

CONTINUANCE

Knowledge and Understanding Passing from Generation to Generation

Fall 2009/Winter 2010

Vol. 24 Nos. 1 & 2

*You are
cordially invited
to participate in
2010: The Year
of the Engaged
Older Adult*

**GENERATIONS SERVING
GENERATIONS**

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*Improving education through
intergenerational engagement and leadership*

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Continuance Magazine

Fall 2009/Winter 2010

Vol. 24: 1 & 2

Knowledge and Understanding Passing from Generation to Generation

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INTERGENERATIONAL INITIATIVE

The goal of the Intergenerational Initiative is to create an infrastructure of retiree involvement. The following actions set that goal in motion:

- promote intergenerational engagement and leadership that will help solve the perplexing problems of education
- advocate for a public policy responsive to the needs and resources of all ages
- foster communication and contact between generations and cultures
- enrich the educational experience through lifelong service and learning
- publicize the stories about the good things happening in education.

*Founded in 1986 with funding from the
Illinois Board of Higher Education*

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Commentary

My grandmother was a strong woman who had a talent for framing life in a positive way. When my grade in Biology was a C, she told me “Every cloud has a silver lining.” It sure did! The teacher offered mentors for those of us struggling with the dissection of frogs and it turned out that my mentor was a retired nurse. She helped me get beyond the blood and guts so that I could understand the beauty and workings of a biological system. I became fascinated with the field of medicine and later became a nurse with specialties in surgery and geriatrics.

Older mentors have a knack for looking at the world from a realistic perspective and students know that. Unfortunately education does not. Fewer than 7% of those 65 and older volunteer in the schools.

This will soon change. Governor Pat Quinn launched Generations Serving Generations setting 2010 as a year dedicated to engaging older adults. He is challenging each citizen to support the initiative by developing activities and events that connect generations.

Illinoisans from Moline to Waukegan; Quincy to Danville; Belleville to Golconda and across Chicago neighborhoods will help increase civic engagement in all 102 counties. In the process, Generations Serving Generations will build support for increasing

graduation rates, improving the health of older adults, and involving those who are not asked. The connections between generations will happen in many ways — in schools, through community teams, by retiree organizations, and through individual bursts of citizen creativity.

Generations Serving Generations is part of a national project started by the National Governors Association and the Atlantic Philanthropies. Illinois was selected as one of 14 states to promote the civic engagement of older adults. On December 10, 2009, Governor Pat Quinn launched the Year of the Engaged Older Adult with the theme Generations Serving Generations.

The launch had special meaning for me because Governor Quinn and Charles Johnson, Illinois Department on Aging Director, presented an award honoring the Intergenerational Initiative and my leadership. My grandmother would be so proud of the Award for Excellence, but truth be told, there are many mentors who share the glory.

In 1985, Dick Wagner, then executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, encouraged the development of a statewide intergenerational program. Other mentors along the way were Jeanne



Governor Pat Quinn presents the Award for Excellence to Jane Angelis.

Bradner, Keith Sanders, Marilyn Hennessy, Seymour Bryson, Emil Jones, Janet Otwell, Pat Bearden, Helene Block, and many colleagues of all ages. They listened, advised, and believed.

Somewhere along this journey, my children and younger generations became my mentors with their broader view of the world, and now I notice that I am learning about iTouch, community service, cooking, and new things from my grandchildren.

Generations Serving Generations dedicates the year 2010 to help remind us that we are in this world together whether we are Gen Y, Gen X, Boomers, Traditionalists, or the Silent Generation.

First Lady Michelle Obama captures the essence of intergenerational mentoring: “The beauty of being a mentor is that anyone can do it at any age.”

Jane Angelis, editor



First Lady and Illinoisan Michelle Obama

Greetings to Illinoisans Congratulations on Generations Serving Generations

During the White House Conference on mentoring, First Lady Michelle Obama gave a clear description of Generations Serving Generations, “The beauty of being a mentor is that anyone can do it at any age. So that means if there’s a sibling in your life, a friend, a cousin, another person down the road, you can thank your own mentor by turning around and helping pull someone else up.”

President Barack Obama spoke during the White House Conference, “There’s no doubt about the value of mentoring. And there’s no doubt about the tremendous need for mentors in this country—with at least 15 million young people in need of a mentor.”

“Committed adults should step forward and help us meet that need. The great poet and author Maya Angelou didn’t discover

poetry until her mentor took her to the tiny library at her school and challenged her to read every book in the room. Co-founder and CEO of Apple, Steve Jobs, was an incorrigible troublemaker until his 4th grade teacher took him under her wing and convinced him to focus on math instead of mischief. That turned out pretty well. Ray Charles first discovered his gift for music when, at the age of three, his next-door neighbor taught him how to play the piano. And it was

the enthusiasm of her mentor, Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn, that drew Dr. Carol Greider to the groundbreaking work in genetics that would win both of them the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

“The beauty of being a mentor is that anyone can do it at any age.”

First Lady Michelle Obama



Generations Serving Generations

GOVERNOR QUINN LAUNCHES 2010: THE YEAR OF THE ENGAGED OLDER ADULT

102 COUNTIES SET TO CELEBRATE

Governor Pat Quinn launched a year-long campaign that will encourage older adults to engage in community activities. Generations Serving Generations and the Year of the Engaged Older Adult is a call to action for individuals and families to enrich community life. The announcement was made during the opening session of the annual Governor's Conference on Aging, held on December 10 in Chicago.

"This program will expand our efforts to strengthen communities across Illinois," said Governor Quinn. "The initiative will help increase the number of seniors who participate in volunteer activities in Illinois, allowing them to contribute their talents and expertise to benefit their communities."

Illinois Department on Aging Director Charles D. Johnson is leading the statewide initiative with the support of a leadership team.

Generations Serving Generations stems from the National Governors Association (NGA) Policy Academy on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults started in June 2008. Illinois was one of 6 states selected to participate in the project designed to improve the health and lives of older Americans and increase their involvement in service, learning, and work. Other states selected in 2008 were Maryland, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, and Idaho. Eight additional states had been selected in 2007 including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Maine, New Mexico, Ohio and Wyoming.

"Our goal is to work with individuals, organizations and networks in 102 counties to promote civic engagement," said Director Johnson. "We appreciate Governor Quinn's challenge to our citizens ages 50 years and older to engage in service, learning and work. Governor Quinn is challenging each citizen to support Generations Serving Generations by joining activities and events that will be held across the state."

The sponsors of Generations Serving Generations include the Illinois Leadership Team of the National Governors Association Policy Academy, the Serve Illinois Commission, the Office of the Governor, the Illinois Senate, and 200 organizations representing education, business, government, and non profits.



Governor Pat Quinn joins the Leadership Team of the Illinois Policy Academy to launch a year that highlights Generations Serving Generations. Pictured are the leaders who planned the event as part of the National Governors Association Illinois Policy Academy (L to R Front): Charles Johnson, Director, Illinois Department on Aging; Marilyn Hennessy, Trustee, Retirement Research Foundation; Governor Pat Quinn; Jane Angelis, Director, Intergenerational Initiative, Center for Health Law and Policy, SIU School of Law; John Sirek, Director Citizenship, McCormick Foundation; Bernie Wong, director, Chinese American Service League, (Back) John Hosteny, Director, Illinois Corporation for National and Community Service; Bob Gallo, State Director, AARP; Mike O'Donnell, Liaison, Area Agencies on Aging; and Ted Gibbs, Director, Serve Illinois Commission, Office of the Governor. (Not pictured: Peggy Luce, Vice President, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce; Robert Mees, outgoing president, Illinois Council of Community College Presidents and President, John A. Logan College; and Ed Maloney, Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee.)

The goals of the Illinois NGA Project address the needs of the future by increasing the civic engagement of older Illinoisans in three ways:

1. Developing an infrastructure of retiree involvement in work, learning and volunteering,
2. Communicating the importance of civic engagement to retirees, educators, employers, and the public, and
3. Developing policy to support civic engagement.

