

**Investing in Our Children's Future: Adequacy Studies and
K-12 Education in Nevada**

January 27, 2015
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Troesh Studio Theatre
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30 **Registration/Coffee**

8:30 – 8:55 **Welcome and Introduction**

Kristen McMillan, CEO & President, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce

Lindy Schumacher, CEO, Fulfillment Fund

Robert E. Lang, Executive Director, The Lincy Institute & Brookings Mountain West

8:55 – 9:30 **Presentations**

Anna Lukemeyer & Carrie Sampson

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Justin Silverstein, Amanda Brown, & Yilan Shen

Augenblick, Palaich and Associates

9:30 – 9:45 **Break**

9:45 – 10:25 **Community Leaders Panel Discussion**

Moderator: **Magdalena Martinez**, Director of Education Programs, The Lincy
Institute

Hugh Anderson, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce

Jenn Blackhurst, Honoring Our Public Education (H.O.P.E.)

Sylvia Lazos, Las Vegas Latino Leadership Council

Susie Lee, Communities in Schools of Nevada

10:25 - 10:55 **Q & A from Audience**

10:55 - 11:00 **Closing Remark**

Anna Lukemeyer is an associate professor with the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at UNLV. Lukemeyer graduated with her J.D. from Southern Methodist University and her Ph.D. from Maxwell School, Syracuse University. Her research interests include education policy (K-12), education finance, and law and public policy. She has used cost function studies to estimate the impact of different judicial definitions of school finance adequacy and equity in New York state. Other studies (with John Yinger and Bill Duncombe) explore the school funding implications of the No Child Left Behind mandates in New York and three other states.

Carrie Sampson is a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is a UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees Fellow and works as a research assistant for a study sponsored by The Lincy Institute at UNLV. Her research interests include educational policy, school governance, and issues of equity and opportunity. She has also taught courses in public administration and women's studies. Carrie has her master's degree in Cultural Foundations of Education from Syracuse University, a graduate certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Founded in 1983, **Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA)** is a privately owned firm with extensive experience analyzing public education systems and policies. Their mission is to help clients solve problems so they can meet student performance goals and improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the nation's public schools. They also help clients understand the fiscal, legal, and policy implications of implementing education reforms, including both short and long-term impacts. Their staff accomplish this mission using a variety of research techniques, including education data analysis, literature reviews, interviews, surveys, panel or focus group discussions, and statistical analyses.

Hugh Anderson is a Managing Director at HighTower based in Las Vegas, Nevada. A native of Long Island, New York, Anderson brings over 30 years of experience in the financial services industry to his clients. Hugh is a Certified Financial Planner TM professional and a Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) as well as a Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC). He holds a Bachelor's of Arts and MBA from Hofstra University in New York. A Las Vegas resident since 1984, Hugh is active in the community. He has served as Chairman of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, St. Rose Dominican Hospital Community board and the Nevada Council on Economic Development. He currently serves as Chairman of the government affairs committee for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and is Chair of the St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation.

Jenn Blackhurst is the President of the H.O.P.E (Honoring Our Public Education) nonprofit organization. She grew up in Minnesota and California, ultimately graduating from high school in San Jose, CA. After high school, she attended the University of California, Los Angeles where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Cognitive Science. After her children entered school, she became involved with PTA, serving as Vice President and President. She also served as a liaison and advisor between local schools and the Lake Mead Council of the Nevada PTA for two years. She currently teaches and mentors 14 – 15 year old girls at her church, as well as continues to be involved in her children's schools. She believes that the most meaningful way to impact Nevada is to improve the quality of education our children receive.

Sylvia Lazos is the Justice Myron Leavitt Professor at William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas, and serves as Vice Chair for the Las Vegas Latino Leadership Council. She graduated from University of Michigan Law School, *cum laude*, where she served on the *Michigan Law Review*. Since 2004, she has been a member of the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and is the co-founder of Alliance of Latina/os & Chicana/os in Higher Education. In 2011, she worked closely with the Nevada Legislative Hispanic Caucus, UNLV College of Education, and CCSD to bring forward for the consideration of the Legislature a program to improve literacy for vulnerable children by establishing Reading Skills Development Centers in schools with low literacy performance. In 2013 legislative session, she again collaborated with the Nevada Legislative Hispanic Caucus in passing SB504, which created the "zoom school" program. Lazos expertise is sought by print and broadcast media on a wide range of subjects, including English language learners, higher education, immigration, race relations, government, voting and initiatives.

Susie Lee is the President of the Board of Communities In Schools of Nevada and President Emeritus of Nevada Women's Philanthropy. Lee arrived in Las Vegas in 1993, equipped with a Master's degree in Public Administration from Carnegie Mellon University, and immediately began working to improve the Las Vegas and Nevada community. First, as a research director for a gubernatorial campaign, Susie drafted several proposals, which are now state policy. She then became the founding Executive Director of Mobilized Assistance and Shelter for the Homeless (MASH) Crisis Intervention Unit. During the past 19 years, Lee has provided her time and commitment to several non-profit organizations including Public Education Foundation, Teach or America, Special Olympics, The Meadows School, Nevada Cancer Institute, and Keep Memory Alive.