

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Carmen R. Nazario**

Carmen Nazario was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services on September 23, 2009. As Assistant Secretary, she is responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

Before her confirmation, Assistant Secretary Nazario was an Assistant Professor at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, where she taught social policy and coordinated the Social Work Practicum at the School of Social Work. She previously served as Administrator of the Administration for Children and Families for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, where she led an agency of 4,000 staff with a budget of over \$220 million. During the Clinton Administration, she first served as Associate Commissioner for Child Care in the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families and later became the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Ms. Nazario also served as Secretary of Health and Social Services for the State of Delaware and the Director of Social Services in Norfolk, Virginia, and Loudoun County, Virginia.

Assistant Secretary Nazario received her bachelor of arts with honors in sociology from the University of Puerto Rico. She earned her master's of social work degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

### **Ron Haskins, Ph.D.**

Ron Haskins is a Senior Fellow in the Economic Studies program and Co-Director of the Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution and Senior Consultant at the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore.

Before joining the Brookings Institution, Dr. Haskins served as Senior Advisor to the President for welfare policy at the White House. He also spent 14 years on the staff of the House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee, first as Welfare Counsel to the Republican staff, then as the subcommittee's Staff Director. From 1981-1985, he was a Senior Researcher at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also taught and lectured on history and education at UNC, Charlotte and developmental psychology at Duke University.

Dr. Haskins was the editor of the 1996, 1998, and 2000 editions of the Green Book, a 1600-page compendium of the nation's social programs published by the House Ways and Means Committee that analyzes domestic policy issues, including health care, poverty, and unemployment. Dr. Haskins is a senior editor of *The Future of Children*, a journal on policy issues that affect children and families. He is the author of *Work Over Welfare: The Inside Story of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law* (2006) and has co-edited several books, including *Welfare Reform and Beyond: The Future of the Safety Net*, *The New World of Welfare*, among many others.

Dr. Haskins holds a bachelor's degree in history, a master's in education, and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology, from UNC, Chapel Hill.

**Margaret C. Simms, Ph.D.**

Dr. Margaret Simms is an Institute Fellow at the Urban Institute, where she directs the Low-Income Working Families project, an initiative that tracks the well-being of low-income families over time and analyzes the risks these families face.

Prior to joining the Urban Institute in July 2007, Dr. Simms was Vice President for Governance and Economic Analysis at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. She began her tenure at the Joint Center in 1986 as Deputy Director of Research, eventually becoming Interim President in 2006. Prior to joining the staff of the Joint Center, she was a program director at the Urban Institute. Dr. Simms also served on the faculties of Atlanta University and the University of California at Santa Cruz, and was a Brookings Economic Policy Fellow at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Dr. Simms was editor of the *Review of Black Political Economy* from 1983-1988, chaired the Board of Directors of the Institute for Women's Policy Research from 1993-1998, and served as President of the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) from 2007-2009. She recently served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences/National Academy of Public Administration Committee on the Fiscal Future of the United States. In 2005, she was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2008 the National Economic Association presented her with the Samuel Z. Westerfield Award.

Dr. Simms received her master's and doctorate degrees in economics from Stanford University.