Spokeswoman Media Kit
The challenges Michigan women and their families face when trying to become self-sufficient are as multifaceted as they are seemingly insurmountable. The Michigan Partners Project aims to address these barriers by bringing together key stakeholders from diverse sectors working on issues related to women and economic security. This network of Michigan academic and community partners works to identify and address barriers through research, programs and policy at the community and state level.

Advancing economic security among Michigan low-income women requires comprehensive policies that are data-driven, community-rooted and responsive to women's barriers and assets. Our goal is to convene organizations and individuals holding different parts of the puzzle and support their collaborative efforts.

“POWERFUL AND ENGAGING NARRATIVES”

The MPP believes that the most powerful agents for women's economic security are women who have stories speaking to the intersection of lived experience and policy. The MPP sponsors a panel of activists who advocate through powerful and engaging narratives. These spokeswomen are available at no cost to event planners to speak to a variety of audiences. Content for speaking opportunities includes personal testimonies as well as facts on existing and proposed policies in MPP priority areas:

• Increasing workers’ access to paid sick days
• Improving college support structures for pregnant or parenting students
• Increasing childcare subsidies and access to college for low-income women on public assistance

Potential events for speaking opportunities include, but are not limited to:

• Press conferences
• Legislative meetings and briefings
• Meetings of business and community groups
• Conference presentations
• **Dr. Rita Fields** is an assistant professor of Management at Madonna University who shares her powerful story of living in poverty to advocate for personal and policy change.

• **Kindra Speech** is a community activist who uses her experiences with the health care system to illustrate the need for progressive policy change regarding economic issues.

• **Nyeeyah Waldron** is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan and a passionate advocate for pregnant and parenting students completing educational programs.

More information on each speaker follows.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you are interested in learning more about the MPP Spokeswoman Project or would like to host a spokeswoman at an event, please contact us:

Beth Sullivan  
MPP Coordinator  
Center For The Education of Women  
University of Michigan Ann Arbor  
330 E. Liberty St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734.764.6343  
bsulliva@umich.edu

You may also visit our website and complete an interest form:  
www.cew.umich.edu/mpp-spokeswoman-project
Dr. Fields is an Assistant Professor of Management in the School of Business at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan. Dr. Fields worked at the senior executive level in the healthcare industry for 10 years and in corporate America for nearly two decades. Dr. Fields is a member of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources (NAAAHHR) and the Human Resources Association of Greater Detroit (HRAGD). She is a recent ex-President of the Marygrove College Alumni Board, a board member with South Oakland Shelter (SOS), a board advisor for the First Children Finance Fund and a member of the board for the Detroit Artist Market.

Crain’s Detroit Business named her among “40 under 40” in 2008. In 2009, the Fusion division of the Detroit Chamber of Commerce honored her with a Young Professional in Health Care Services Horizon Award. In both 2010 and 2011 she was selected to serve as a United States delegate with SHRM to explore human capital issues in both China and Brazil. She also offers expertise on human resources and strategic business issues through Copper Phoenix Consulting, LLC.

**Dr. Fields’ Speaking Topics:**
- Personal and Structural Barriers Women Face in Exiting Poverty
- Access to Higher Education and Its Role In Poverty Alleviation
- Effective Strategies For Supporting Women in Exiting Poverty
Ms. Speech received her B.A. in English Literature and Women’s Studies from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. She then taught English as a Second Language in Japan for several years. Since moving to Michigan in 2012, Ms. Speech first won an election as Precinct Delegate in Oak Park, and now serves as Precinct Delegate for the city of Eastpointe.

Ms. Speech served two years on the board of the Women Officials Network and on the Executive Board of the National Congress of Black Women of Oakland County. She is dedicated to encouraging women of all ages and backgrounds to become more involved in public policy through elected and appointed office. She is also a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit, and Girl Scouts USA.

Ms. Speech is a very grateful breast cancer survivor since 2013. As a survivor, educator and graduate from a woman’s college, she is a tireless advocate for women, children, education, and policy regarding health care and public services. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, volunteering with Guardian ad Litem programs, Girls Scouts of Southeast Michigan, the American Red Cross, and other worthy organizations. She will attend Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School in the fall of 2015.

**Ms. Speech’s Speaking Topics:**
- Personal and Structural Barriers Women Face in Exiting Poverty
- Health Care and Poverty
- Public Assistance Programs and Their Role in Poverty Alleviation
- Effective Strategies For Supporting Women in Exiting Poverty
Ms. Waldron is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, a wife and mother of four. She shares her powerful journey of completing higher education to illustrate the benefits of safety net programs in helping women become economically self-sufficient.

Ms. Waldron is a skilled professional with over ten years experience working with clients from diverse backgrounds to build product and brand messaging effectiveness. She provides brand and promotional representation for Fortune 500 companies at trade, educational, and promotional events. With exceptional communication and problem solving skills, she has represented her clients effectively and built relationships with key stakeholders.

Ms. Waldron volunteers at C.O.A.C.H M.A.C., an organization that mentors young women between the ages of 7-12. The program provides leadership training and helps young women to become tomorrow's leaders.

Ms. Waldron is the daughter of civil rights activists Dr. Ameenah E.P. Omar (known as Evelyn Pierce at the time of the “Tougaloo Nine” sit-in at the Jackson Mississippi Public Library) and Abdul Aziz Omar, brother of Malcolm X.

**Ms. Waldron’s Speaking Topics:**
- Personal and Structural Barriers Women Face in Exiting Poverty
- Access to Higher Education and Its Role In Poverty Alleviation
- Effective Strategies For Supporting Women in Exiting Poverty
- Supporting Low-income Women in the Workplace
- Childcare and Poverty Alleviation