



## **Kids Count Symposium Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*Friday, February 27th, 2009  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
University Club of Chicago*

### **Symposium Agenda**

#### **Morning Session**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

#### **Opening Remarks**

Gaylord Gieseke, Interim President  
Voices for Illinois Children

Presentation of the Helen R. Weigle Award for  
Innovations in Children's Programming

to

**Crisis Nursery of Champaign County**

*Ann Beddini, Board, Crisis Nursery*

Presenters

Betty Hutchison and Missy Jacobus MacLeod,  
*Board, Voices for Illinois Children*

#### **Presentation of the Kids Count Findings**

Melissa Baker, Kids Count Project Director  
Voices for Illinois Children

**Plenary I**  
**Are We Providing the Best?**  
***The Current State of Education in Illinois***

**Moderator:** Kate Grossman, *Chicago Sun Times Editorial Board*  
**Panelists:** Judy Erwin, *Illinois Board of Higher Education*  
Max McGee, *Illinois Math and Science Academy*  
Bryan Samuels, *Chicago Public Schools*  
Robin Steans, *Advance Illinois*

**Break**  
**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Workshops**  
**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Teachers and School Leaders, Room E, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Teachers and school leaders play an important role in students' lives. Research indicates that strong school leadership positively impacts student achievement. Panelists explore how teacher preparation and professional development impact students' success and how policies and incentives can support our schools' educators and leaders.

**Moderator:** Sean Noble, *Voices for Illinois Children*  
**Panelists:** Jo Anderson, *Illinois Education Association*  
Bradford White, *Illinois Education Research Council, Southern Illinois University*  
Steve Zemelman, *Illinois Network of Charter Schools*

**Standards, Assessments and Accountability, Room F, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor**

There are notable disparities in student outcomes across ages and settings, particularly with respect to student achievements. Panelists talk about graduation rates, performance-based tests and the achievement gap, school accountability, state learning standards, and how standards-based reform would improve the overall educational attainment of Illinois students.

**Moderator:** Dawn Melchiorre, *Voices for Illinois Children*  
**Panelists:** Elaine Allensworth, *Consortium on Chicago School Research, University of Chicago*  
Peter Mulhall, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*  
Jack Wuest, *Alternative Schools Network*

**The Whole Child, Room AB, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Learning begins at birth, continues through adulthood, and does not end when the school bell rings. This workshop explores how a comprehensive education system—inside and outside of the school walls—should address cognitive, physical and social-emotional health, and at the same time be culturally relevant for *all* students.

**Moderator:** Jeanna Capito, *Positive Parenting DuPage*  
**Panelists:** Luisiana Meléndez, *Erikson Institute*  
Colette Lueck, *Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership*  
James Chesire, *Chicago Out-of-School Time Project*

## **School Finance, Room D, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor**

For decades, public school finance issues in Illinois have been much the same: heavy reliance on local property taxes, inadequate and unstable state funding, and huge disparities among school districts. Panelists discuss the current funding situation in Illinois and envision a more adequate system for how Illinois finances education.

**Moderator:** Larry Joseph, *Voices for Illinois Children*  
**Panelists:** Mary Ellen Guest, *Consultant*  
Tom Johnson, *Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois*  
Christina Herzog, *Chicago Public Schools*

## **Higher Education and Jobs, Room C, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Today's students are tomorrow's workforce. Research shows that students are unprepared for work and for postsecondary education. This workshop looks at how to help ensure that students emerge from our schools with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in college-level courses and be productive workers and managers in our factories and offices.

**Moderator:** Michelle Arnold, *Voices for Illinois Children*  
**Panelists:** Jeff Mays, *Illinois Business Roundtable*  
James Rosenbaum, *Northwestern University*

### **Break**

**12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### **Afternoon Session**

**12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### **Introductory Remarks**

Jerry Stermer, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

### **Keynote Speaker**

**Richard Rothstein**

*Economic Policy Institute*

***A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education***

### **Plenary II**

**What is the Vision for Our Children?**

***The Future of Education in Illinois***

**Moderator:** Sara Slaughter, *McCormick Foundation*  
**Panelists:** Cheryle Jackson, *Chicago Urban League*  
Christopher Koch, *Illinois State Board of Education*  
Sylvia Puente, *Latino Policy Forum*  
Richard Rothstein, *Economic Policy Institute*

**Special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their generous support.**