Imagine a future when retirement means an interesting and fascinating new career, when students have mentors who help them read and perform at grade level, when neighbor-helping-neighbor is a part of community life, when employers find an adequate supply of experienced workers, and when

health promotion is just as common as health care.

Generations Serving Generations reminds us about the importance of each citizen's contribution. Often older and younger generations are considered problems rather than resources and as a result society loses. Generations Serving Generations will present opportunities for young and old to put their heads together and come up with new solutions to old problems.

As we begin 2010, foremost in all our minds is the economy and the difficulties that so many Illinoisans are facing. How can we make things better? People say, "I am only one person, what can I do?"

That question was answered many years ago by Alexis de Tocqueville, when he wrote that community building is something that Americans do well. Our ancestors established new settlements, raised buildings, and forged a path westward; they couldn't have done it without generations working together. The report called *A Nation of Spectators* put it well, "From the beginning, Americans have prided themselves on their ability to join together with their fellow citizens to get things done."

People are stretched right now, but often those who are the most stretched are the ones who lead the way and get things done.



Five Good Reasons to Join Generations Serving Generations

When you receive an invitation you read it, check your availability, and then ask yourself, "Do I want to go?"

Today you have been invited to participate in the Year of the Engaged Older Adult with the theme Generations Serving Generations. You may ask, "What is this all about, how could I participate? Should I participate?" Regardless of your age, there are at least five good reasons why you should get involved with Generations Serving Generations.

1. Our communities need the talents of older adults.

The AARP publication, *More to Give*, urges us to tap the talents of the Baby Boomer, the Silent, and Greatest Generations to

address problems such as high school dropouts, the decline in civic involvement, and the health of older generations. "The sheer numbers of people in these generations demand that we do more to tap their reservoirs of experience. The report continues, "The dropout crisis is a drain on our economy but is a fixable problem — we know who drops out, why they drop out, and from which schools they drop out. One solution to ensuring that students stay on track to graduate from high school ready for college is providing adult mentors and advocates for students at risk of dropping out."

By interacting with younger generations, older adults pass on their talents. Students often say they like being with older

generations because they understand the real world.

2. Older generations know the history of their families, their workplaces, their communities, and their world.

Learning about history is an important experience for all ages, particularly for school children who find solutions to their perplexing problems by hearing stories of how their forbears survived. Further, we lose institutional, historical, and personal history when we don't gather the stories of our elders.

Have you ever asked your parents or grandparents how they celebrated the holidays? Have you talked to fellow workers who have institutional memory about your company or organization?

Have you asked older residents about their memories of the buildings and businesses in the early years of your community? The stories of our communities, workplaces, and families are the foundation for life today. We can discover solutions for problems that seem insurmountable if we listen to our elders. The stories of older generations provide ideas on how they encountered problems and survived. History is the foundation for change.

3. Older adults need to be involved in meaningful activities to stay mentally and physically healthy.

Staying active and involved keeps older people healthier, more able to remain in their homes, and a resource for their communities.

In *Successful Aging*, Rowe and Kahn wrote, "When older men and women are asked about their hopes and aspirations, they name their primary goal — to remain independent and continue to take care of themselves. Similarly, when they are asked about their greatest worries, they stress fear of becoming dependent on others. Loss of either physical or mental function is a major threat to independence, and almost all older people have relatives or friends who have, however, become dependent because of such deficits." Staying independent is a

History is the foundation for change.

high priority for older adults and staying active and engaged in the community helps address that goal.

4. Generations must work together to solve the daunting problems of our communities.

On Martin Luther King Day, President William Perry at Eastern Illinois University (EIU) and Mike O'Donnell, executive director of the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, were joined by representatives of aging, education, service, business, and community organizations in Charleston. The goal was to talk about community service and building community teams that involve all generations.

President Perry energized the group with his call for increasing university-community ventures. He said that he is a strong supporter of service and believes that generations working together can help solve many community problems. Each of the participants talked about their commitment to service and the many ways they were involved. The students were especially fervent in their commitments particularly contact with older generations.

The EIU event gave a good example of how generations can help solve problems and was a fitting event for the Year of the Engaged Older Adult. Dale Wolf, president of the Chamber of Commerce spoke about the importance of asking. He said, "When someone asks you to do something, how do you say no?" Mike O'Donnell summarized the



Generations Serving Generations

The logo prepared for Generations Serving Generations symbolizes generations working together. Individuals are depicted as raising their arms in a symbolic gesture of celebration and in doing so have joined hands to emphasize the united effort. Generations Serving Generations calls for young and old and middle generations to join hands and develop plans that meet the needs across generations. The background is the petal of a leaf, which depicts the opportunities for growth and the need for renewal in Illinois. You may find additional meaning in the logo.



Three cheers for the designer of the Generations Serving Generations logo. The Knight in Shining Armor Bill Varga volunteered to develop the logo and theme in the best tradition of service. Bill is pictured with his daughter Lexi.

themes of the discussion: We can develop strategies for doing things more economically and more effectively. Universities can help businesses through interns and advice on how businesses and human service organizations can do more with less. We should look at volunteerism as innovative learning. Last, never underestimate the importance of personal contact and asking.

In the best of all worlds, when communities pull together, everyone wins, especially older adults. They contribute their talents and wisdom, and when they have needs, receive support from the community family.



Generations Serving Generations Community Team
Twenty community leaders came to the table to celebrate Martin Luther King Day in Charleston by discussing community service and how working together can lead to solutions for the great challenges faced by their community.

Front Row: Bahari Cowan, gerontology graduate student and Alan Baharlou, retiree and delegate to the Senate Forum;
Back Row: L to R: Laura Castelon and Mary Temples, graduate students in gerontology, Mike O'Donnell, executive director, East Central AAA; President William Perry, EIU; Dale Wolf, President Charleston Chamber of Commerce and EIU Chapter State University Annuity Association; Mary May and Sarah Verley, gerontology graduate students, EIU

Others not pictured who attended the session, Janna Overstreet, Director, Continuing Education; Amanda Messinger and Leah Bromm, interns for community service; Marilyn Strangeman, Bob Handshy, and Lou Marble, RSVP; Colleen Stoner, Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Bush Regional Hospital Center; Mary Temples, Graduate Assistant; Jackie Frank, Coordinator Gerontology Program; Dan Nadler, Vice President, Student Services, and Jane Angelis, representing the Serve Illinois Commission.

5. Generations learn more about one another.

Generations Serving Generations calls for an effort to foster awareness of the differences between generations, particularly how they communicate, their comfort with technology, and the historical events that have driven each generation. Whenever generations congregate, they learn something about the other. That contact is the basis for learning more about the characteristics of other generations and foster understanding of development through the lifespan.

When four generations sit down together the conversation can be profound and humorous, particularly when discussing issues like authority, responsibility, and technology. During a four-generation discussion during the Aging is an Asset Forum, held in Chicago in 2009, each group reported their views on authority. Generation Y said they are often rebellious. Generation X said they tend to collaborate and the Boomers responded that they often question authority. The report from the oldest generation was given by Mary Walsh, a "60 something" who took the stage with a gleam in her eye. She said, "The view of authority from the oldest generation is 'We're it.'"



Four-Generation Discussion
L to R: John Murphy, vice president, University Professionals of Illinois; Jackie Mattfeld, Center for Creative Aging, Harold Washington College; Mary Walsh, Rosemont Intergenerational Programs; Evelyn Gooden, AARP; and Jerry Carducci, Age Lessons.



Individuals and organizations are already planning events to celebrate Generations Serving Generations. Carol Davis, Vice President, Spoon River College in Canton and retirees are planning a pancake breakfast to get together and talk about how they will celebrate the year. Joyce Palmquist, director, Barrington Area Council on Aging and colleagues are bringing together a cross section of their community to discuss how they can work together and celebrate their 25 years. Barbara Bryne, RSVP, Rock Island, is developing a Fact Sheet and publicity materials for her 10-county service area. Maria Malayter, National Louis University, is planning a conference on Positive Aging.

