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BUILDING ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS AND DEEP COALITIONS

building workforce partnerships conference

May 24-26, 2011 ~ Hilton, San Jose



workforce and economic development

a Program of California LABOR Federation

**CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS**



CHRIS BENNER

Professor, University of California, Davis, co-author of *Just Growth: Prosperity and Inclusion in America's Metropolitan Regions*

Dr. Chris Benner is an Associate Professor of Community and Regional Development, and Chair of the Community Development Graduate Group at the University of California, Davis. Professor Benner's recent book, co-authored with Manuel Pastor and Martha Matsuoka, *This Could Be The Start of Something Big: Social Movements for Regional Equity and the Future of Metropolitan America*, examines new regional movements around community development, policy initiatives, and social movement organizing, and their potential for promoting greater economic opportunity for disadvantaged residents in metropolitan areas.

Dr. Benner's research focuses on the relationships between technological change, regional development, and the structure of economic opportunity, focusing on regional labor markets and the transformation of work and employment patterns. His applied policy work focuses on workforce development policy, the structure, dynamics and evaluation of workforce intermediaries, and strategies for promoting regional equity.



VERONICA CARRIZALES

Regional Organizing Director, CA CALLS

Veronica Carrizales currently works as the Regional Organizing Director for the CA CALLS. CA CALLS, an alliance to renew the dream, is a progressive statewide alliance of organizations united to strategically shape a public policy agenda to win systemic reform. Before this, she worked as a labor specialist with the UC Berkeley Labor Center. Carrizales created and facilitated a number of the Center's visionary programs including the Latino Leadership Training School held in the Central Valley and the CA Lead Organizers Institute.

Carrizales has worked with several unions as a consultant. In addition, her training and facilitation skills were enhanced through her employment with ENLACE (US-Mexico), where she led capacity building training and workers' rights program for Mexican maquiladora workers and U.S worker centers. She also worked on the LA Living Wage Campaign and the Santa Monica Living Wage campaign.

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SPEAKERS



CINDY CHAVEZ

Working Partnerships USA and Executive Officer, South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council

Cindy Chavez is an executive officer of the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, having returned after terms on the City Council and as Vice-Mayor for San Jose. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from San Jose State, Chavez worked as a budget and policy aide on health, human services and transportation issues for the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. She later joined the Labor Council as staff director and helped create Working Partnerships USA, which she now leads as executive director.

Both as a city official and as a labor leader, Chavez has engaged in many public service roles. She served as chair of the Valley Transportation Authority, a member of the Healthy Neighborhood Venture Fund, Guadalupe River Park & Gardens Task Force, Police and Fire Retirement Board, San Jose Beautiful, and has been a Leader in Residence at San Jose State.

As leader of the South Bay Labor Council and Working Partnerships USA, Chavez has pioneered many innovative and forward thinking research and to improve the lives of workers.



KIRSTIN DOWNEY

Author of *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins* — *Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, and the Minimum Wage*

Kirstin Downey developed an early fascination with global trade and international economics as the daughter of a sea captain, living perpetually on the move. She studied journalism at Penn State and then wrote for newspapers in Florida and Colorado before joining the staff of the San Jose Mercury, covering business in Silicon Valley.

As a staff writer for the Washington Post in 1988, Downey chronicled the ways in which rampant speculation by banks and savings and loan associations in the 1980s had led to the collapse of the real estate industry, requiring a hefty taxpayer bailout. Her Washington Post column, *On the Job*, in which workers wrote about the problems they faced at work, ran in dozens of newspapers, including the San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Times, with a total weekly readership exceeding 3 million people.

Through this column, Downey began researching workplace safety issues, including the infamous Triangle Fire in New York City in 1911, which was witnessed by a young social worker, Frances Perkins. Downey began wondering how Perkins, a middle class woman who lacked wealth and status, had risen to prominence to help the president fight the economic ravages caused by the Great Depression. This idea bloomed into the book, *Frances Perkins, the Woman Behind the New Deal*.

Downey began reporting regularly on toxic and exotic mortgages being granted to homeowners who seemed unlikely to be able to repay the loans. Her reporting raised a clarion call to federal regulators—sadly, a warning that was not heeded.



MARY GONZALEZ

Gamaliel Foundation

Mary Gonzalez is the Western Territory Director for the Gamaliel Foundation, an institute seeking to build faith-based organizations in the US, Great Britain and South Africa. With nearly 30 years' organizing experience, she has helped create many regional faith and value-based community organizations in California and Hawaii. Gonzalez also conducts leadership training events within the Gamaliel network and for several national religious and educational institutions.

