



NEW AMERICA
FOUNDATION

**The 2007 Child Well-Being Index
Stalled Progress, Persistent Gaps: How Can We Improve the Lives of
America's Children?**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ruby Takanishi

President, Foundation for Child Development

Ruby Takanishi is president of the Foundation for Child Development (FCD), a national privately endowed philanthropy based in New York City. Prior to her current position, she served as assistant director for Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education in the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), working on education reform and on federal support for research related to child and adolescent development.

Dr. Takanishi spent 10 years as executive director of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development; was the founding executive director of the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences; and directed of the Office of Scientific Affairs of the American Psychological Association. She was an AAAS-Society for Research in Child Development Congressional Fellow in the United States Senate. She has been a faculty member at UCLA, Teachers College of Columbia University, Bank Street College of Education, and Yale University.

Dr. Takanishi was educated in Hawai'i's public schools, graduating from Waimea (Kaua'i) High School. She received her A.B., and Ph.D. from Stanford University, and M.A. from the University of Michigan. Dr. Takanishi serves on the Board of Grantmakers for Education as Treasurer in addition to her service on the boards of Public Policy and International Affairs, the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, the Council on Foundations, Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy.

David Gray

Director, Workforce and Family Program, New America Foundation

David E. Gray is Director of the Workforce and Family Program at the New America Foundation, which seeks to advance innovative, market-oriented solutions that improve life for workers and families while enhancing the competitiveness of the American economy. The Program works on a broad set of issues from globalization and trade to labor and education to faith-based initiatives and interfaith dialogue.

An attorney and ordained Presbyterian minister, Rev. Gray is a former Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), where he managed the DOL offices of regulatory policy, programmatic policy, compliance assistance/technology, and economic analysis/research. He is an associate pastor at Georgetown Presbyterian Church, is a chaplain at American University, and is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a graduate of Yale College, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Northwestern University School of Law and Wesley Theological Seminary.

Kenneth C. Land

Project Coordinator, Child and Youth Well-Being Index

Kenneth C. Land, Ph.D., is the John Franklin Crowell Professor of Sociology at Duke University. He has conducted extensive research on contemporary social trends and quality-of life measurement, social problems, demography, criminology, organizations, and mathematical and statistical models and methods for the study of social and demographic processes. He is the co-author of five books, more than 100 research articles, and numerous book chapters. Dr. Land has been elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Sociological Research Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, and the American Society of Criminology.

Carol Brunson Day

President, National Black Child Development Institute

Carol Brunson Day is currently the President of the National Black Child Development Institute, a national non-profit organization based in Washington, DC committed to improving and protecting the quality of life of African American children and families. During her long career in early childhood education, she served for 20 years as President of the Council for Professional Recognition, the home of the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program, as well as the National Head Start Fellowship Program. She has held faculty positions in human development, has worked as the liaison with the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy and is recognized as a leader in the field of early childhood education.

Dr. Day sits on numerous national boards and speaks frequently at conferences and meetings across the United States and internationally. She has authored many publications on subjects such as professional development, equity, diversity and multicultural education, and cultural influences on development, and has a long history of interest and expertise on African-American culture and heritage.

Dr. Day received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a M.Ed. from the Erikson Institute in Chicago and a Ph.D. from Claremont University in Claremont, California.

Mary Bissell

Fellow, New America Foundation

Mary Bissell is an attorney and an expert on a variety of issues affecting children and families, particularly child welfare policy. She formerly worked as an attorney and lobbyist at the Children's Defense Fund and as a legislative assistant in the office of Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV). Before her experience on Capitol Hill, Ms. Bissell directed The Kinship Care Project at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and the DC Kinship Care Coalition, Inc., a nonprofit organization she founded. She has written extensively for a broad range of publications, including The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor, The Miami Herald, and The

Philadelphia Inquirer, and has appeared on CNN, NBC's Today Show, and National Public Radio.

As a Fellow at the New America Foundation, Ms. Bissell develops and promotes public policy solutions to America's child welfare crisis, including solutions that focus on the need for expanded child and family support outside of foster care through public-private partnerships. She is currently working on a book on the child welfare system. Ms. Bissell is a graduate of Yale University and the Georgetown University Law Center, and is a member of the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Supreme Court bars.

David Bradley

Executive Director, National Community Action Foundation

David serves as Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) which he helped found in 1981. NCAF is a private, non-profit advocacy organization that interacts with Congress, the Executive Branch, state and local governments and local agencies on behalf of a variety of low-income programs. David is the principle author of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). This three quarter of a billion dollar program provides the core funding to the nation's community action agency (CAA) network. It is the essential funding which enables CAAs to leverage almost nine billion dollars in other federal, state, local and private resources.

David has a Bachelors and Masters degree from George Washington University. In 1987 he was a Senior Executive Fellow at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. He served in President Carter's Administration as Congressional Liaison at the Small Business Administration. In his spare time, David is a part owner of the Florida Marlins AAA baseball affiliate the Albuquerque Isotopes. As a partner in the government relations firm of Moss McGee Bradley and Colbert, David is intimately involved with the legislative affairs of federal programs totaling almost thirteen billion dollars and he is a frequent witness before the Congress.

Patrick F. Fagan, Ph.D.

Fitzgerald Senior Research Fellow in Family and Cultural Issues, Heritage Foundation

A former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Patrick Fagan's work examines the impact of family life and religious practice on key areas of social policy: health, mental health, education, crime, and income. Dr. Fagan has served as a legislative analyst for Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN) and, before becoming involved in public policy, as a child, family and marital therapist.

Dr. Fagan joined Heritage in 1994 and is the policy institute's William H.G. FitzGerald Senior Research Fellow in Family and Cultural Issues. Dr. Fagan is a native of Ireland; he earned his doctorate in social policy from University College Dublin and received his training as a psychologist at the same university.

Charles Kamasaki

Executive Vice President, National Council of La Raza

Charles Kamasaki is Executive Vice President of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). He headed NCLR's Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation from 1989-2005 and previously directed NCLR's Policy Analysis Center, a position he held for seven years. Currently, Kamasaki oversees NCLR's health and workforce development divisions, supports the President/CEO in

overall institutional oversight, and serves as senior member of the executive management team of NCLR, which has 125 staff and a \$30 million consolidated annual budget.

Kamasaki previously was responsible for managing NCLR's research, policy analysis, and advocacy activity on a wide range of issues, including civil rights, education, economic mobility, housing and community development, immigration, health, and other issues. In this position, he authored, co-authored, and supervised the preparation of several dozen policy and research reports, journal articles, and editorials, testified frequently at Congressional and Administrative hearings, coordinated *pro bono* litigation and legal analysis, and represented NCLR at research and policy conferences and symposia.

Prior to coming to Washington, he specialized in housing and community development technical assistance to elected officials and community-based organizations in his native South Texas, worked as a city planner and served brief stints as acting city manager for a small town, a high school speech and debate coach, and as a bookkeeper/crew chief for an independent contractor; he also managed two major county-level political campaigns. He is an avid outdoorsman and sports fan.