Cathy Demetrio, intergenerational pioneer from Lake Forest, is planning an intergenerational cooking event to open dialogue between younger and older generations. Russ Marineau from the HURRAH Intergenerational Program in Naperville is working with the Naperville High School on an intergenerational fitness program. Mabel Hayes from John A. Logan College in southern Illinois and her group of older learners are having an intergenerational conference on staying healthy. Mary Simon, a 94-year old educator in Carbondale, hopes to establish a campus reading center, so that every student can read at grade level.

In rural communities, inner-city neighborhoods, suburbs and cities, all generations will be involved with the Year of the Engaged Older Adult. Older adults will tutor, mentor, provide guest lectures, and support

learning. Students will visit nursing homes, teach retirees about computers, and gather family histories. In universities, architecture students will learn more about the housing needs of older adults, and students in history, planning and urban development, nutrition and recreation will learn about how their future careers intersect with the aging of Illinois.

Through Generations Serving Generations, stronger partnerships will be developed between education and the community. Students and retirees will put their heads together and take on the greater needs of the community and promote livable communities for all ages.



The December Advisory Meeting of the NGA Illinois Policy Academy featured a small group discussion regarding the Year of the Engaged Older Adult and how to get involved.
L to R: Doris Odem, Center for Leadership, University of Illinois Extension; Jorge Partida, Author and Consultant, Aurora; Peggy Luce, Vice President, Chicagoland Chamber; Ann Rich, Chicago Life Opportunities Initiative; and John Hosteny, Corporation for National Service.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Community newspapers are valuable assets in communicating information about the Year of the Engaged Older Adult.

Part of civic engagement is getting involved and accomplishing good things for your community. The second part is publicizing what you do so others will follow your example and get involved.

Your local newspaper will give you a good start. They can advise you about preparing your message and then feature an article about your celebration of Generations Serving Generations. Once your article has appeared, you have a good start with word-of-mouth publicity, radio, TV, and on the Internet. All are important to reach a wide audience.

Older adults say that word-of-mouth may be the most powerful way of informing your friends and colleagues. Talk to friends and relatives. Gather at your local meeting place to discuss the importance of engaging older adults and to plan community strategies.

You can publicize Generations Serving Generations by gathering stories about the contributions of older adults, or the ways that generations are working together, and coming events that give students and retirees talk time to discuss their roles in the Year of the Engaged Older Adult.

The Internet and new technologies provide ways of extending the reach of your message, particularly with younger generations and those with tech savvy. Add the logo or banner to your web site or e-mail response.

Go to the Generations Serving Generations website to find ways of sharing what you are doing, notice the press releases and resources, and find out what others in the 102 counties are doing.



The intergenerational team of the Illinois Policy Academy discusses a survey and publicity for Generations Serving Generations. L to R: Russ Marineau, HURRAH Intergenerational Program, Naperville; Margot Williams, University of Illinois Extension; John Sirek, McCormick Foundation; and Nina Menis, Naperville 203 Schools. Not pictured: Mary Walsh, Rosemont Intergenerational Programs; Helene Block, GrandFriendships, Downers Grove, and Hanna Benioff, Downers Grove Township

Visit the Generations Serving Generations web site to add your information and to learn about others:
www.law.siu.edu/GenServeGen

Send your ideas and suggestions for celebrating
<http://www.law.siu.edu/genservegen/suggestionsform.asp>

If you would like to include your organization as a sponsor:
<http://www.law.siu.edu/GenServeGen/sponsorform.asp>

Join others who receive information about the Year
<http://www.law.siu.edu/GenServeGen/informationform.asp>

Include your events in the calendar
<http://www.law.siu.edu/GenServeGen/eventsform.asp>

- 1** Northwestern IL AAA
Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago Counties
- 2** Northeastern IL AAA
DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
- 3** Western Illinois AAAA
Bureau, Henderson, Henry, Knox, LaSalle, McDonough, Mercer, Putnam, Rock Island, and Warren Counties
- 4** Fulton, Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties
- 5** Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, McLean, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, and Vermilion Counties
- 6** West Central Illinois AAA
Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler Counties
- 7** AAA for Lincolnland, Inc.
Cass, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott Counties
- 8** AAA of Southwestern Illinois
Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, and Washington Counties
- 9** Midland AAA
Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jefferson, and Marion Counties
- 10** Southeastern Illinois AAA
Crawford, Edwards, Hamilton, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White Counties
- 11** Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, and Williamson Counties
- 12** Chicago Area Agency on Aging
City of Chicago
- 13** Age Options
Suburban Chicago

ORGANIZING ALL 102 COUNTIES THROUGH THE 13 AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

The challenge for Generations Serving Generations is to reach every county, every community, and every neighborhood in Illinois. This action is enhanced by the support of the Illinois Department on Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging. AAAs provide services to older adults and are currently implementing a project to promote age-friendly and livable communities. Most every community has a library, a school, a mayor, and a Chamber of Commerce. Generations Serving Generations will seek these connections so that the spirit of the Year of the Engaged Older Adult can reach all Illinoisans.



GATHERING STORIES IS KEY TO GENERATIONS SERVING GENERATIONS

The stories of our communities, workplaces, and families are the foundation for life today. We can discover solutions for problems that seem insurmountable if we listen to the history of how similar problems have been solved in the past. It is an important learning experience for all ages, particularly for school children who find anchors and role models in older generations.

"Hearing family stories can lead to spirited discussions and fascinating adventures that are part of learning about the past," says Pat Bearden, a Chicago historian who has explored her history. She told about finding a photo of her family taken in 1911. The photo had been stapled many times to hold it together.

"Learning about my history gave me a connection to the past and how I came to be who I am today," Bearden said. "Our stories define who we are, where we came from, and what our ancestors experienced. The common thread for all people and all countries is our stories."

Shannon Wimberly from Marion in southern Illinois, tells about gathering history from his family. "When I was 9, I had an assignment to write about Charlie Berger, the infamous gangster who was in cahoots with the mob in Chicago and part of the Bloody Williamson massacre."

"I settled in my usual position on the floor and told my grandmother that I was writing about Charlie Byrd. She said, 'I knew Charlie Byrd. He was very nice to me.' She told me about being a waitress at the Carterville Café when she was 16 years old and how Byrd came in with his gang. 'They were good looking, dressed nice, and tipped real good.'"

Wimberly says, "When you are young, you think 20 years is forever, and don't make a connection to history," but when a story is told by someone who has lived the history, it comes alive."

"There were so many things I could have learned from my grandfather but he was disconnected from the family and just wasn't in my life. He was a wiz at electronics and a talented welder. I missed learning those skills and other life skills he could have taught me. Grandparents and parents can and should guide younger generations and the family history should be passed from generation to generation."

Gathering family stories is like an archaeological adventure, generations explore their history together and in the process strengthen the ties between them. The stories become part of the lives of young people and a common script between families. When the story is about success and accomplishments, younger



Three generations make gingerbread houses and have time to talk about baking, school, and family stories. L to R: Kate Davis, Geneva, and Jack Davis, Lake Forest. The program was organized by Cathy Demetrio, Lake Forest, a member of the Advisory Team for Generations Serving Generations.

generations hear about the struggles and failures that were part of that success. They learn about peaks and valleys of life: they learn that they aren't traveling this path alone, that their forbears made it possible.

Start and end your family get together with stories. Reminisce about how older generations celebrated birthdays and holidays and what held excitement for them. What were the humorous incidents they remember? Display an old photo album and find out about those people in the photo with the ancient cars. Write the stories, record them and preserve your precious history.

The common thread for all people and all countries is our stories.

Pat Bearden

GENEALOGY BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE

Chika Oduah
Medill School of Journalism

Speaking to her reflection in a wall-to-wall mirror in her grandmother's living room one evening, ten-year-old McKinzie Domer summoned her great-great-great-great grandmother. "Fredonia, you have helped me," she said. "When I'm having a hard time, I think about what the slaves went through and what you went through." After a pause of silence and a lean forward, she asked her ancestor what it was like to travel as a young girl with her slave owner to Aberdeen, Mississippi, from Virginia, before the Civil War. "Was it hard when you walked?" McKinzie asked. "Did you, like, wish you had a bed, or shoes?"

