

February 2015

The Ray Marshall Center Has a New Website!

We are proud to announce our newly designed website at RayMarshallCenter.org. The fresh new look was created with you in mind for more friendly user-navigation and search functionality. It is now easier than ever to stay on top of our news, projects, and staff updates. You can also like us on [Facebook](#) and follow our new [LinkedIn Company Page](#) for upcoming events.

Chris King Presents Two-Generation Research at the Winter Leadership Institute

Chris King, along with P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale and Terri Sabol from the Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research, presented their research at the [2015 Winter Leadership Institute](#) hosted by the [National Head Start Association](#) and sponsored by various early learning collaborators (see event site for full list). The conference, held from January 26-29 at the DuPont Circle Hotel in Washington, DC, assembled early learning professionals to address policy questions that have recently emerged. King, Chase-Lansdale, and Sabol presented their findings from their Tulsa research during the [Two Generations Together](#) Institute during the first day. The Institute, which was made possible by funding from [Ascend at the Aspen Institute](#), featured stories and strategies from program leaders highlighted in the NHSA report [Two Generations Together: Case Studies from Head Start](#), along with insights from local program leaders and national experts. You can view the conference publication [here](#). Pictures from the TGT Institute can be found [here](#) via the NHSA Facebook page.

Chris King Presents Two-Generation Strategies to Missouri Audience

Christopher King, LBJ School lecturer and Ray Marshall Center senior research scientist, gave two invited lectures on two-generation strategies in Missouri on Wednesday, January 14, 2015. The first was to the 3rd Annual Missouri Family Impact Seminar held in the state capitol building in Jefferson City. The [Family Impact Seminars](#) are operating in nearly thirty states. Seminar topics are chosen by state lawmakers. More than two dozen state senators, representatives, and staff attended the morning talk. In the afternoon, Dr. King presented a version of the lecture to a seminar of academics and practitioners at Washington University's Brown School of Social Work. You can view the presentation here: [The Promise of Two-Generation Anti-poverty Strategies: Existing and Emerging Evidence](#).

Greg Cumpton Publishes Report on the Supply and Demand of Texas School Counselors

In December 2014, Associate Director Greg Cumpton and Research Scientist Matt Giani published their final report from a study of Texas school counselors and Texas education policy titled [Texas School Counselor Study: Exploring the Supply, Demand, and Evolving Roles of School Counselors](#). After funding reductions from the Texas legislature in the spring of 2011, many school districts across Texas reduced the number of counselors available to students, increasing the number of students the remaining counselors serve by an average of 24 students. In 2013, the implementation of graduation and curricular changes mandated by House Bill 5 (HB5) increased the responsibilities of middle and high school counselors. The purpose of this report is to begin to understand how specific changes in Texas education policy have influenced counseling in the state by considering these issues.

Chris King and Heath Prince Cited in the National Skills Coalition Leadership Forum

In December 2014, Dr. King and Dr. Prince traveled to Miami, FL, to participate in the [National Skills Coalition](#)'s first leadership forum of its [State Workforce and Education Alignment Project](#) (SWEAP). This project is helping to develop system-wide information about workforce education and training programs for state policy leaders. Drs. King and Prince led the discussions where state teams talked about their states' skill gaps and what they are currently doing to close those gaps. You can read about the forum [here](#).

Chris King Participates in Panel Discussion at the "Transforming US Workforce Development Policies for the 21st Century" Conference

Dr. Chris King traveled to New Brunswick, NJ, to participate in the [Transforming US Workforce Development Policies for the 21st Century](#) conference from October 15-17, 2014. The conference was sponsored by the [John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development](#) at [Rutgers University](#) and the Federal Reserve Banks of [Atlanta](#) and [Kansas City](#). He participated in a panel discussion on effective strategies for engaging employers in workforce development programs moderated by Bob Giloth of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The session titled "Aligning Employers and Workforce Development Strategies" was held on the second day of the conference, and other panelists for the session included Dr. Burt Barnow of George Washington University and Dr. Kevin Hollenbeck of the Upjohn Institute. Other RMC researchers attending this conference include Dr. Heath Prince. Photos courtesy of Patrick Rodio.

CareerAdvance® Celebrates First RN Graduates

This [article](#) from the [Tulsa World](#) profiles the first two Registered Nursing (RN) graduates of CareerAdvance®, a program within the [Community Action Project of Tulsa](#) that the Ray Marshall Center has been involved with since the design phase in 2008. You can find out more about CareerAdvance® and access the latest evaluation reports on the [project](#) page.