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SPEAKERS



CARL GUARDINO

President & CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Carl Guardino, one of Silicon Valley's most distinguished business and community leaders, is the President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a public policy trade association that represents more than 345 of Silicon Valley's most respected companies.

In February 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Guardino to a four-year term on the California Transportation Commission, and was reappointed by Governor Jerry Brown this year. He also serves on numerous other boards and is actively involved in a wide range of community organizations and projects. In 2000, the San Jose Mercury News named Guardino one of the "Five Most Powerful" people in Silicon Valley in a once-per-decade study.

Known throughout the region as a consensus builder, Guardino has championed a number of important issues, especially in the areas of transportation and housing.



BRUCE G. HERMAN

Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development, New York State

Bruce G. Herman joined the Department of Labor as Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development in September 2007. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing the agency's Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions. Prior to joining DOL, Herman served as Executive Director of the National Employment Law Project, a NYC-based advocacy group. There, he worked extensively on unemployment insurance reform as well as issues pertaining to the rights of immigrant workers, launching a national program to develop policies to secure economic opportunities for all workers.

Prior to this position, Herman was Senior Director for the Center for Workforce and Economic Development (CWED), a collaborative initiative of the Consortium for Worker Education, the NYC Central Labor Council and a coalition of employers. The CWED assisted in emergency efforts to find sustainable employment for thousands of New Yorkers dislocated as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



RO KHANNA

Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

Ro Khanna was appointed by President Obama to serve as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the US and Foreign Commercial Service at the Department of Commerce. In this capacity, Khanna is responsible for overseeing the domestic operations of 109 US Export Assistance Centers operating in 48 states. He has played an instrumental role in implementing the President's National Export Initiative. In addition, Khanna is responsible for a number of trade promotion programs, the Trade Information Center, and marketing and communications strategies. He has been involved with planning and executing a number of export missions for the Department including to India, Brazil, China, and Mexico.

Khanna was successful in working with the Economic Development Agency to bring a grant to Fremont, California to help create new manufacturing jobs and export opportunities after the closing of the NUMMI plant. He also has worked to create partnerships with Universities and the Department of Commerce across the country to prepare students for the global economy. CSU East Bay and Cleveland State University are models of these partnerships.

Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, Khanna worked as counsel for O'Melveny & Myers, where he practiced intellectual property law.

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SPEAKERS



LARRY MISHEL

President, Economic Policy Institute

Larry Mishel, is a nationally recognized economist and President of the Economic Policy Institute, a role he assumed in 2002. In the more than two decades that he has been with EPI, Dr. Mishel has helped build it into the nation's premier research organization focused on US living standards and labor markets.

Dr. Mishel's primary research interests include labor markets and education. He has written extensively on wage and job quality trends in the United States. Dr. Mishel also co-edited a research volume on emerging labor market institutions for the National Bureau of Economic Research, and his 1988 research on manufacturing data led the US Commerce Department to revise the way it measures US manufacturing output. This new measure helped accurately document the long decline in US manufacturing, a trend which is now widely understood.

Dr. Mishel has testified before Congress on the importance of promoting policies that reduce inequality, improve the lives of American workers and their families, and strengthen the middle class. He also serves frequently as a commentator in the print, broadcast, and online media.

Prior to joining EPI, Dr. Mishel held a number of research roles, including a fellowship at the US Department of Labor. He also served as a faculty member at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Dr. Mishel holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



MARTY MORGENSTERN

Secretary, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Marty Morgenstern, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, is the current Secretary of the CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Prior to this post, Secretary Morgenstern consulted for the University of California on labor relations. He also served as Director of the Department of Personnel Administration from 1999-2003, and 1981-1982. From 1994 to 1999, Secretary Morgenstern worked as a private consultant to various labor organizations, and was Chair of the Center for Labor Research and Education at the University of California, Berkeley from 1987 to 1994. From 1982 to 1987, Secretary Morgenstern served as a member of the Public Employment Relations Board. In 1975, he was appointed Director of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations by Governor Jerry Brown.



GAVIN NEWSOM

Lieutenant Governor, State of California

Gavin Newsom was elected 49th Lieutenant Governor of the State of California on November 2, 2010. His top priorities are economic development and job creation, improving access to higher education, and maintaining California's environmental leadership.

Lt. Governor Newsom comes to these efforts eminently qualified, with a successful background in both the private sector – starting 15 small businesses and creating more than 1,000 jobs – and the public sector, having served as both Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco and, before that, as County Supervisor.

Under his bold and energetic leadership, the San Francisco economy grew and jobs were created. The City became a center for biotech and clean tech. Then Mayor Newsom initiated a plan to bring universal health care to all of the City's uninsured residents and aggressively pursued local solutions to global climate change. He proudly balanced seven consecutive budgets on time during national economic instability without laying off a single teacher, police officer, or firefighter.

