

IPPSR Public Policy Forum Series 2017
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Putting the American Dream within Reach

Speakers and Panelists

Jennifer Sykes, Assistant Professor, Social Relations and Policy, James Madison College, Michigan State University



Jennifer Sykes's research focuses on poverty and inequality. Her work examines vulnerable families and their relations with the state. Her recent projects and publications involve tax policy, namely the Earned Income Tax Credit, and child protection, with an emphasis on child neglect. She has won several awards, including the Truman and Marshall Fellowships while an undergraduate at James Madison College and the Jacob K. Javits and NSF awards while at Harvard. She received her BA in Social Relations and Psychology James Madison College at Michigan State University and her MA in Social Policy from the University of York in the United Kingdom.

Erica Tobe, MSU Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University



Dr. Erica Tobe is the Graduate Program Director and Assistant Professor for the Human Development and Family Studies department and an Extension Specialist in the area of financial education and homeownership education for MSU Extension. In addition, Tobe teaches an undergraduate course in Personal Finance, HDFS 238 and co-leads department financial education initiatives, including "Go for the Green" academic orientation sessions for incoming freshman and university-wide Money Smart Week events to raise collegiate financial education among Michigan State University students.

Funded in 2016, Tobe is the Principal Investigator (PI) on a \$100,000 Rose Foundation for the Communities and the Environment grant to implement and evaluate financial capability and

financial coaching in Kent & Muskegon Counties for MSUE. Also, Tobe is the co-PI on two housing education grants to implement pre-purchase, financial capability, and foreclosure counseling in Wayne, Macomb, and Clare counties, also with MSUE.

Dr. Tobe is the current co-chair of the eXtension Financial Security for All Community of Practice and the 2017 President Elect for the Michigan Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences. Prior to this position, Tobe served as an Educator and Program Leader with Michigan State University Extension.

Bill Hendrian, MSU Extension District Coordinator, Finance and Homeownership Education, Michigan State University



Bill Hendrian is an MSU Extension Educator and Counselor, specializing in Finance and Homeownership Education. Hendrian retains over 30 years of combined business, legal and Consumer Education experience. Prior to joining MSU Extension in 2014, Hendrian practiced law for nearly 20 years and handled criminal and civil matters as well as consumer bankruptcy cases. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville and a Juris Doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, Michigan. In addition to being a Michigan State Housing Development Authority certified housing counselor, he is certified through Neighborworks® Center for Homeownership Education and Counseling in Foreclosure Intervention and Default Counseling, Pre-Purchase Homeownership Education, Homeownership Counseling and Financial Capability.

Steve Ragan, Senior Vice President for Development & External Relations, Southwest Solutions



Steve Ragan is the Senior Vice President of Development & External Relations for Southwest Solutions, a position he has held since 2015. Ragan joined Southwest Solutions from Focus: HOPE, where he led the successful conclusion of their \$100 M capital campaign. Since 2009 he has served as chief development officer and then senior advisor to Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation. He was the Vice President and later Senior V. P. for University Advancement at Lawrence Technological University and was V.P. for Development and Community Affairs at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Earlier in his career he directed Eastern Michigan University's first comprehensive campaign. Ragan has served as a consultant and

advisor to numerous nonprofits in education, anti-poverty, and arts and culture sectors. Ragan also served for as a publicly elected trustee and chairperson of Schoolcraft College, where he was the nation's youngest college governing board chairman. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education.

Sponsor Leadership

Matt Grossmann, Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), Associate Professor of Political Science



Matt Grossmann is Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) and Associate Professor of Political Science, Michigan State University. A nationally known political scientist, Dr. Grossman is an expert on American politics and government whose research spans national and state policymaking, election campaigns, interest groups, and political parties. He has authored numerous journal articles on policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. He is co-author of *Campaigns & Elections*, a textbook available through W. W. Norton, and is editor of the volume *New Directions in Interest Group Politics*, from Routledge.

Forum Facilitator

AnnMarie Schneider, M.S., Director for Program Planning & Policy Education, IPPSR



AnnMarie leads the program planning and development division of IPPSR and advises the Institute's communications and marketing strategies. Under her direction are the Michigan Applied Policy Grant Program and a monthly forum series, both of which feature research expertise on current legislative issues. She also directs MSU's Canadian Studies Center where the focus is on international relations and Canada's cultural and economic profile. AnnMarie's background includes three cornerstone programs - the development of the Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP) as an MSU program, founding team member and co-directorship of the Legislative Leadership Program, and development and marketing of the State of the State Survey. Her interests include building networks of issue expertise, and securing opportunities for faculty research and student learning.