

Conference Speakers

Keynote Speaker – Randi Weingarten

Friday, March 6, 2009



Randi Weingarten is the newly elected president of the more than 1.4-million-member American Federation of Teachers. As an AFT vice president since 1997, she has been involved in every major AFT policy initiative of the last decade.

Weingarten has been president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, since 1998, representing 110,000 non-supervisory educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law and education.

Weingarten is known as a reform-minded leader who has demonstrated her commitment to improving schools, hospitals and public institutions for children, families and their communities. She represents the next generation of labor leader, committed to making our public institutions the

best they can be, eager to organize new sectors of the workforce, and always seeking to win workers both economic security and a stronger voice.

Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University School of Industrial Relations and the Cardozo School of Law. She is an active member of the Democratic National Committee and numerous professional, civic and philanthropic organizations.

AFT Plenary Session – Lorretta Johnson

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Lorretta Johnson is the executive vice president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, elected at the AFT national convention in July 2008. Dr. Lorretta Johnson also serves as president of AFT-Maryland, as president of the Baltimore Teachers Union's paraprofessional chapter, and as chair of the AFT Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel program and policy council. Before becoming AFT executive vice president, Johnson was an AFT vice president for 30 years.

Johnson holds several leadership positions outside of the AFT. She is vice president of the Maryland Metropolitan Council, AFL-CIO; a trustee for the Maryland State AFL-CIO; and director of the Municipal Employees Credit Union in Baltimore. In August 2008, Johnson was named treasurer of the national board of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI).

Johnson received her teaching degree through the Career Opportunities Program at Coppin State University in Maryland. She has received numerous awards, including an honorary doctorate degree from Coppin State, a community service award from the United Way, and a volunteer service award from the Maryland State AFL-CIO.

AFT Plenary Session – Sandra Schroeder

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Sandra Schroeder was elected president of AFT Washington in May 2001 after serving since 1991 on the state's executive board in several seats, including treasurer, secretary and vice president. AFT Washington represents more than 5,000 teachers and staff in higher education, teachers and directors in early education, and classified staff in K-12. From 1991 to 1995, Schroeder served as president of AFT Seattle Community Colleges, the state's largest local. Schroeder was elected to the AFT executive council in 2004. Appointed to the AFT Higher Education program and policy council in 2001, she was selected as its chair in 2008. As PPC chair, she heads a group of nearly 30 AFT higher education union leaders from around the country. In 2006, Sandra was appointed as a vice president of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and is active in many labor council arenas. She serves on the boards of nonprofit community groups and serves on state level higher education advisory groups. Originally from Kansas, Schroeder has lived in Seattle since 1975 and taught English at Seattle Central Community College beginning in 1979.

Session Presenter – Cliff Adelman

Cliff Adelman taught at Roosevelt University, CCNY, and Yale, and served five years as Associate Dean and Assistant Academic Vice-President at the William Paterson College of New Jersey before coming to the U.S. Department of Education in 1979. There, he managed higher education issues for *A Nation at Risk* (1983) and conducted the research on which its high school curriculum recommendations were based. Adelman designed and managed the higher education follow-up, the *Involvement in Learning* report (1984), which has been cited as responsible for kick-starting the assessment movement in higher education. *The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School Through College* (2006) was the last of Cliff's studies for the Department. Since October 2006 he has been a Senior Associate at the Institute for Higher Education Policy, working principally on international higher education projects. His *The Bologna Club: What U.S. Higher Education Can Learn from a Decade of European Reconstruction* was released in May 2008, and *Learning Accountability from Bologna: a Higher Education Policy Primer* in July 2008.



Session Presenter – Dean Baker

Dean Baker is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC. He previously worked as a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute and an assistant professor at Bucknell University. His blog, Beat the Press, features commentary on economic reporting. He received his PhD in economics from the University of Michigan.

His book *Getting Prices Right: The Battle Over the Consumer Price Index* (M.E. Sharpe, 1997) was a winner of a Choice Book Award as one of the outstanding academic books of the year. He was also the author of the weekly online commentary on economic reporting, the *Economic Reporting Review* (ERR), from 1996 - 2006. He has worked as a consultant for the World Bank, the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, and the OECD's Trade Union Advisory Council. His columns have appeared in many major media outlets including the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Washington Post*, and the *London Financial Times*. He is frequently cited in economics reporting in major media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *CNBC* and *National Public Radio*.



Session Presenter – Elaine Bobrove

Elaine Bobrove is the president of the Camden County College Adjunct Faculty Federation, a stand-alone local. She is the Higher Ed coordinator for the New Jersey State Federation of Teachers. Nationally, she is a member of the AFT Adjunct Faculty Advisory Committee and a member of the AFT Higher Ed Program and Policy Committee, the PPC.

Session Presenter – Barbara Bowen

Barbara Bowen is currently serving her third term as president of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY, the union representing 22,000 faculty and academic staff at CUNY. As PSC president, Barbara has mobilized the PSC and worked to build the union as a progressive political and intellectual force. She has led the union's successful effort to increase public funding to CUNY and has negotiated breakthrough contracts, including such provisions as graduate employee health insurance, junior faculty research leave, paid parental leave, paid office hours for adjuncts, and hundreds of new full-time positions reserved for current part-timers. She is the originator of the proposal for AFT's FACE legislation campaign.