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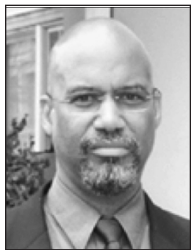
SPEAKERS



MANUEL PASTOR

Professor, University of Southern California, co-author of *Just Growth: Prosperity and Inclusion in America's Metropolitan Regions*

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California where he also serves as Director of USC's Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) and co-Director of USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII). Dr. Pastor speaks and writes extensively on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment. Many of his previous volumes have focused on regional equity including *This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Transforming Metropolitan America* (Cornell University Press 2009; co-authored with Chris Benner and Martha Matsuoka). *Regions That Work: How Cities and Suburbs Can Grow Together* (University of Minnesota Press 2000; co-authored with Peter Dreier, Eugene Grigsby, and Marta Lopez-Garza) has become a standard reference for those looking to link neighborhoods and regions. He served as a member of the Commission on Regions appointed by California's Speaker of the State Assembly, and in January 2002 was awarded a Civic Entrepreneur of the Year award from the California Center for Regional Leadership.



DR. STEVEN PITTS

University of California Berkeley Labor Center

Dr. Steven Pitts came to the Labor Center in August of 2001 from Houston, Texas. Dr. Pitts received his PhD. in Economics with an emphasis on Urban Economics from the University of Houston in 1994. His MA is also from the University of Houston and he holds an BA from Harvard. For the 15 years prior to his arrival at the Labor Center, Dr. Pitts taught economics at Houston Community College and, for five years he was an adjunct lecturer in the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston. At the Labor Center, Dr. Pitts focuses on issues of job quality and black workers. In this arena, he has published reports on employment issues in the black community, initiated a black union leadership school, shaped projects designed to build solidarity between black and latino immigrant workers, and provides technical assistance in the development of black worker centers around the country.



ART PULASKI

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation

Art Pulaski has served as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Officer of the California Labor Federation since 1996. Pulaski has reinvigorated grassroots activism in unions and championed support for new organizing. Under his leadership, the Federation has helped to elect worker-friendly candidates in the State Legislature and won the passage of landmark legislation.

In that time, the Federation's achievements have included restoring daily overtime pay, raising the minimum wage, increasing benefits for injured and unemployed workers and passing the nation's first comprehensive Paid Family Leave law. In 2003, the Federation won an historic law to extend employer-based healthcare in California. While the law was later overturned in a referendum, its passage helped redefine the debate on health care reform.

Pulaski has served on numerous gubernatorial panels and commissions on economic progress and workforce development. He was a founder of one of California's model childcare centers, called PalCare, and served as president of nationally televised PBS series "*We Do the Work*", the Labor Project for Working Families and the California Works Foundation.

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ALLEN FERNANDEZ SMITH

Executive Director, Urban Habitat

Allen Fernandez Smith joined Urban Habitat on May 2, 2011 after an already-distinguished career in community advocacy, public policy and social justice work. Fernandez Smith most recently worked as the Executive Director of the California School-Age Consortium (CalSAC), a statewide, nonprofit dedicated to advancing for the professional development of youth across California through high-quality trainings, policymaking, and advocacy.

Prior to his tenure at CalSAC, Fernandez Smith served as a Senior Community Development Specialist in the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Community Development. He worked closely with major city agencies, local community leaders, and small business owners to revamp neighborhood economic strategy programs in distressed commercial corridors. Fernandez Smith also worked at the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. There he managed the first-ever citywide initiative to improve San Francisco's after-school programs, bringing multiple stakeholders together in a comprehensive system to serve youth from all parts of the city.

Fernandez Smith graduated from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Illinois and was a graduate fellow at the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund. In 2011, he was named to The Root 100 national list of African-American leaders under 45 years old.



DAN SWINNEY

Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council and Center for Labor and Community Research

Dan Swinney is a founder and current Director of the Center for Labor and Community Research (CLCR). Prior to founding CLCR, Dan worked for 13 years as a machinist in the Chicago area and organized Steelworker Local 8787 at G+W Taylor Forge in Cicero, Illinois.

Swinney's extensive experience helped lead to the founding of the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, a unique labor-business-government-workforce partnership dedicated to creating and retaining advanced manufacturing in the greater Chicago area. The success of their efforts has led to the formation of similar efforts, including a nascent Bay Area Manufacturing Renaissance Council.

In 1967, Swinney graduated from the University of Wisconsin, with a degree in History. He regularly writes and speaks for various manufacturing trade associations, universities, community development networks, unions, and other groups interested in promoting advanced manufacturing.