Since she was four years old, McKinzie has been learning the histories of her ancestors from her grandmother, Patricia Bearden, and said she is now spiritually connected to Fredonia--one of her favorite ancestors. "I feel like I know Fredonia; I know what she went through," she said.

Bearden, who is the president of the Chicago-based International Society of Sons and Daughters of Slave Ancestry, said when her granddaughter was in first grade, she asked if Harriett Tubman knew Fredonia because they both lived in the same time period. "That's when



McKinzie Domer asks her grandmother, Pat Bearden, about her family history.

I knew she had connected to that generation," Bearden said. "That's good because chronology is one of the hardest things for kids to get."

Now McKinzie is so deeply steeped in her family history that she made presentations on it for the Juneteenth commemoration of the end of slavery at the Chicago Children's Museum, the Woodson Regional Library and the Hotel Florence Museum. "If you want to learn about your ancestors and where they were born and who their slaves were," McKinzie said, "you should come listen to me and I will tell you about mine and maybe you'll get interested." The doe-eyed, charismatic girl is fulfilling a vow that her grandmother had made to make sure that her grandchildren knew their family history at an early age.

Bearden is part of a vibrant Chicago community of African-American genealogists working to engage youth in understanding their past. Efforts span local churches, Boy Scout troops and even the Chicago Public Schools. On a recent Sunday morning at the Fernwood United Methodist Church in Roseland, the Rev. Albert Sampson told his congregation, "We are a people that don't have to be ashamed of its history or legacy," then lined up the children and told them, "You represent a tradition." His church teaches that tradition through its genealogy department and its "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" program.

Meanwhile, Boy Scouts from Troop No. 534 learn about their family roots with their genealogy counselor, Jimmie Jones, and have

an opportunity to earn a merit badge in genealogy. Jones, who has been with the troop for 28 years, leads them on research outings to the library and the national archives, and gives them assignments to talk to their parents about family history. "Oh, these boys — they really like it," Jones said.

Scout master Eddie Banks Sr. said, "As a black man, I think young black men need to talk about their family roots," he said.

Even the Chicago Public Schools have become involved in teaching family history. Internationally renowned genealogy expert Tony Burroughs wrote a genealogy curriculum for the schools and recommended genealogy software that has been placed in every high school and middle school in Chicago. Some teachers have added genealogy into their history classes. "We're giving students the tools as well as the training," Burroughs said.

The Bronzeville Alliance also is talking to principals about adding after school programs on genealogy. Burroughs leads alliance workshops, teaching families how to do their own family research. The efforts reflect the alliance's African philosophy of Sankofa, meaning "return and get it."

Group organizer John Owens said learning family history will encourage students to be more involved in academics and may also curb youth violence. "When I watch the students when they get out of school, I can count only one of them holding a book in their hand," he said.

Lanette Stigsen, who coordinates trips to Ghana for Chicago students through the Kokrobitey Institute in Ghana, recently began working with the Bronzeville Alliance to promote the genealogy curriculum. "These young people need to know that they come from a place worth remembering — that's Africa," Stigsen said.

Patricia Bearden, a retired Chicago school teacher, said she became a believer of teaching genealogy after using it with her second grade students. "It definitely



McKinzie's sketch of her relationship with her great-great-great-great grandmother.

calmed the classroom down," she said. "They changed their whole way of looking at themselves and each other."

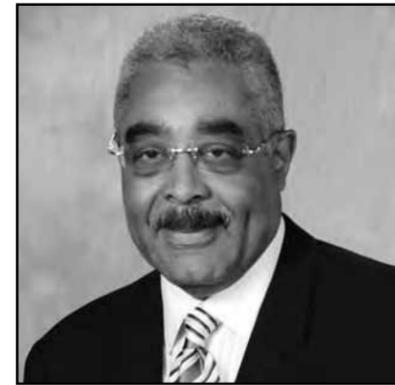
Bearden won a Golden Apple Award in 1991 and with a few colleagues, wrote an award-winning book in 1999 about her experience with teaching family history to her students.

Her granddaughter is inheriting that experience. Her eyes light up and her speech quickens when she talks about her family. "Fredonia reminds me of my granny," McKinzie said. "My great-great-great-great grandmother was brave, like granny is."

Chika Oduah is a reporter for the Medill News Service and is a student in the Medill School of Journalism's master's degree program at Northwestern University. As a native of Nigeria, Chika sees journalism as a way to empower the global audience. An anthropologist at heart, Chika approaches journalism from a cultural perspective. Her philosophy: the stories we share should inspire, enlighten and connect.



Greetings from National Leaders



"Boomers are active, engaged and stand ready to serve. Governor Quinn's new campaign will only increase the opportunities older Illinoisans and their families have to contribute and create change in their communities. Already, more than nine million volunteers, donors and activists work with AARP and through CreateTheGood.org nationwide, but we expect that number to rise now that people in Illinois can find ways to give back right in their own neighborhoods."

Barry Rand
CEO of AARP



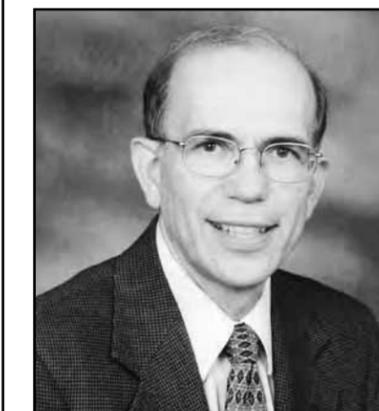
"The older generation represents an invaluable resource for mentoring young people on the value of education and the many uses that a quality education can have in preparing young people for college and the workplace."

Arthur Rothkopf
Senior Vice-President
U.S. Chamber of Commerce



"Older and younger generations are at their best when working together. Public policy is at its best when it recognizes the strengths of all generations and addresses the needs of young and old. Congratulations on your celebration of Generations Serving Generations in 2010."

Donna Butts
Executive Director
Generations United



"There is significant potential for older adults to contribute to the education of the younger generation. I think there will be expanding opportunities in the future for older adults to work full- or part-time or to volunteer in school or college libraries, to tutor students, to assist teachers, or even to teach or counsel. The life experiences they have will be a great benefit in their interactions with the younger generation.

Community colleges have always encouraged people of all ages to enroll in classes, but the older adult market will become increasingly important to higher education, community colleges in particular because of

their adaptability and policies that accommodate part-time students.

Future retirees will likely want to remain active, and that will probably mean that they will have to learn new skills that can be applied to 'enclave' careers, volunteer activities, or hobbies. The most effective way to learn these new skills will be provided by community colleges."

George Boggs
CEO, American Association of Community Colleges

Illinois Leaders Applaud Generations Serving Generations

State Leaders



"My philosophy in life is simple: make sure you do something good for someone else each and every day, I encourage older adults to take advantage of their wisdom and life experiences and use these assets to help young people become better educated and better informed. We all win when this happens."

Secretary of State Jesse White



"As Attorney General, my office regularly partners with senior residents and community groups across the state to raise public awareness about fighting consumer fraud and preventing crime. Through these efforts, I have experienced firsthand, the talent, wisdom and energy that Illinois' seniors have to offer. Encouraging our seniors to take on meaningful civic roles benefits our entire community and demonstrates the importance of a lifelong commitment to public involvement."

Attorney General Lisa Madigan

Leaders of the General Assembly



"The Year of the Engaged Older Adult will spark a movement that acknowledges the gifts and talents of Illinoisans and gives them the opportunity to serve their state and country."

Senate President John Cullerton



"If we are to address the great challenges in Illinois in a meaningful way, it will take the cooperation of all our citizens. Our older generations have so much to offer. Partnership with the youth of today — bringing all the generations together — is key to our success in Illinois. It is a true honor to be part of Generations Serving Generations."

Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno



"Illinois has always benefited from the wisdom and leadership of residents who have spent a life time raising families, growing businesses and making our communities better places to live. I think we can be certain that this wealth of experience will provide valuable guidance in overcoming the state's many challenges."

Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan



"It's very important for all of us to be engaged with each other as much as possible to come up with the best solutions. When older adults are engaged with the next generations—they can bring their vast experiences and knowledge and mix it with the younger generation's passion and enthusiasm to achieve great things."

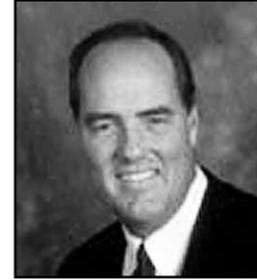
Rep. Tom Cross (R-Oswego)

Business Leaders



"Tapping into the educator retirement pool to find talented and experienced people to assist in nurturing young minds is a great idea with exceptional potential. It could provide a valuable new human infrastructure for education."

Doug Whitley, Executive Director Illinois Chamber of Commerce



"As one generation graduates, another retires. The experiences gained through a life of work or community service are a natural resource to the incoming generation that can not be measured and must not go untapped."

Jeff Mays, President Illinois Business Roundtable

Aging and Education Leaders



"It is important to work with individuals, organizations and networks to promote civic engagement. Our citizens ages 50 years and older are ready to engage in activities that boost education, strengthen the workforce and enrich community life."

Charles Johnson, Director Illinois Department on Aging



"One of the problems with education is that you are too young to understand its importance while you are a student. However, when older generations are connected to students, they talk about the real world and why a good education matters."

Carrie Hightman, Chair Illinois Board of Higher Education

"Older adults and community colleges have a win/win relationship. Older adults bring their experience, history, and knowledge to enrich the environment. Community colleges provide training programs for older workers, lifelong learning programs, and opportunities to serve the community."

Guy Alongi, Chair Illinois Community College Board



"For older Americans, civic engagement and service do not end at retirement. Individuals age 50 and older bring a lifetime of learning and skills to help make a difference in the places where they live."

The year 2010 brings great potential for older Illinoisans to engage in activities that will improve the quality of life for all citizens."

Bob Gallo, State Director, AARP



"Older adults make up a large and growing segment of our population. They represent a tremendous resource for our state and our country, and the need for their experience and the wisdom that experience brings could not come at a better time."

John Peters, President Council of University Presidents and Northern Illinois University



"The aging population in Illinois presents limitless opportunities to impact the nation's youth in a significant way. Our country needs these dedicated people to pass on the meaning of being an American citizen and ensure our way of life for generations to come."

Jason E. Leahy, Executive Director Illinois Principals Association

"More than ever before it is important to educate, engage, and raise awareness of the public with the challenges of an aging population. As state community colleges, we are willing partners for this endeavor."

John Erwin, President Council of Community College Presidents and Illinois Central College



"Linking older persons with opportunities to actively participate in their communities results in win-win situations. Through civic engagement, be it volunteer, paid employment, or participation in learning activities, older adults can contribute to the betterment of their communities and also make their own lives healthier and more fulfilling."

Julie Hubbard, President Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging



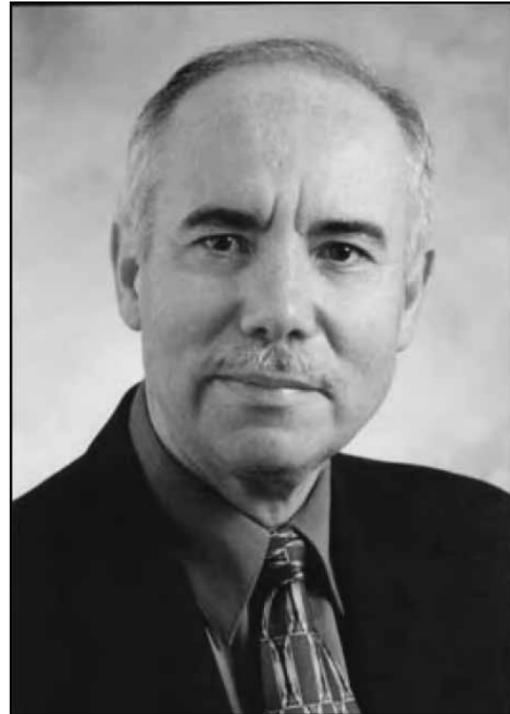
P-20 Council Brings New Opportunities for Education

More than 20 years ago, Harold Hodgkinson, the famous demographer, published *All One System*, which presented the argument that a "nation's graduate schools were dependent in part on the quality of its kindergartens." Ten years later, in *Two Different Worlds*, Patrick Callan, National Center for Public Policy in Higher Education and Michael Usdan, Institute for Educational Leadership wrote, "There is a profound cultural chasm between K-12 and higher education. The two sectors continue to live and work apart, with separate associations, professional worlds and networks." Today little has changed, students are the only ones who travel through the educational system from start to finish.

Amid this pessimism about a lack of connections between education and educators, Illinois has new hope. First, educators and policy makers are more aware of the bridges that must be built between all levels of education and are building them. Second, the increasing number of retirees, a generation that is passionate about learning, presents new opportunities for education from preschool through college. Only 22% of those 65+ volunteer and a mere 7% help in education.

Another reason for optimism is the newly appointed P-20 Council. The Council will bring new momentum to support consistent data, policy, testing, and curricula across the educational system. The great hope for the P-20 Council is that it will increase communication throughout the education pipeline and engage all generations in shaping a seamless system of learning for Illinois.

In early December, Governor Pat Quinn appointed a blue ribbon P-20 Council and named Chicago City Clerk and former state senator Miguel del Valle as chair. The Council includes business leaders, teachers,



P-20 Council Chairman Miguel del Valle

parents, civic groups, university, community college and school officials. There are four legislative members on the council and seven ex-officio members from state agencies. "With these appointments, Illinois is sending a strong signal to Washington that a top-notch education for all students is a foremost priority," said Governor Quinn.

Quinn's appointment of del Valle as panel chair is an inspired choice. Miguel de Valle is known for his passion regarding education and his ability to motivate and bring people to consensus.

The great hope for the P-20 Council is that it will increase communication throughout the education pipeline and engage all generations in shaping a seamless system of learning for Illinois.

YOU HAVE TO GET EVERYONE TO THE TABLE

Miguel del Valle, the chair of the new P-20 Council, describes how education has been a driving force in his personal, professional and political life. He says, "I live and breathe it."

The seeds for del Valle's commitment to education were planted when he was a young student. He moved from Puerto Rico to Chicago when he was 4 years old. When he started school he didn't speak English so he was relegated to the sidelines. His curriculum consisted of playing table games with other students. At the end of the year, he was given a note that requested his mother to come to the school. She went with a translator and was told "Your son will have to repeat first grade because he does not speak English."

In third grade, young Miguel was discovered. "A teacher saw potential in me." He describes a reading program that gave him confidence and a teacher who made a difference in his life and helped him excel. "When I succeeded, the teacher gave me small rewards. I did so well that I was double promoted." Del Valle believes that good teachers are critical to success. "If students have effective teachers for three years, regardless of the school or geographic location, it wipes out the achievement gap."

Former State Senator del Valle says that he ran for office to shape

policy and "my top priority was education." He said, "Everyone assumed that I would lose the election — I had no money and no political organization but I campaigned full time for 6 months." He said that he received help with one mailing at the very end of his campaign from Cesar Chavez and to everyone's surprise he was elected.

"In my first term, I introduced a bill that would have required higher education to give feedback to high schools. Now we have a longitudinal system." Years ago, we talked about graduation requirements with increased math and science courses. In 2003-4 we phased in those requirements." He speaks with pride about his first bill

approved by the General Assembly that called for an annual report about under served populations.

"We have been talking about a seamless system of education for years." In government when you have different entities, often turf, separation and other things get in the way of an efficient and effective system. Silos are common.

The P-20 Council will address key issues, such as the achievement gap. He said that we must begin with 0-3 and build the infrastructure to connect preschool with the rest of education. The P-20 Council is the broadest and most inclusive effort to date. "You have to get everyone to the table!"