Dr. Bowen earned her Ph.D. in English Literature at Yale, and has published on seventeenth-century literature and African American literature. Dr. Bowen holds faculty appointments at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She comes to her work in the PSC through a history of labor and community organizing, and hopes to learn from the militancy and political desire of those experiences.



Session Presenter – Sue Clery

Suzanne B. Clery is a Senior Research Associate at JBL Associate, Inc. Ms. Clery received her MBA from the University of Maryland and BA in Economics from Virginia Tech. She has been with JBL Associates for seventeen years. She has worked as an analyst on projects related to student access and persistence, educational outcomes, institutional characteristics and finance, student characteristics, faculty salaries, and financial aid. Ms. Clery has technical expertise, knowledge, and experience in developing, populating, and maintaining large-scale complex databases, survey methodology, managing large projects, and computer-based hardware and software technologies. She designs data collection instruments, documentation for databases, manages database, conduct analysis and prepares written reports. She has also developed econometric models for clients.



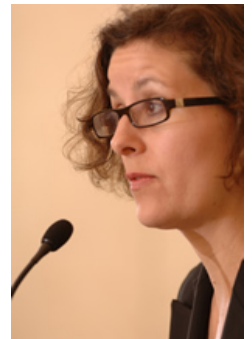
Session Presenter – Rosemary Feal

Rosemary G. Feal came to the MLA from the State University of New York, Buffalo, where she was professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. In 2002 she was appointed executive director of the Modern Language Association (MLA), an international scholarly society that supports one of the most distinguished publishing programs in the humanities. She serves on the Board of Directors of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Board of the National Humanities Alliance. Rosemary G. Feal has published in the fields of contemporary Latin American literature, Afro-Hispanic studies, feminist theory, and psychoanalytic criticism. She is the former senior consulting editor of the Latin American Literary Review and former associate editor of the Afro-Hispanic Review. She is general editor of MLA publications and edits the MLA Newsletter and Profession.



Session Presenter – Debra Humphreys

Debra Humphreys received her BA from Williams College and her PhD in English from Rutgers University. Dr. Humphreys is currently the Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs at the Association of American Colleges and Universities—a position she assumed in January 2001. Prior to that, she served as Director of Programs in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Global Initiatives at AAC&U where she directed programs on women's issues and diversity in higher education. She is currently leading national advocacy efforts as part of AAC&U's campaign, Liberal Education and America's Promise: Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College. Through this effort, she is helping to build communications capacity on the part of college and university leaders and faculty members and educate the public about the value of an engaged liberal education to prepare for the changing global economy.



Session Presenter – Chris Lindstrom

Christine Lindstrom is the Higher Education Program Director for U.S. PIRG student chapters. A 14-year veteran of Student PIRGs, she now works with the U.S. PIRG network around the country to develop and execute campaigns to secure affordable and accessible higher education. Over the past three years, she helped students win the biggest federal investment in higher education since the GI bill—the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. She helped launch a campaign to control marketing of credit cards on college campuses. Current priorities for the project include tackling the increasing reliance on private loan financing to pay for college and controlling textbook costs. Ms. Lindstrom received a BA in Latin American Studies from the University of Miami in 1992.



Session Presenter – David Robinson

David Robinson is the associate executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, representing more than 65,000 academic and general staff across the country. David is responsible for the Association's research, communications and advocacy work.

Prior to joining CAUT, he was the senior economist with the Vancouver office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canada's leading progressive think-tank. He has also been a lecturer at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, and Carleton University in Ottawa. He is the author of a number of articles, reviews, and reports on higher education and research policy, vocational education and training, and the impact of international trade and investment agreements on labour markets and public services.

Currently, David is a consultant on higher education and international trade issues to Education International, a global union federation representing more than 30 million teachers and education workers in 169 countries.



Session Presenter – Robert Samuels

Robert Samuels is the President of the University of California, American Federation of Teachers faculty union and a Lecturer in the Writing Programs at the UCLA. He is the author of several books including *Integrating Hypertextual Subject: Computers, Composition, and Academic Labor* and *Teaching the Rhetoric of Resistance*. He is currently writing a critical students guide to the university.



Session Presenter – Jane Wellman

Jane Wellman is the Executive Director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity and Accountability, a research and policy organization located in Washington, DC. Wellman is widely recognized for her work in public policy and higher education, at both the state and federal levels, with particular expertise in state fiscal policy; cost analysis; strategic planning; state and federal regulation of higher education; accountability metrics and performance reporting; and quality control including accreditation. In addition to research and writing, she consults with national and international organizations including the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the State Higher Education Executive Officers, the Association of Governing Boards, the American Council on Education, the National Governors Association, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Previously, Wellman served as a Senior Associate with the Institute for Higher Education Policy, was Vice President for Government Relations with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Deputy Director of the California Postsecondary Education Commission, and staff director of the California Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

