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. Funded by the Ford Foundation, the Michigan Partners Project began facilitating discussions in 2013 between key stakeholders working to increase women’s economic security. Through these meetings, a diverse network of Michigan academic and community partners developed. MPP coalition members work to increase access to:

- Earned paid sick days
- College education
- Affordable, quality child care
- Safety net programs for which women and families are eligible

The Michigan Partners Project 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.

**About Michigan Partners Project (MPP)**

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. Funded by the Ford Foundation, the Michigan Partners Project began facilitating discussions in 2013 between key stakeholders working to increase women’s economic security. Through these meetings, a diverse network of Michigan academic and community partners developed. MPP coalition members work to increase access to:

- Earned paid sick days
- College education
- Affordable, quality child care
- Safety net programs for which women and families are eligible

The Michigan Partners Project 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.
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.

Ms. Speech’s Speaking Topic:
- Access to Paid Sick Days and Its Role in Economic Stability

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 (NAAHR) 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.

Dr. Fields’ Speaking Topics:
- Access to Paid Sick Days and Its Role in Economic Stability
- Improving College Supports for Pregnant & Parenting Students

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.

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:
- Access to Paid Sick Days and Its Role in Economic Stability
- Improving College Supports for Pregnant & Parenting Students

**Interested?**

If you are interested in learning more about the Michigan Partners 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
734.764.6343
bsulliva@umich.edu

You may also visit our website and complete an interest form: www.cew.umich.edu/mpp-spokeswoman-project

MPP Spokeswomen

MPP sponsors a panel of speakers 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 and programs related to:

- Increasing workers’ access to paid sick days
- Improving college support structures for pregnant and parenting students

Potential events for speaking opportunities include, but are not limited to:
- Press conferences
- Meetings of business & community groups
- Conference presentations
- Legislative meetings & briefings