Miguel del Valle had a history of organizing students to advocate for educational reform. In the early 90s, nearly 400 students from Clemente School met with University of Illinois Chancellor James Stukel. The students began chanting "Open the Doors". Ultimately UIC established a Transfer Center and developed a curriculum on race relations for state colleges.



MEMBERS OF THE P-20 COUNCIL



Joshua Anderson
Teach for America



Perry Buckley
IFT Cook County College Teachers



Ron Bullock
Bison Gear



Brad Burzynski
Senate Republican



Thomas L. Choice
Kishwaukee College



Barbara Flynn Currie
House Democrat



Deanna Demuzio
Senate Democrat



Ray Hancock
Illinois CC System Foundation



Fr. Dennis Holtschneider
DePaul University



Ron Huberman
Chicago Public Schools



Erika Hunt
Illinois State University



Michael Johnson
IL Association of School Boards



Joyce Karon
Illinois State Board of Education



Debra Kasperski
National Board Certified Teacher



Maggie Laslo
Service Employees Intern'l Union



John Luczak
Joyce Foundation



Jerry Mitchell
Republican Representative



Gary Niehaus
Superintendent McLean County



Dea Meyer
Civic Committee



Jeff Owens
Advanced Technology Services



Sharon Thomas Parrot
DeVry University



Cynthia Plouche
Williams Capitol Management



Glenn Poshard
Southern Illinois University



Laurel Prussing
Urbana Mayor



John Rico
Rico Enterprises



Kathy Ryg
Voices for Illinois Children



Audrey Soglin
Illinois Education Association



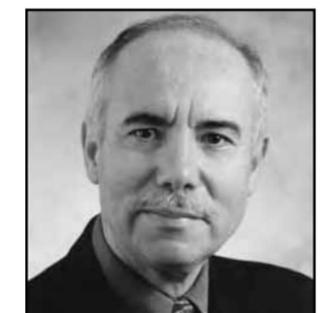
Robin Steans
Advance Illinois



Rick Stephens
Boeing



Debra Strauss
Illinois PTA



Miguel del Valle
Chairman, P-20 Council

COMMENTS FROM P-20 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members of the P-20 Council were invited to send comments on any of the following: your view of the Council, your commitment to P-20, the potential for the P-20 Council, or what the P-20 Council means to you. The following are excerpts from their comments.

"I believe that P-20 can lay the groundwork for the empowerment of the children of Illinois by offering every child a high quality education which ultimately contributes to the future economic well-being of the state." Cynthia Plouche, Williams Capitol Management

"Done well, a state's education system provides a seamless, stimulating and supportive education to all children from birth through post-secondary and beyond. The P-20 Council provides a terrific opportunity to help integrate student experiences and expectations across the education continuum."

Robin Steans, Executive Director, Advance Illinois

"I see the mission of the Council to serve as a resource for the development of a seamless statewide system of education in which all levels of education {serving birth to work} coordinate, communicate, and educate as one system rather than several."

Erika Hunt, Professor, Illinois State University

"The concept of a P-20 Council has been on the burner since I came on the ISBE Board in 2003. It is great that this is finally a reality, and I hope that we can utilize the work that ISBE is already involved in to move the P-20 agenda goals."

Joyce Karon, ISBE Member

"I see the P-20 Council as the vehicle for meaningful dialogue on the best practices for the students of Illinois. It is about the teaching and learning needed to overcome the transitions through P-20."

Gary C. Niehaus, Superintendent, McLean CUD No. 5

"The work of the Illinois P-20 Council is essential to the success of Illinois as a viable State, and education

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE P-20 COUNCIL



Chris Koch
State Superintendent



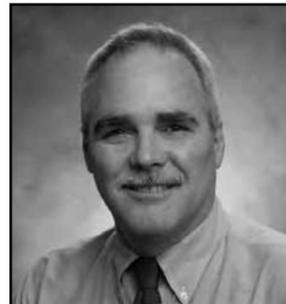
Judy Erwin, Exec. Director
IL Board of Higher Education



Geoff Obrzut, Exec. Director
IL Community College Board



Jeffrey Stauter
Senior Advisor, IL DCEO



Andy Davis, Executive Director
IL Student Assistance Commis.



Max McGee, Director
IL Science and Math Academy

Not pictured: Diana Rauner, Director, Early Learning Council and Julie Smith, Coordinator, P-20 Council, Office of the Governor

(along with genetics and family influence) from birth to death, is the single most important thing an individual does in Illinois and throughout the world."

Ray Hancock, PhD, President
Illinois Community College System Foundation

National Service Recognition Day

The AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America — to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.



AmeriCorps members raise their hands pledging a year of their lives to improve education, human services, the environment, public health and safety in communities across Illinois. Nearly 1000 Illinoisans representing AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs attended the recognition day at the Illinois State Capitol marking the 16th anniversary. "National service is an excellent opportunity for people to volunteer their time and talents and give something back to their communities," said Ted Gibbs, executive director of the Serve Illinois Commission. Rosemary Keefe, Vice Chair of the Commission, lead the group in taking the pledge. Merri Dee, a Commission member, spoke about her commitment to service. More than 72,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are serving in 144 national service projects across Illinois.

Dropout Prevention Summits

YOUTH SUMMIT



During breakout sessions, students reflected on safe places, health, service, caring adults, and education. Each student wrote an idea on a sticky note and then together they developed a pattern for each topic.



During the closing session of the Summit, students from schools and youth service programs throughout Illinois, spoke passionately to one another about how the world perceives them, what they can do, what their parents should do, and how caring adults have made a big difference in their lives.

Student leaders planned, organized and led a youth summit held on October 4, 2009 in Bloomington, which was sponsored State Farm Insurance, America's Promise, Boeing and others. More than 215 students journeyed from the four corners of Illinois to lend their ideas, opinions and views for the future. Their group discussions targeted the five promises pledged by the America's Promise Alliance: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education, and opportunities to help others.

During the closing session of the Summit, the students from schools and youth service programs spoke passionately to one another about how the world perceives them, what they can do, what their parents should do, and how caring adults have made a big difference in their lives.

First, they talked about adult behavior toward them: "Listen to us," "Look at it through our eyes. Come to us – love us – don't put us down. We are achievers – not dropouts."

They want and need respect and acknowledgement: "We need recognition for our contributions." They also complimented people in their lives who believed in them. "I was ready to drop out and then the assistant principal and guidance counselor helped me so I didn't drop out." "Teachers are the best."

The students had clear messages for their parents: "Care but don't carry." They want parents not friends, and they understood the idea that their parents didn't want them to make the same mistakes they had made.

The last theme was encouraging one another. They spoke with eloquence and passion. "Encourage ourselves – we can do whatever we put our minds to." "You are unique, don't let people get in the way of your life goal. You have the power to be successful." They encouraged one another to tell their stories, "Keep telling our stories of success so others can identify with our experiences." "Stay out of trouble – stay away from drugs and alcohol – love ourselves." "Be the generation to teach the next generations good things. Don't hate, participate." "We can be leaders."

CALL FOR OLDER MENTORS

The dropout crisis is a fixable problem — we know who drops out and why they drop out, according to *More to Give*, a Civic Enterprises report written by John Bridgeland, Robert Putnam, and Harris Wofford. This awareness should enable a targeted and focused approach to addressing the dropout epidemic by involving older generations.

Students often comment that one of the benefits of contact with older adults is that they understand the real world. In the *Silent Epidemic*, a Civic Enterprises Report on dropouts, "four out of five (81 percent) said there should be more opportunities for real-world learning and experiential learning. They said students need to see the connection between school and getting a good job. The report notes that schools should provide mentors, internships, service-learning, and adult advocates so they can help students find the support they need."

According to Bridgeland, Putnam, and Wofford, "Americans of all ages and from all sectors of American life — private, non-profit, public secular, religious, and he media — should make it a priority to engage the Boomer, Silent, and Greatest Generations to meet America's challenges.

"Our nation needs a change in attitudes, as well as policies, to foster a stronger culture of ser-

vice and engagement among these generations. We should undertake all means to encourage leaders to gain a better understanding of the untapped potential these generations of Americans represent, and the promising and innovative ways in which we might further engage them."

