

Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline

Panelists Biographies

Margaret Beale Spencer received a PhD in Child and Developmental Psychology from the University of Chicago, Committee on Human Development. She is the current Marshall Field IV Professor of Urban Education and Professor of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago. Her theory-driven child and adolescent-focused developmental research efforts address resiliency, identity, and competence formation processes of ethnically diverse children and youth, and explore the implications of the combined factors for achievement and health. Her collaborative applications of the work are based upon the view that all humans are vulnerable (i.e., all possess both risks and protective factors), thus, it is critical to understand the amount and type of supports needed by diverse citizens to obtain valued outcomes, such as good physical and psychological health and academic achievement.

Albert Sykes is the Mississippi Lead Organizer for the Young People's Project (YPP). Albert, 26, is a 12-year veteran of YPP. In Mississippi, Albert is helping to lead the growth and development of a new statewide cadre of math literacy workers and young political organizers. Albert is also a member of the YPP Mississippi Donor Organizing Team, piloting both grassroots and major donor strategies to sustain a youth-led movement for systemic change in Mississippi and across the country. He served as one of the organizers of the Finding Our Folk Tour, YPP's region-wide effort to document the stories of Katrina's survivors. Albert has participated in many events such as Harry Belafonte's Gathering for Justice and the Take Back America conference. He has been active in the development of ITVS' Masculinity Project content. He is currently developing curriculum for Barack and Curtis, a film by acclaimed director Byron Hurt. He is the father of two young sons, three-year-old Aidan and eighteen-month-old Ethan.

Judge Steven C. Teske was appointed judge of the Juvenile Court of the Clayton Judicial Circuit in Georgia in 1999. Prior to his appointment he was a partner in the firm of Boswell & Teske LLP and served as a special assistant attorney general prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases and representing state agencies involving state tort and section 1983 cases. He has received awards while on the bench from the NAACP, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Clayton County Bar Association, Juvenile Court Association of Georgia, Georgia Juvenile Justice Association, and the Georgia Association of Homes for Children for his efforts to reduce detention and racial and ethnic disparities. He is the immediate past president of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges. The Governor has appointed Judge Teske to the Children and Youth Coordinating Council, Judicial Advisory Council of the Department of Juvenile Justice Board, and Vice-Chair of the Governor's Office for Children and Families. He currently serves on the Federal Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice. Several of his articles have been published on detention reform, and he is currently working on a practice guide for courts and communities to reduce school referrals and improve school safety to be published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.