



GCI Monthly

A publication of the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago

ISSUE: October 2008



Dear Friends of GCI:

Great Cities is certainly off to a good start this year. As you will see below, our Vernon D. Jarrett Great Cities Senior Fellow, James Compton delivered a very well received address as part of a conference on the 40th Anniversary of the landmark Kerner Commission Report. Additionally, Great Cities Fellows Antancio Gonzalez and Richard Kordesh helped lead the first collaborative conference with federal agency partners on building the capacity of community groups in the state of Illinois to successfully apply and compete for federal funds. As part of GCI's UIC Neighborhoods Initiative's new Illinois ResourceNet (IRN), the conference brought over 180 community organizations to the university on September 12th as part of the new capacity building enterprise of UICNI and its community partners. This also establishes a new and innovative collaboration with the University of Illinois' Extension Division.

For those interested in the ongoing and very dramatic conditions on Wall Street, we know you will enjoy our upcoming Faculty Scholar seminar with Philip Ashton, *Differential Citizenship in the Subprime Mortgage Market* on October 16th. And on October 21st we welcome back past Great Cities Faculty Scholar, Professor Mark Atkins and his colleagues from UIC's Department of Psychiatry for a very important discussion on the stressful world of teaching in cities. I hope to see you at GCI for these very important and exciting events.

If you would like to join us for a year or if you would like to share your research with us, please go to the GCI website to find information about our Faculty Scholar and Faculty Seed Fund competitions. We expect a full and lively array of applications and we hope yours will be one of them. Remember we invite applications from every college and department at UIC as well as universities and departments around the world. We are especially interested in engaged research in the very general areas of "health," "development," and "governance." Call me directly if you have ANY questions!

Even if you have no questions and just want to chat...please come by, the coffee pot is on and we would love to spend time with you.

All the best,

David C. Perry
Director

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Events take place in the Great Cities conference room, located at Great Cities Institute 412 S. Peoria Street, Suite 400, unless otherwise noted.

October

Thursday, October 16 at 3:00 pm

A GCI Faculty Scholar Presentation

Differential Citizenship in the Subprime Mortgage Market

Philip Ashton

Assistant Professor

Urban Planning and Policy Program

University of Illinois at Chicago

Tuesday, October 21 at 3:00 pm

GCI Seminar

Stress and Coping Among Urban Teachers: An Exploratory Study

Marc Atkins

Professor of Psychology and Director of Psychology Training

Department of Psychiatry

University of Illinois at Chicago

Elisa Shernoff

Assistant Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry

The Institute for Juvenile Research

Tara Mehta

NIDA Postdoctoral Fellow

Institute for Health Research and Policy

School of Public Health

University of Illinois at Chicago

November

Thursday, November 6 at 3:00 pm

GCI Seminar

Excellence in Nonprofit Management Series:

Executive Transition in Nonprofits: Threat or Opportunity?

Deborah Strauss

Board Member, Alliance for Nonprofit Management

Former Director, Lumity (formerly IT Resource Management)

Thursday, November 13 at 3:00 pm

A GCI Faculty Scholar Presentation

Denizens and Citizens: Urban Immigration Activism and the Family Separation Issue

Amalia Pallares

Associate Professor

Departments of Latin American and Latino Studies and Political Science

UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Tuesday, November 18 at 3:00pm

GCI Seminar

Building a Community of Choice

Steven McCullough

President and CEO

Bethel New Life, Inc.

December

Thursday, December 4 at 3:00 pm

A GCI Faculty Scholar Presentation

Reconceptualizing Citizenship and Democratic Rights: Latino Youth in the Immigrant Movement

Nilda Flores-Gonzalez

Associate Professor, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois Chicago

Recent Past Events

September

Tuesday, September 2 at 3:00pm

Seminar presented by GCI, Department of Economics and Department of Public Administration

Urban Configurations with a Monopoly Vendor and Two Income Groups

Dr. Fu-Chuan Lai

Professor, Department of Economics
National Taipei University

Tuesday, September 11, 2008 at 3:00 pm

GCI Seminar

How Do Poor Neighborhoods Fare? Public and Civic Attention to Neighborhood Revitalization in Chicago

Karen Mossberger

Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration
UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Administration

Friday, September 12 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

An Illinois ResourceNet event

Introduction to Federal Grants – A One-day Workshop for Non-profit Faith-Based and Community Organizations

UIC Student Center East

This event is a collaboration of Illinois ResourceNet, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Administration for Children and Families.

