Show Me the Evidence: Obama’s Fight for Rigor and Results in Social Policy

This lecture tells the story of how the Obama administration changed the role of evidence in federal policymaking. Based on public documents and 135 interviews with major players from the White House, the Office of Management and Budget, federal agencies, Congress, and the child advocacy community, the lecture provides insight into the tools and methods that should serve as a blueprint for policymakers on how to bring social science evidence – especially from program evaluation – to the center of policy making.

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

The Millennial Generation: A Demographic Bridge to America’s Diverse Future

As a bridge generation between a whiter older America and the more multi-hued country of the future, as leaders and role models, millennials will play an important part in achieving the success of subsequent generations. This lecture explores why their diversity is a consequential demographic attribute of millennials, how they differ from earlier young adult generations and why they represent a bridge to America’s future-in Las Vegas- and in other parts of the country.

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

Melting Pots and Mountains: Upward Mobility in the Mountain West

This lecture examines the state of the American dream in the Mountain West. Which cities and states have the highest rates of upward social mobility, and why? What role do colleges and universities play in promoting opportunity across the region? What is the contribution of immigration to the creation of dynamic, opportunity-rich cities? Blending economics, public policy, and urban studies, this lecture will cast fresh light on the creation of opportunity in the region, and proposes an agenda for “mobility among the mountains.”

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

Challenges Facing Youth and Young Adults Entering the Labor Market

Labor force participation and employment are declining among teens and young adults, suggesting that fewer young people are having the kinds of work experiences that prepare them for the world of full-time employment. Not everyone is equally affected, as there are marked differences by race/ethnicity, income, and education. This lecture will discuss employment trends among young people and the various strategies that cities and specific programs are using to help young people successfully navigate their way into the labor market.

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

When Interests Collide: The Politics of Republican Governors in an Era of Unified Republican Federal Control

This lecture will focus on three key questions. First, what are policy areas where the political interests of states, especially Republican-led ones, may clash with the political interests of national Republicans? Second, where have we already observed these conflicts and what are the results? And third, what are the implications of 2018 state elections for the relationship between Republican-led states and national Republicans?

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.