Heath Prince Pens Article for the African Evaluation Journal



Heath Prince's article, "Macro-level Drivers of Multidimensional Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Explaining Change in the Human Poverty Index," was recently published in the [African Evaluation Journal](#). Dr. Prince's article builds on a paper he presented in March 2014 in Yaounde, Cameroon, at the [African Evaluation Association's](#) bi-annual conference. In the article, Dr. Prince presents findings from panel data analyses of economic growth and human development interventions on multidimensional poverty metrics over a 20 year period in 47 Sub-Saharan countries. You can read the article [here](#) via the AEJ website.

Center Researchers Attend Annual APPAM Fall Conference in Albuquerque, NM



ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS
& MANAGEMENT

Several researchers from the Center traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the annual **Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management** (APPAM) Fall Research Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Convention Center from November 6-8, 2014. This year's theme was Global Challenges, New Perspectives. Center staff in attendance included Heath Prince, Christopher King, Daniel Schroeder, Greg Cumpton, Kristin Christensen, and Carinne Deeds. Of those staff, Christopher King presented a working paper on Nov. 7th during the session *Big Data and Policy: Use of Administrative Data to Guide Workforce Development Program Planning and Research*, Heath Prince was a discussant for two papers during the session *Low-Skilled Workers: Employment Experiences and Attempts at Workforce Integration* on November 7th, and Greg Cumpton presented two papers taking a look at High School Strategies and Texas's Top Ten Percent Policy. You can read more about their presentations and find their papers [here](#).

Tara Smith Presents Paper at APPAM's 2014 International Conference in Spain

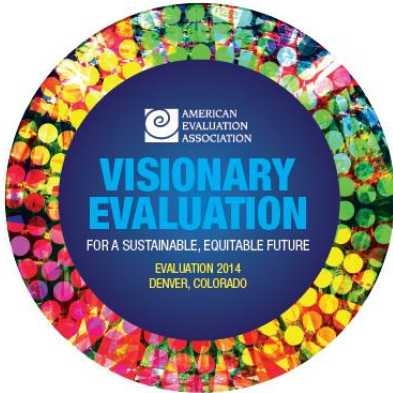
Research Associate Tara Smith traveled to Segovia, Spain, for the **Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management's** (APPAM) annual International Conference **The Decline of the Middle Classes Around the World?** held from September 28-30, 2014 (co-sponsored with the **National University of Distance Education, Faculty of Law**, and the **University of Maryland School of Public Policy**). She presented an original paper, co-authored with Rheagan Coffey, on September 29th titled *Two-Generation Strategies for Expanding the Middle Class*. Using the two-generation framework, the authors examine the current policy and economic environments in the United States and the European Union, focusing particularly on Ireland, and highlight innovative and promising two-generation strategies. You can read her paper [here](#).

Christopher King Writes Blog Post For The Huffington Post's Connecting People To Work Series



Dr. King is now a blog contributor to **The Huffington Post**. His first blog, published on September 25, 2014, relates to the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA) programs that are focused on specific employment sectors and career pathways alongside "bridge" programs providing training and support services designed to help lower-skilled workers find jobs. Dr. King's work can also be found in the book, **Connecting People to Work: Workforce Intermediaries and Sector Strategies**, published by the Aspen Institute, from [Amazon](#). If you'd like to learn more about this blog, click [here](#).

Ashweeta Patnaik attends the American Evaluation Association Annual Conference



Ms. Patnaik traveled to Denver, CO to attend the **28th annual conference** of the American Evaluation Association "Visionary Evaluation: For a Sustainable, Equitable Future - Evaluation 2014" held at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center from October 15-18, 2014. She connected with fellow evaluators as well as funders in the education, workforce, and international development fields. The conference is a community of evaluators and promises to be a good venue for future presentations of RMC's work in program evaluation. Ms. Patnaik also attended a full-day workshop on propensity score matching prior to the start of the conference.

Harvard EdCast: Preventing Summer Melt

Since 2013, the Ray Marshall Center has worked with national leaders addressing the challenges college-seeking high school seniors face during the summer after graduation. Dr. Lindsay Page, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and a researcher on the **Summer Melt:IES** project, along with colleague Ben Castleman, were featured on the weekly series discussing "summer melt," which describes high school graduates that are accepted to college but decide in the summer before their freshman year that going to college is not for them. You can listen to their discussion from September 3, 2014 [here](#).

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Heath Prince, PhD

Director

The Ray Marshall Center is a research unit of the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin

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