

# Thursday's Child

**ChapinHall**  
at the University of Chicago



## **Immigrant Families, English Language Learners, and the Future of Education Reform** Thursday, May 21, 2009

**Clemencia Cosentino** is the acting director of the Urban Institute's Program for Evaluation and Equity Research. Her research focuses on the factors influencing educational attainment, particularly among underrepresented or underserved groups, and the mechanisms linking different educational levels. A native of Argentina, she has a special interest in the processes of acculturation and language acquisition. One of her recent studies looked at limited-English-proficient students.

**Olivia Golden** (moderator) is an institute fellow at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on the service delivery, leadership, and political strategies human services programs use to help children and families. Previous posts include director of state operations for New York's governor (2007), director of the District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Agency (2001–2004), and assistant secretary for children and families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1997–2001).

**Paul Jargowsky** is a professor of public policy at the University of Texas at Dallas and a visiting scholar at the Urban Institute. Jargowsky is well known for his work on high-poverty neighborhoods in metropolitan areas. His book, *Poverty and Place: Ghettos, Barrios, and the American City*, was named the Best Book in Urban Affairs for 1997–1998 by the Urban Affairs Association. His current research concentrates on the consequences of metropolitan spatial stratification.

**Kathleen Leos** is the president and CEO of the Global Institute for Language and Literacy Development. From 2002 to 2007, she was the assistant deputy secretary and director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition. In that position, Leos served as the education secretary's principal adviser on English language learners and worked to create a national education and accountability infrastructure for limited-English-proficient students.

**Bethany Little** is the chief education counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy, the chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. She is responsible for early childhood programs, elementary and secondary education, higher education, and workforce training. Earlier, she was the vice president for policy and federal advocacy at the Alliance for Excellent Education, director of government relations at the Children's Defense Fund, and associate director of President Clinton's Domestic Policy Council.

**Manuel Rivera** is the CEO of Global Partnership Schools. Before joining GPS in 2008, he was New York State's deputy secretary for education and the administration's senior education policy adviser. Rivera began his education career in 1975 as a teacher with the Rochester (N.Y.) City School District and served two stints as its superintendent of schools. In 2006, he was named the National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators.