

Thursday's Child



Responsible Workers, Responsive Parents: Low-Income Families in Today's Workplace

April 10, 2008

Shelley Waters Boots is a senior research associate in the Urban Institute's Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population. She specializes in children, work, and family issues. She was vice president for policy and programs at the nonprofit Parents' Action for Children, acting director for the Work and Family Program at the New America Foundation, and director of the Child Care and Development Division at the Children's Defense Fund. She began her career as a management consultant on training, technology, and organizational development in public social services agencies.

Robert Goerge is a Chapin Hall research fellow who focuses on improving information about children and families, particularly those who need specialized services related to abuse, neglect, disability, poverty, or mental illness. He also studies the effects of out-of-school programs on youth and how neighborhood conditions affect children's services and their well-being. He has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Panel on Data and Methods for Measuring the Effects of Changes in Social Welfare Programs. He is also cofounder of the International Society for Child Indicators.

Nancy Marshall-Genzer (moderator) is a senior reporter in the Washington bureau of *Marketplace*, public radio's daily business and economics news program. She has worked at NPR as a part-time newscaster, reporter, and editor and been an anchor/reporter at Oregon Public Broadcasting. In 1994, Marshall-Genzer edited and hosted a daily English-language news program from Budapest that also aired in Prague, Warsaw, Bucharest, and Tallin, Estonia. In December 1995, she moved to Tuzla, Bosnia, to cover the arrival of thousands of U.S. peacekeeping troops. She eventually became bureau chief for NBC-TV in Tuzla.

Carol Schwartz is a member of the Council of the District of Columbia and chair of its Committee on Workforce Development and Government Operations. A Republican in an overwhelmingly Democratic city, Schwartz has won citywide council races four times, first in 1984, and served on the Board of Education from 1974 to 1982. President Ford appointed her to the National Advisory Council on the Education of Disadvantaged Children, where she was vice chair from 1974 to 1979. In 2004, she received the Whitney M. Young Award for Community Service from the Greater Washington Urban League.

John Wilcox is deputy director of Corporate Voices for Working Families, whose 50 partner companies employ more than 4 million individuals. It facilitates research on workforce readiness, family economic stability, and flexibility in the workforce. Wilcox manages Corporate Voices' family economic security work, focusing on lower-wage working families, and is responsible for its internal operations, including public policy and analysis. He has worked in the nonprofit sector for most of his career, most recently as general counsel to the Center for Policy Alternatives.