If more students could have older mentors, we might begin to address the economic nightmare that will result if the dropout rate continues. Statistics from the Alliance for Education Excellence give a clear picture of the economic impact of dropouts. For example, in the Chicago metropolitan area, an estimated 32,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits:

- \$211 million in increased earnings
- 1,750 new jobs
- economic growth of \$290 million
- 25 million in increased tax revenue
- increased enrollment in higher education.

"How we engage the longest-living, best educated, wealthiest, and most highly skilled generations of Americans will tell us a lot about whether we will confront our great challenges" (*More to Give*).

THE ADULT SUMMIT

Representatives of education, business, and advocacy organizations led the Illinois Dropout Prevention Summit, held on November 4, 1009 at Illinois State University, to develop a framework for an action plan. Alma Powell, from America's Promise provided daunting statistics. "Dropouts are twice as likely to be unemployed. They're three times more likely to live in poverty—and eight times more likely to wind up in prison. And children of dropouts are twice as likely to become dropouts themselves."

Jo Anderson, representing U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, said that meeting the dropout challenge "will take the entire community and the entire state." Rick Stephens, Vice President at Boeing and Chair, Illinois Business Roundtable, noted that the workforce of tomorrow will depend on solving the problem of dropouts. Chris Koch, State Superintendent said that "Dropouts are one of our crucial educational issues."

"Too many young people in Illinois and across the nation are dropping out of school, jeopardizing their futures and that of our communities. The need has never been greater for us to come together in ways that



The speakers at the Dropout Prevention Summit for Adults held at Illinois State University. L to R: Rick Stephens, VP Boeing; Chris Koch, State Superintendent of Education; Alma Powell, Board Chair, America's Promise, Jo Anderson, Senior Advisory, U.S. Dept. of Education and Ed. Rust, CEO, State Farm Insurance.

need curriculum reform, after-school programs, efforts to improve health care and nutrition programs, increased resources and greater accountability. Most of all, we need to recognize that no one local or national entity can solve this crisis alone, but working together, we can make enormous strides to ensure our children succeed."

A report commissioned by America's Promise Alliance, the nation's largest alliance of organizations working on behalf of children and youth, found that only about half of all students served by the main school systems in the nation's largest 50 cities graduate from high school. In Illinois, 87.1% of all students graduate from high school with a regular diploma in four years. Nationwide, nearly one out of every three public high school students drop out before graduation. That's 1.3 million each year, on every 26 seconds or nearly 7,200 each school day.

Research shows that the more support youth have, both inside and outside of the classroom, the more likely they are to stay in school. Specifically, research demonstrates that the more young people experience five essential wrap-around supports, what the Alliance calls the "Five Promises" the greater their chance for future success.

The Summits were part of America's Promise Alliance's Drop Out Prevention Campaign, a national effort to reduce high school dropout rates and prepare

children for college, work, and life. The campaign includes a series of Summits held in every state and 55 communities over the next two years. The lead sponsor for the national campaign is the State Farm Insurance.

"Too many young people in Illinois and across the nation are dropping out of school, jeopardizing their futures and that of our communities. The need has never been greater for us to come together in ways that provide our youth the necessary experiences and skills so they are prepared for college and demands of work and everyday life."

Ed Rust, CEO, State Farm Insurance

Congratulations and best wishes to Ed Rust for his impressive contributions to education in Illinois and 25 years of leadership at State Farm Insurance. - Editor

Aging is an Asset for Health Promotion



A small group of invited experts and advocates discussed how individuals and organizations can contribute to evidence-based health promotion in Illinois. Pictured above is the Opening Session. The event was held at the SIU School of Law and sponsored by the Center for Health Law and Policy.

Group examines health promotion and other issues among older populations

Becky Malkovich
The Southern

Barriers to healthy lifestyles, as well as ways of discussion during a forum hosted by the Center for Health Law and Policy on November 23 at Southern Illinois School of Law.

The "Aging is an Asset for Health Promotion" forum brought together a team of experts and advocates to draft recommendations about health promotion. The goal is to learn how individuals can help people take more responsibility for their health and the decisions they make that affect their health.

Forum participants were split into four discussion groups targeting four different areas: health information, intergenerational health promotion, age-friendly communities and end-of-life decisions. Each group spent the morning talking about problems and brainstorming solutions. They were then asked to come up with three specific policy recommendations to be delivered to Illinois Senate committees. John Smith, director of Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, helped chair the age-friendly communities session. Much of the discussion centered on the importance of infrastructure, Smith said. "One of our main challenges is that we're

Continued pg 29

Themes for Discussion Groups

A small group of invited experts and advocates discussed how individuals and organizations can contribute to evidence-based health promotion in Illinois. These discussions were framed by Senate Bill 2012 (Public Law 095-0900): Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Goal: Discuss how individuals can take more responsibility for their health

Outcome of Discussions: Propose achievable and cost-effective recommendations for healthy lifestyles.

Group One: Health Information

An important component is getting the word out about health promotion and the resources available on campuses and in communities.

Group Two: Intergenerational Health Promotion

Health Promotion begins with young children and continues throughout the life span. Schools can serve as a valuable center and resource to promote health among older adults and families. Further, older adults can contribute to the health of younger generations in many ways.

Group Three: Age-friendly Communities

The design of communities is key to the health and welfare of older adults and essential to their ability to age in place. Likewise the health savvy of the workforce can have an impact on healthy aging.

Group Four: End-of-Life Decisions

End-of-life decisions must be considered as aging occurs thus changing the stigma surrounding such discussions



Tom Hughes (left), IL Public Health Association and Miriam Link-Mullison, Jackson County Health Department, explain the great need for accurate information about evidence-based health promotion.



Gene Basanta responds to the interest in service learning as a way of stimulating health promotion. L to R: Patsy Jensen, Shawnee Alliance for Seniors, Lana Campbell, Continuing Education, SIUC, Basanta, Center for Health Law and Policy, and Cynthia Sims, Workforce Education.



John Smith appreciates the humor of the moment: L to R: Marshall Kapp, Center for Health Law and Policy; Dhruvodi Mukherjee, School of Social Work, SIUC; John Smith, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging; and Linda Rene Baker, Paul Simon Public Policy, SIUC.

Aging from pg 27

lacking a lot of the health care infrastructure that metropolitan communities have. Many of our people have to travel long distances or out-of-state to get health care. So not only do many of our residents have a barrier to getting the necessary care, but there is also an economic impact to the area as people leave to get health care."

The group took a look at ways to solve the dilemma such as using technology to connect people with medical services. Discussion in the health information group centered on getting the healthy lifestyle message out as well as promoting the resources available in communities and campuses. "I think we all agreed that there is a lot of information out there, but

no one knows where to get it," said Miriam Link-Mullison of the Jackson County Health Department. "There are lots of existing resources in our communities and we have to let people know how they can access them. Also important is facilitating a shift in attitudes. We need more emphasis on keeping people healthy rather than only treating the sick.

The Aging is an Asset series uses an intergenerational approach to address issues of concern such as education and workforce development.

Thank you to the planning committee: Juliane Wallace, Kinesiology, SIUC; Mona Kerns, Southern Illinois Health; Gene Basanta, Center for Health Law and Policy, SIU School of Law; Ella Lacey, Emerita, SIU Medical School; Patsy Jensen, Shawnee Alliance for Seniors; Michele Meckel, Center for Health Law and Policy, SIU School of Law; John Erbes, SIU Legal Clinic; Vickie Griffin, Hospice of Southern Illinois; John Smith, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging; Elaine Jurkowsky, SIU School of Social Work; Marshall Kapp, Center for Health Law Policy, SIU School of Law, and Jane Angelis, director, Intergenerational Initiative, Center for Health Law and Policy, SIU School of Law

Aging is an Asset Series

Aging is an Asset is a series of forums on a variety of topics related to the future of Illinois. Seven have been held since 2006. Typically the Aging is an Asset Forums involve 32-36 content experts, retirees, students, and educators, who come together to discuss a topic and the opportunities for education in an aging world.

