

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

TODAY AT A GLANCE

7 am – 7 pm Registration Desk Open

7:30 – 9 am Breakfast

9 am – 5 pm Conference Institutes

- AFI Grantee Institute
- Children's Savings Accounts Institute
- Building Native Assets Institute

12 – 1 pm Institute Lunches

12:30 – 5 pm Conference Institutes

- Assets & Opportunity Advocates' College
- Tax, Savings and Entrepreneurship Institute

2 – 4 pm Center for Financial Services Innovation (CFSI) Bidders' Conference

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CFED THANKS ITS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

The 2012 Assets Learning Conference is made possible in part thanks to the hard work of our enthusiastic Volunteers. If you see any of the following participants with a raspberry and gold Volunteer ribbon, please take a moment to thank them for making the ALC a success.

- Suzanne Adatto, City First Enterprises
- Blair Benjamin, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art
- Aimee Chambers, St. Bernard Project
- Tianja Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Elvis Guzman, Johns Hopkins University
- Jane Hanley, AGH Strategies
- Jason Zahorchak, Yale University



Gearing Up for the Second National Poverty Summit

If you haven't heard, the second National Poverty Summit kicks off at the conclusion of the ALC, and registration is free for ALC participants. If you haven't yet signed up, don't worry; you can still register onsite at the Registration Desk located outside the Thurgood Marshall Ballroom here in the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.



The Poverty Summit kicks off Friday evening at 5 with an opening ceremony and reception.

There, you'll hear remarks from leaders in the poverty field, including Catholic Charities USA President Father Larry Snyder and CFED President Andrea Levere. On Saturday, we're offering three Plenary Sessions, which will include high-profile speakers such as Peter Edelman, Georgetown University Law Center; David Erickson, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; Nancy Andrews, Low-Income Investment Fund; and Michael Morris, National Disability Institute.

In addition to the exciting Plenary Sessions, the Poverty Summit will also offer two opportunities for Breakout Sessions, each of which will include some of the field's leading organizations such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Coalition on Human Needs.

The Poverty Summit will bring together over 300 professionals committed to reversing the national trend of growing endemic poverty. We hope you'll be part of that group by joining us at the close of the ALC.

DEMOCRACY

A JOURNAL OF IDEAS

In Your Conference Bag: Democracy Journal Symposium on Asset Building

By now, you've likely seen that your Conference bag includes the Fall 2012 edition of Democracy: A Journal of Ideas. What you may not have noticed is that the 30-page symposium at the front of this latest edition of Democracy is all about asset building. Developed specially for the Assets Learning Conference, "The Forgotten Forty Percent" chronicles the growth of poverty in the United States alongside the development of the assets field and its thousands of advocates' efforts to build a more inclusive economy.

The Democracy symposium includes short essays written by some of our field's leading thinkers. Ray Boshara's essay, for example, is titled "Ownership and Debt: Minding the Balance Sheet" and traces the short but robust history of the assets field since the publication of Michael Sherraden's gerinal 1991 book, Assets for the Poor. In the essay, Boshara argues that the better part of the '90s were spent demonstrating that, if given the opportunity and tools necessary, even the poorest of Americans will save and make a better future for themselves and for their children. Now, Boshara says, "the asset-building field [...] is ready for primetime."

While you have some down time during the next three days, take a moment to pull Democracy from your Conference bag and check out Boshara's essay and the five other essays. Then, be sure to visit the Democracy table near the Registration Desk to share your feedback with its editors.

Photo Contest: Vote for Your Favorite Finalists

This summer, CFED asked Americans what they're saving for by challenging them to send in their savings stories and photographs as part of the American Dream Photo Challenge. We received over 60 entries from contestants all over the country hoping to win the \$500 grand prize. On display at our Conference are the top finalists. So, take a walk just to the right of the registration desk and enjoy the photo gallery. Let us know your favorite on Twitter with the hashtag #ALC2012. The top three winners will be announced on Friday morning during the Breakfast Plenary by CFED President Andrea Levere.



The Chalkboard: What's YOUR Idea?



What's your idea that you'd like to see transformed into action? Stop by the big chalkboard in the Registration Foyer and share your idea today!

Session Spotlight

The Great Recession and its Impact on Wealth in Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color

Tomorrow during Concurrent Sessions III, CFED will present "The Great Recession and its Impact on Wealth in Low-income Communities and Communities of Color," a session designed exclusively for the Applied Research Forum.

During the session, speakers will explore how geography, race and income level influenced wealth loss and how the effects of the Great Recession disproportionately affected communities of color. The session will also examine strategies for mitigating potential future financial setbacks in low-income communities. Speakers in this session include Spencer Cowan, Woodstock Institute; Signe-Mary McKernan, Urban Institute; Stephanie Moulton, The Ohio State University; and Erika Poethig, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (Moderator).

We hope you'll stop by this important session in Washington 3, located on the lower level, at 2 pm tomorrow!



Preview: Applied Research Forum

We are proud to present our Applied Research Forum, a two-day event showcasing new and exciting research and data in the asset-building field. The Applied Research Forum brings together the best and brightest minds in the field today, with representatives from the Treasury, Federal Reserve System, FDIC, Center for Financial Security and academic institutions from all across the country, among other organizations, in attendance.

The Forum will feature eleven separate discussions over five concurrent sessions Thursday and Friday, as well as a Kickoff event Thursday morning. The Research Forum Kickoff includes a panel discussion – moderated by Sarah Rosen Wartell, President of the Urban Institute and CFED Board Member – between Ray Boshara (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis), J. Michael Collins (Center for Financial Security, University of Wisconsin – Madison) and Clifford Rosenthal (CFPB). The Kickoff will also feature presentations of assets-related data, including the FDIC's 2011 National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, which was released Wednesday, September 12.

With eleven discussions over the course of the Conference, covering eleven different topics, there truly is something for everybody at the Applied Research Forum. Drop by, prepared to engage in thought-provoking dialogue with fellow practitioners, researchers and developers. We'll see you there!



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