Poverty, Promise, and Possibility

A University of Chicago Convening on Poverty and How to Combat It

This initiative from the University of Chicago represents a bold and timely effort to bring together the University’s scholarly resources on issues of poverty in new, more publicly accessible, and more socially relevant ways. The aim is to highlight the useable knowledge available through the University for the purpose of illuminating both the pressing problems of poverty in our area and the practical steps that local communities can take to address such problems. The University’s demonstrated commitment to working with community partners on urgent social issues such as poverty has set the stage for this new initiative, which is designed to foster the larger cooperative ethic of civic friendship that the University seeks to realize in its relationships with a rich array of Chicago neighborhoods and communities.

To RSVP for the Public Discussions or register for the courses, please contact Bart Schultz, the Director of the Civic Knowledge Project, at rschultz@uchicago.edu or 773-702-8821. Poverty, Promise, and Possibility is a collaborative initiative featuring many partners, including the University of Chicago’s Office of Civic Engagement, Graham School of General Studies, Humanities Division/Civic Knowledge Project, Urban Education Institute, and School of Social Service Administration.

FREE PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

Note: All the public discussions will be held on the Hyde Park campus of the University of Chicago at the School of Social Service Administration, 969 E. 60th St.

POVERTY: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE
Chad Broughton, senior lecturer in Public Policy Studies and faculty director of the Chicago Studies Program at the University of Chicago. 6:30-8 pm, Thursday, September 30, 2010.

POVERTY AND THE HUMANITIES
Earl Shorris, founder of the Clemente Course in the Humanities and a National Humanities Medalist. 12-1:30 pm, Thursday, October 21, 2010.

POVERTY AND URBAN SCHOOLING
Timothy Knowles, John Dewey Director and Clinical Professor, the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute. 6:30-8 pm, Thursday, November 11, 2010.

REFORMING URBAN SCHOOLS AT SCALE
Charles Payne, the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. 6:30-8 pm, Thursday, January 20, 2011.

COMMUNITY FORUM
A panel discussion featuring distinguished representatives from leading community organizations in Chicago involved in the development of Promise Zone initiatives. 6:30-8 pm, Thursday, March 3, 2011.

OUT OF REACH: PLACE, POVERTY, AND THE NEW AMERICAN WELFARE STATE
Scott Allard, associate professor at the
School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. 6:30-8 pm, Thursday, April 7, 2011.

COMMUNITY FORUM
A panel discussion featuring distinguished representatives from leading community organizations in Chicago involved in the development of Promise Zone initiatives and other innovative approaches to the problem of urban poverty. 6:30-8pm, Thursday, May 12, 2011.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES
To facilitate community participation throughout the program, discounted registration for the entire course series is available. By signing up for the series, registrants will not only get four courses for the price of three, but also be guaranteed priority seating at the public discussions and a special role in facilitating the summer Institute.

Entire Series: Course Code LAHPPP; Section 10A1
Autumn-Summer 2010-11
$625 Regular registration
Teacher Recertification CPDUs: 46

Individuals or organizations needing special tuition assistance should contact Bart Schultz, at 773-702-8821 or rschultz@uchicago.edu, to inquire about Civic Knowledge Project scholarship opportunities. Note: all courses will be held on the Hyde Park Campus of the University of Chicago.

THE FACE OF URBAN COMMUNITIES
This course will provide participants with the opportunity to consider the process of development and decline in urban communities. Drawing from rich ethnographic studies, we will explore some of the influences on the trajectory of urban neighborhoods, such as historical restrictive covenants, depopulation, high-rise projects and segregation. Particular attention will be paid to depictions of racial, ethnic, class, and cultural identities. This mini-course provides a foundation for the Poverty, Promise and Possibility program.

SARA STOELINGA
Ms. Stoelinga is director of planning and program development at the Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago.

POVERTY AND THE HUMANITIES IN CHICAGO
This course will provide an in-depth account of the use of humanities programming in efforts to combat poverty, focusing especially on the worldwide Clemente Course in the Humanities, known in Chicago as the Odyssey Project. The problems of poverty are not limited to shortages of material resources but can also include being cut-off from the cultural resources needed for achieving a dignified and fully meaningful life. The Clemente Course, founded by National Humanities Medalist Earl Shorris, and related efforts demonstrate how even in very difficult circumstances the humanities have a vital role to play.

BART SCHULTZ AND ERIKA DUDLEY
Mr. Schultz is senior lecturer in the Humanities and director of the Civic Knowledge Project at the University of Chicago. Ms. Dudley is the Civic Knowledge Project coordinator for parent education, the Odyssey Project & the Educating Community.

Course Code: LAHPPP; Section 10A3 Autumn 2010
$185 Regular registration
Wednesdays, October 27-November 17, 6:00-8:00 pm
Teacher Recertification CPDUs: 8

POVERTY AND EDUCATION IN CHICAGO

This course looks at the intersection of poverty and education. We will begin with a consideration of the history of school reform in Chicago, exploring the relationship between poverty, education and student outcomes. We will then focus on Chicago school reform policies and initiatives, highlighting work from the Urban Education Institute, including research on Chicago Public Schools, models of increasing the quality of urban teachers and innovative approaches to schooling. The strengths and shortcomings of current school reform policies will be considered with a stress on understanding the process of policy-making and the complexity of change implied in reform policy.

SARA STOELINGA

Ms. Stoelinga is director of planning and program development at the Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago.

Course Code: LAHPPP; Section 10A4 Spring 2011
$335 Regular registration
Thursdays, March 31-May 19, 4-6:30 pm
Teacher Recertification CPDUs: 20

POVERTY AND PROMISE IN CHICAGO

This urban sociology and public policy course will examine urban poverty in Chicago in the context of the city’s rich social history and recent economic transformation. We will consider both promising efforts—on the model of the Harlem Children’s Zone, a widely admired anti-poverty initiative in New York City—to address concentrated poverty and the barriers to such initiatives, with particular attention to social isolation, gangs, and public schools.

CHAD BROUGHTON

Mr. Broughton is senior lecturer in Public Policy Studies and faculty director of Chicago Studies at the University of Chicago. His research seeks to identify areas in Chicago that could become “Promise Neighborhoods” on the model of the Harlem Children’s Zone.

Course Code LAHPPP; Section 10A5 Summer 2011
$185 Regular registration
Wednesdays, July 6-27, 6:00-8:00 pm
Teacher Recertification CPDUs: 8

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