Tuesday, September 16 at 3:00 pm

Seminar co-sponsored by GCI and School of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Program

A Culturally Grounded Alternative to After School Programs:

The Barrio Arts, Culture & Communications Academy

Michelle Kelley

Associate Professor, School of Public Health
Division of Community Health Sciences, Maternal and Child Health Program
University of Illinois at Chicago

Mayra Estrella

Doctoral Student, School of Public Health
Division of Community Health Sciences, Maternal and Child Health Program
University of Illinois at Chicago

Tuesday, September 30 at 3:00 pm

GCI Seminar

University-Community Engagement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Alice K. Johnson Butterfield

Jane Addams College of Social Work
University of Illinois Chicago

Richard Kordesh

Great Cities Institute
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago

News

► The Kerner Commission – 40 Years Later With James W. Compton

James W. Compton, GCI's current Vernon D. Jarrett Senior Fellow, was one of four panelists asked to speak at *The 40th Anniversary of the Kerner Commission* held on Thursday, June 5, 2008. The event was sponsored by the Institute of Research on Race & Public Policy (UIC), the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (UIC) and the public affairs committee of the Union League Club. GCI was able to speak with Mr. Compton about his perspective on the impact of the Kerner Commission when it was released 40 years ago, and where we are with the same issues today.

Mr. Compton began by addressing what the environment of the nation was like when the Kerner Commission first came out. "Forty years ago, America was reeling from a different type of violent mayhem in some of our major cities; riots and unrest in African American communities where joblessness, hopelessness and poverty were the order of the day; unrest that was incited by racial discrimination and segregation and the inequities that were born from unequal and unfair treatment of African Americans." When asked to consider the significance of the Kerner Commission, Mr. Compton focused on what the report provided at the time, "the Kerner Commission challenged the nation's collective psyche and at the same time set a tone for the creation and implementation of ideas and solutions that could positively change the way we do business, so to speak...the very formation of the commission and its forward-looking recommendations forced this country to begin to talk about race and racism in an unflinching way as it never had before."

When asked about how far the country has come in the last 40 years since the release of the report, Mr. Compton believes that things are better. "Now that the voters have nominated Senator Obama to represent the Democratic Party, I do not believe it will be a stretch to consider the Kerner Commission's now 40-year-old recommendations as the fuel that helped propel America forward toward tangible progress and change." Yet Mr. Compton is quick to add that there are still many challenges in addressing issues of poverty, particularly for children. He also believes there is less divisiveness in the country along the lines of race and ethnicity, but we still have yet to fully address race relations and disparity, "particularly the state of the African American male with regards to incarceration rates, high school drop-out rates, income disparities and the great wealth gap that still exists in this nation."

"Countless challenges and obstacles remain for all of America...the Kerner Commission's keen and prescient vision told us that America, with its warts and imperfections, was rife with problems at the time. But we also knew that this land of opportunity had unlimited potential for all if we just choose to pursue the positive without race serving as the focal point for everything we do and say."

The GCI Vernon D. Jarrett Senior Fellow is our Institute's highest appointment and is awarded to an established scholar, public leader, activist or writer. We invite the Jarrett Fellow to produce research and scholarship on issues of race, education, community development, and urban policy while in residence at the Institute. James W. Compton is truly deserving of this appointment. He was President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League from 1978 – 2006. During his tenure, the Chicago Urban League refocused its interest in education and economic development and developed a new emphasis on community empowerment. He is credited with changing the organization from primarily a social service organization to a research organization advocating for public policy. We are pleased to have him with us this year at GCI.

► Conference for Illinois Community Groups on Federal Grant Funding

On September 12, 2008, **Illinois ResourceNet**, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families sponsored a conference on UIC's campus titled *Introduction to Federal Grants*. Over 180 participants attended the all day conference from within Illinois including faith-based and community-based organizations from within Cook County.

Michael McAfee, Ed.D, Senior Community Planning and Development Representative (HUD) gave a key note on the nuts and bolts of the federal grants making process. The speech also addressed the basic capacities organizations need to have before applying for federal grants. Following the keynote address were three different panel discussions which hosted four-five agency representatives on each. Themes included what current funding opportunities and programs currently exist; key characteristics of grantees and what they look for in applicants and a panel of non-profit organizations that spoke about what they believe makes them successful with regards to federal grant funding. A final piece of the conference was an exhibition of different federal agencies and key capacity building donors, giving participants a chance to network and learn more about how to be successful when applying for federal grant funding.

The conference marked the first collaboration with federal agency partners on building the capacity of community groups in the state of Illinois to successfully apply and compete for federal funds. This initiative is part of the new capacity building enterprise of UICNI and its community partners.

Announcements

► The **Office of Professional Education** at the Great Cities Institute offers a diverse selection of online courses that are aimed at helping both beginning and experienced nonprofit professionals gain the training and tools they need to advance their organizations as well as their careers. Upcoming courses include the following:

Leadership Ethics

Dates: November 7, 2008 – December 12, 2008

Registration Deadline: October 29, 2008

Cost: \$595

To register online: <http://cnm.cuppa.uic.edu/courses.htm>

To register by phone: call (312) 355-0423 during business hours (M-F, 9-5 p.m. Central Time).

For additional information about any Nonprofit Professional Education or Certificate in Nonprofit Management courses please visit our Web site at <http://cnm.cuppa.uic.edu/courses.htm> or call (312) 355-0423.

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