



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mr. Richard V. Cook

Mr. Richard V. Cook, MSW, LCSW, is director of the University of Maryland at Baltimore's Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS). SWCOS places graduate students as interns in community-based settings, and demonstrates the contributions available to society by ignored and stigmatized groups. He also teaches resource development, community organization, and community practice. He has more than 40 years of experience working with rural and urban grassroots organizations and coalitions in a variety of capacities, including organizer, trainer, executive director, mentor, initiator, consultant, and fundraiser. Additionally, Mr. Cook took a leadership role on campus with two Community Outreach Partnership Centers grants received from the Office of University Partnerships.

Mr. Cook has served as an independent consultant, trainer, or fundraiser for Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Families/USA Foundation, Hands Across America, National Abortion Rights Action League, National Center Against Prejudice and Violence, Enterprise Foundation, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Corporation for American Indian Development, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, and VISTA. He has also served as executive director of Greater Homewood Community Corporation and Neighborhoods Institute in Baltimore, and Southern Kennebec Valley Community Action Agency in Augusta, Maine. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Venezuela.

Mr. Cook received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and his master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland.

Dr. Shari O. Garmise

Dr. Shari O. Garmise is the vice president of the Office of Urban Initiatives for the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities, where she leads an urban agenda that seeks to harness the collective power of public research universities to remake our cities as vital, competitive, creative places with opportunities for all. Previously, she served as vice president for knowledge management and development at the International Economic Development Council and assistant professor of economic development at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

Dr. Garmise has more than 20 years of experience in economic and urban development in the United States and Europe, working on diverse economic and urban development-related issues, including workforce development, innovation-led economic development, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and many others. She recently published a book entitled *People and the Competitive Advantage of Place: Building a 21st Century Workforce*, and has published work in journals, including *Local Economy*, *Economic Development Journal* and *Regional and Federal Studies* as well as various book chapters, working papers, and professional reports and policy analyses.

Dr. Garmise received her Ph.D. from the London School of Economics.





Dr. Ira Harkavy

Dr. Ira Harkavy is associate vice president and founding director of the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also chair of both the Anchor Institutions Task Force and the Coalition for Community Schools. An historian with extensive experience building university-community-school partnerships, Dr. Harkavy teaches in the departments of history, urban studies, Africana studies, and city and regional planning. As director of the Netter Center since 1992, he has helped to develop service-learning courses as well as participatory action research projects that involve creating university-assisted community schools in the local community of West Philadelphia.

Dr. Harkavy has written and lectured widely on the history and current practice of urban university-community-school partnerships and strategies for integrating the university missions of teaching, research, and service. His recent publications include: *Dewey's Dream: Universities and Democracies in an Age of Education Reform*, which he co-authored with Lee Benson and John Puckett; and *The Obesity Culture: Strategies for Change. Public Health and University-Community Partnerships*, co-authored with Francis E. Johnston.

Dr. Harkavy served as consultant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help create the Office of University Partnerships and is a senior fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. Under his directorship, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships received the inaugural William T. Grant Foundation Youth Development Prize sponsored in collaboration with the National Academy of Sciences' Board on Children, Youth, and Families (2003) and a Best Practices/Outstanding Achievement Award from HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (2000).

Dr. Harkavy received his bachelor's degree and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hassan Minor, Jr.

Dr. Hassan Minor, Jr., is the senior vice president of Howard University, where his responsibilities include strategic planning, university research, and external affairs. He is also the university's chief technology officer, and has responsibility for WHUR-FM, the Howard commercial radio station, and WHUT-TV, their public television station. He was named a Computerworld Honors Laureate for developing a high-speed network that delivers telephony, email, Internet, and television throughout the campus.

Prior to his position at Howard University, Dr. Minor was appointed to two terms as a regent of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was chairman of the regent's policy planning and research committee and the committee on computers, telecommunications, and information systems. He served as assistant for urban affairs to the faculty of medicine at Harvard University and was the managing director of The Corporation for Boston, a business think tank established by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) faculty. He was also a professor of organizations and public policy at MIT.

Dr. Minor earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit and his Ph.D. from MIT.





Dr. Henry Louis Taylor, Jr.

Dr. Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., is one of the nation's leading authorities on distressed urban communities and inner city development. A historian and urban planner, this internationally known scholar is a full professor of urban and regional planning at the University at Buffalo. He is coordinator of the department's community development and urban management specialization, and is the founding director of the University at Buffalo Center for Urban Studies (CENTER), a research, neighborhood planning, and community development institute that focuses on the regeneration of distressed communities.

Dr. Taylor's research focuses on African American urban history, Cuban studies, university-community relations, and distressed urban communities. He has written or edited five books and has published more than 80 articles, book reviews, commentaries, and technical reports on urban and regional planning. His most recent book is *Inside El Barrio: A Bottom-Up View of Neighborhood Life in Castro's Cuba*. Dr. Taylor has appeared on *ABC Nightline* and has been quoted in numerous national publications, including the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *TIME* magazine, and has made presentations at leading universities, including the University of Pennsylvania, University of North Carolina, Florida State, the University of Tennessee, The Ohio State University, and La Universidad de la Habana.

Dr. Taylor has received numerous awards for his research and neighborhood planning activities. In 2001, along with Sam Cole, he won the Fannie Mae Foundation Award for the best practice base paper at the American Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, and in 2005 he received the Distinguished Leadership Professional Planner Award from the American Planning Association, New York Upstate Chapter; and Business First twice named him "One of the 100 Most Influential Leaders in Western New York. In 2009, the Buffalo branch of the Small Business Administration named him the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for his role in promoting small business development among minorities and women in the Buffalo metropolitan Region. Dr. Taylor currently is the planning coordinator for the HUD Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority's Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative, and he is also writing a book on neighborhood development and city building in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1900 to 1980.

