



Press Release

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**The Economic Progress Institute Adds
Six New Board Members**

Individuals bring tremendous expertise, diversity and passion

PROVIDENCE, RI (September 12, 2012) – The Economic Progress Institute, formerly The Poverty Institute, is pleased to announce that six new Rhode Islanders have joined its board of directors. The Institute is a non-partisan research and policy organization that works to improve the economic security of low- and modest-income Rhode Islanders.

“We are delighted to have six outstanding individuals joining our team, all of whom are passionate about improving the economic well-being of Rhode Islanders and have extensive experience working with non-profits,” said Lisa Roth Blackman, the organization’s Board Chair.

The newest members include:

Alan Flam - Director of Advising and Community Collaboration, Swearer Center, Brown University

Rabbi Flam founded and directs UCAAP, a program designed for first year students who want community service and social change work to be a central part of their Brown experience. He also supervises a number of community programs including, Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere (HOPE), Partnership for Adult Learning, Writer’s Group, Brown Refugee Youth Tutoring and Enrichment and Break Projects. He is the immediate past President of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless where he continues to serve on the Board. He is on the Steering Committee of the RI Interfaith Coalition and a past president of the RI Board of Rabbis.

Deborah Linnell – Nonprofit Specialist

Deborah has over 32 years of experience in the non-profit sector as consultant to philanthropic institutions, evaluator, non-profit executive director and board member. She has provided training for international, national and regional non-profit audiences on subjects including fund, board and

program development; strategic planning; evaluation; and succession planning. Deb is the lead author of the Executive Directors Guide, The Guide for Successful Nonprofit Management and Evaluation of Capacity Building: Reflections from the Field. She began employment with the van Beuren Charitable Foundation this summer.

Brandon Melton – Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Lifespan

Brandon serves as the Senior Vice President, Human Resources for Lifespan, the oldest and one of the largest health systems in New England. Lifespan is comprised of five hospitals, employs 12,600 staff and has annual operating revenues of \$1.6 billion. Prior to joining Lifespan, Brandon served from 1988-2001 as Vice President, Human Resources for Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) a health system sponsored by twelve women's religious congregations comprised of over 120 health care facilities in 22 states. Prior to joining CHI, Brandon served from 1982-88 as Executive Director of the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA) of the American Hospital Association (AHA), the national professional society for human resources executives in the health care industry.

Nzinga Misgana – Principal, Nzinga Misgana Consulting

Nzinga is a nonprofit management consultant with 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. She was the founding director of New Roots Providence, a program of The Providence Plan that has provided training, grants, and technical assistance to hundreds of faith-based and community-based organizations throughout Rhode Island. As a consultant, Nzinga has designed programs for foundations and for nonprofit organizations, led organizations through strategic planning, supported boards of directors in developing their leadership, and raised millions of dollars through grant writing. She has been a youth development worker, a public service paralegal, and a community organizer.

Pastor Santiago Rodriguez – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Pastor Rodriguez is currently the Senior Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Previously, before he arrived with his family as a missionary to the United States in 1997, he worked as a community organizer for more of 15 years in his country, the Dominican Republic and throughout Latin America. He works with organizations focused on community development like World Vision International and Food for the Hungry International. Currently Santiago is a member of the Steering Committee of the R.I. Interfaith Coalition and the P.E.A.C.E Initiative, both focused on economic and social justice issues through collaborative involvement of churches in Providence and Rhode Island.

Doris Stearn Donovan - Retired senior foundation administrator and evaluator and active volunteer and mentor in governance and administration

Doris has served as a consultant on organizational matters for a variety of not-for-profits, government agencies and foundations. She served as Vice President for Program and Deputy President and Acting President at the Rhode Island Foundation. Doris also has extensive experience in planning, research and evaluation. She continues to serve in leadership positions on numerous boards, including Children's Friend and the Bethany Home Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Photographs of members are available.

About The Economic Progress Institute

The Economic Progress Institute - formerly The Poverty Institute - is a nonpartisan research and policy organization dedicated to improving the economic well-being of low- and modest-income Rhode Islanders. For more information visit www.economicprogressri.org.

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