. Dr. Bosniak lectures widely at universities around the country and internationally.

**Rutgers University-Newark**

Rutgers University-Newark

Co-Founder of the New Jersey DREAM Act Coalition

Marisol Conde-Hernandez is an activist for immigrant youth throughout the state of New Jersey. As Co-Founder of the New Jersey DREAM Act Coalition she empowers and fights for the concerns of immigrant youth to be addressed politically. Ms. Conde-Hernandez has spoken in a variety of venues throughout New Jersey in effort to advocate for and educate immigrant youth. Her efforts have been featured in various new articles including the New York Times. Conde-Hernandez founded the Jose A. Conde & Fanny Hernandez Scholarship at Rutgers University in honor of her parents who migrated to the United States when she was an infant. The scholarship assists immigrant students with funding their college education.
The urban violence symposium focuses on the causes and effects of urban violence in the nation with a particular focus on the cities of Camden and Philadelphia. There are places in America where the number of prisons built is determined by the number of Latino and African children that are born. The life trajectory for these young people is best described as the “cradle to prison pipeline”. The term has emerged recently to describe the overwhelming odds stacked against kids born in certain neighborhoods. Children born into economically depressed areas with high levels of poverty face many, many challenges not faced by students in more affluent regions of our cities. The symposium features a nationally recognized local intervention called Cradle to Grave that uses service-learning to educate youth about the impact urban violence has on its victims and their families. Striving to advance more affluent regions of our cities.

SYMPOSIUM III: Youth, Civil Unrest, and the Fate of Urban America: Addressing Urban Violence

Thursday April 3, 2014 | From 9:00 am-12:00 pm | Rutgers University-Camden | Campus Center, 326 Penn Street

SYMPOSIUM IV: Immigration Policy and Reform: The Imperative for Creating Pathways to Citizenship and Prosperity

Tuesday April 22, 2014 | From 9:00 am-12:00 pm | Rutgers University- Camden Campus Center, 326 Penn Street

Scott P. Charles
Director Trauma Outreach Coordinator
Cradle to Grave,
Temple University Hospital

Heather Thompson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies and Department of History
Temple University

Dr. Amy Goldberg, MD, FACS
Section Chief, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care, Temple University Hospital

Dr. Linda S. Bosniak, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor School of Law
Rutgers University-Camden

Heather Ann Thompson is an Associate Professor in the Department of History and the Department of African American Studies at Temple University. She is the author of Whose Detroit: Politics, Labor, and Race in a Modern American City and has recently published an edited collection, Speaking Out: Protest and Activism in the 1960s and 1970s, as well as chapters on crime, punishment, and prison activism during the 1960s and 1970s in several edited collections. Thompson’s work on the current crisis of mass incarceration has found a wide audience in popular media and culture (she is consulting on two documentaries), as well as in scholarly journals and other publications. Currently, she is a visiting scholar at the Havens Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is engaged in the research and writing of the first comprehensive history of the Attica Prison Rebellion of 1971.

Scott Charles has spent more than twenty years working with at-risk youth about the use of service-learning in urban school settings. He is currently the Trauma Outreach Coordinator for Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia where he also serves as Director of the Cradle to Grave Program, an award-winning hospital-based violence prevention initiative that illustrates the harsh realities of gun violence for public school students and adjudicated youth. Mr. Charles’ work has been featured on NBC’s The Today Show, ABC’s World News Tonight, NPR’s Morning Edition, and in the feature-length documentary “Number One with a Bullet.” Mr. Charles has received several prestigious awards for his work including the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leaders Award, the American Cities Foundation’s Men Making a Difference Award, and Philadelphia’s Lucien E. Blackwell Community Service Award.

Dr. Goldberg is a Professor of Surgery at Temple University, as well as Medical Director of the Trauma Program and Program Director of the General Surgery Residency at Temple University Hospital. Her research interests include critical care, breast surgery, and early identification of complications during penetrating chest trauma. Dr. Goldberg partners with Scott Charles for the medical service-learning component of the Cradle to Grave Program. She has received numerous resident and medical student teaching awards including Golden Apple Awards and the Lindback Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2006, Dr. Goldberg received the College of Physicians of Philadelphia Exemplar of Humanity in Medicine Award and was a 2006 Philadelphia Business Journal Woman of Distinction.

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