History

The first planning meeting was held at the Illinois Board of Higher Education on December 19, 2005. The goal of Aging is an Asset was to anticipate the aging of Illinois and consider older adults as resources rather than problems. Seven forums have been held sponsored by leaders from education, aging, retirement, and business.

Meetings Held

**Forum I: Aging is an Asset for Higher Education
October 11, 2006, Bloomington**
**Forum II: Aging is an Asset for P-20 Education
February 26, 2007, Bloomington**
**Forum III: Aging is an Asset for the Community
June 2007, Springfield**
**Forum IV: Aging is an Asset for the Workforce
November 13, 2007, Naperville**

**Forum V: Aging is an Asset for Civic Engagement
February 19, 2008, Chicago**
**Forum VI: Aging is an Asset for the Media
September 20, 2008, Carbondale**
**Forum VII: Aging is an Asset for Health Promotion
November 23, 2009, Carbondale**
For copies of policy papers: www.iii.siu.edu

Cities of Service

Chicago Chosen for Cities of Service Award to Increase Volunteerism

Mayors from Across the Country Launched Cities of Service Coalition to Meet President Obama's Call to Mobilize Millions more Americans in Volunteer Service

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, founding members of the Cities of Service coalition, joined Rockefeller Foundation President Dr. Judith Rodin to announce the winners of the first-ever Cities of Service Leadership Grants. Ten cities were selected to receive \$200,000 two-year grants, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, to hire a Chief Service Officer - a senior city official dedicated to developing and implementing a citywide plan to increase volunteerism and target volunteers to address their city's greatest needs. Due to the extraordinary response from cities to the first request for proposals - 50 cities applied to receive one of the ten grants - the mayors and Dr. Rodin announced that there will be a second competition in the coming months to award similar grants to an additional ten cities. The announcement was made on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a national day of service, at the John Foster Dulles School of Excellence in Chicago, where more than 100 City Year Chicago high

school students spent the day off painting hallways and murals, and re-organizing classrooms. Cities of Service is a bipartisan coalition of Mayors from across the country, representing more than 38 million Americans in 80 cities, dedicated to engaging more Americans in service and channeling volunteers towards each city's most pressing challenges.

The cities selected to receive leadership grants are Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Los Angeles, CA; Nashville-Davidson, TN; Newark, NJ; Omaha, NE; Philadelphia, PA; Sacramento, CA; Savannah, GA; and Seattle, WA. Each of these cities displayed a strong commitment to service and outlined thoughtful, thorough and creative approaches to expanding local opportunities for volunteers to make an impact.

"I can think of no better way to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and this national day of service than to invest in the capacity of cities to mobilize their citizens in innovative ways to solve our common problems," said Mayor Bloomberg. "As we work to help our neighbors and communities through the greatest financial crisis we've seen in a long time, we believe citizen service is needed now more

than ever. These grants, funded generously by the Rockefeller Foundation, will help us develop new strategies to tap volunteers as a serious strategy to solve local challenges."

"The Rockefeller Foundation is proud to continue its long tradition of supporting innovative solutions for urban communities by announcing the inaugural Cities of Service Leadership Grants," said Rockefeller Foundation President Dr. Rodin. "In each of these ten unique and diverse cities, there will now be sustained opportunities to bring systematic change and greater impact to the way communities support each other. In these difficult economic times - reflected by the overwhelming response to this new effort - there is an urgent need in local communities for volunteers, and a great need for public-private partnerships that foster and support these efforts during such a critical time."

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. showed Americans the power of volunteerism. He also showed us that one person can make a difference," said Mayor Daley. "It is with this spirit that we accept the Cities of Service Leadership Grant. I am proud of the high



Mayor Richard Daley responds to the Declaration of Service for Chicago. Those visible L to R: Judith Rodin, Rockefeller Foundation, Kenyatta Brown, City Year, Mayor Bloomberg, New York; Daley, Scott Lorenz, Chicago Cares; Kathy Engelken, Illinois Campus Compact, and Fr. Tom Croak, DePaul University.

level of volunteerism we already have in Chicago and this grant is going to help take our service to the next level. By focusing our initiative on our City's youth and those that need our help the most, we will help to secure a stronger Chicago for future generations. Volunteerism sends a powerful message - people helping people to make our cities better places to live, work and raise a family and that's the message Cities of Service carries around the nation. It is why the City of Chicago is pleased to be part of this great effort to bring new energy and new ideas to the service movement."

The Cities of Service Leadership Grants will allow each city to hire a Chief Service Officer, a senior city official dedicated to developing and implementing a citywide plan to increase volunteerism and targeting volunteers to address their city's greatest needs. To develop their local plans, mayor's offices will convene

strategic committees of service experts and stakeholders, conduct assessments of existing service levels, and identify collaborative partnerships to deepen the effects of local volunteerism. Each city will launch its comprehensive service plan by this fall.

As part of the application process, cities were asked to identify how they would conduct an assessment of existing service levels, produce a coordinated citywide plan to increase service, engage local universities, and appoint a Chief Service Officer who would report directly to the mayor or another high-ranking official in the administration. Applications were limited to members of the Cities of Service Coalition, to cities that have more than 100,000 residents, according to the 2000 census, and to cities that have at least one community college or four-year public or private university. In total, 50 cities applied

for a leadership grant. A selection committee was established to review the applications and make the selections.

As part of each application, cities were asked to submit at least two high-priority issue areas they will target with increased service. Each winning city listed education as a high priority, and Cities of Service will develop best practices and resources to help cities target that area.

Mayors' Declaration of Service

We resolve to develop a coalition of mayors from cities large and small to work together to harness and focus the energies of our citizens. Cities of Service coalition members will support efforts to increase service opportunities in our cities by:

Developing a comprehensive service plan and a coordinated strategy focused on matching volunteers and established community partners to the areas of greatest local need;

Working with other mayors and elected officials to advance strategies and best practices that accelerate the service movement and produce measurable results;

Encouraging other mayors to join this national effort to engage our citizens; and

Ensuring that the voice of cities is heard in federal legislative, policy, and program discussions related to service, which will help the country achieve the ambitious goals of the Serve America Act.

Coming Events

March 8, 2010

A Healthier Earth: A Healthier You

John a. Logan College
Day of Intergenerational Learning
Carterville

Keynote: *Aging with Grace* author David Snowden,

Sessions on the environment, health, quilting, brain power, and more.

Contact Kimber Lentz, (618) 985-2828, Ext.8583.
kimberlantz@jalc.edu

Coming March 31

Bioethics Meets Politics: What Can We Learn from the Battle for Healthcare Reform?

presented by
Rick Moody, AARP
The John and Marsha Ryan
Bioethicist-in-Residence

Sponsored by Center for
Health Law and Policy
SIU Carbondale

5:00 pm on Wednesday,
March 31
School of Law Auditorium
Carbondale

Positive Aging Conference

March 14, 2010

National-Louis University
Chicago
122 S. Michigan Ave
The Center for Positive Aging

For further information, contact: Margaret Stemler, Director of Continuing Education
margaret.stemler@nl.edu or
847-905-8034



Shining the Light on Service

Tuesday
April 13, 2010

Illinois Capitol
9:15 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Dome Day Goals:
To increase awareness among
legislators and state officials about
the importance of service
To link Illinois service organizations
For further information,
JPactor@cityyear.org



March 15-19: Chicago

Aging in America, the 2010 Annual Conference of the National Council on Aging and the American Society on Aging is recognized as:

a showcase for programs and projects that can be replicated,

a forum for policy discussion and advocacy, and

a prime source of information on new research findings in aging
It is the largest gathering of a diverse, multidisciplinary community of professionals from the fields of aging, healthcare and education.

http://www.agingconference.org/AiA10/printprogram_request.cfm

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE

JUNE 28-30
NEW YORK CITY

Convened by the Corporation
for National and Community
Service and the
Points of Light Institute

<http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/>

The Last Word

Three Cheers for AARP and Help at Home and for sponsoring this issue of Continuance.



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