

<b>Facilitator</b>
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**Rex LaMore, Ph.D.**

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**Rex LaMore is State Director of the Michigan State University's Community Economic Development Program and a member of the faculty of the Urban and Regional Planning Program in the newly established School of Planning, Design and Construction at MSU. Dr. LaMore has over 30 years of experience in Community and Economic Development and has focused his career on the unique challenges of revitalizing distressed communities.**

Dr. LaMore teaches ethics, urban policy and co-supervises the capstone practicum courses in the Urban and Regional Planning Program. He provides leadership in a number of research and outreach activities designed to create jobs and improve the quality of life in distressed communities. His current research is focused on Michigan's "knowledge economy and creative communities" where he and a team of scholars at MSU have developed a knowledge economy index for Michigan's counties and municipalities.

As the architect of the 1992 Outreach Partnership Act with Senator Don Riegle of Michigan, Dr. LaMore's work has affected the nature of University/Community partnerships nationwide. In 1995 he was the national recipient of the Community Development Society's Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his leadership and sustained commitment to excellence in community development.

Dr. LaMore has authored numerous publications on community and economic development, including a recent article for the National Science Foundation on the potential effects of technology on the development of social capital by community based affordable housing organizations. Dr. LaMore received his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Michigan State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

## Panelists

### **John B. Czarnecki**

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**John Czarnecki has worked in the area of economic development issues for the past 25 years working for the Michigan Department Commerce, Michigan Jobs Commission, and now Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Before that John worked for the Department of Management and Budget in the State Office of Intergovernmental Relations.**

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### **Daniel P. Gilmartin**

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**Dan Gilmartin is the director of the Michigan Municipal League, the state's association of cities and villages since 1899. In this role, Gilmartin has authority over the League's programming, policy development and member services. Prior to being appointed executive director, Mr. Gilmartin served as the League's deputy director to revitalize its membership programs and design new services for cities and villages. He also served for four years as the organization's lead lobbyist in Lansing and in Washington, where he concentrated on a number of key issues including transportation, land use and urban redevelopment.**

Through his work on behalf of municipalities, Gilmartin is recognized as a statewide leader in the fields of urban revitalization, local government reform and transportation policy. Prior to joining the MML in 1996, Gilmartin served as executive director of the Conference of Western Wayne for seven years, where he worked directly with cities and townships on a number of critical issues confronting local governments.

**George K. Heartwell**

Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids

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**The Honorable George Heartwell is Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids. He took the oath of office on December 30, 2003. Mayor Heartwell is an ordained minister and served as a former Pastor of Public Ministries. He has served as President of a mortgage company, and as a city commissioner in Grand Rapids' third ward, the most racially and economically diverse of the city's three wards. He is the founder of the Community Leadership Institute at Aquinas College. And currently, he is the President and CEO of Pilgrim Manor as well as Mayor of Grand Rapids.**

Previous to joining the administrative staff as President and CEO of Pilgrim Manor in October 2005, Mayor Heartwell he designed and implemented the Community Leadership Institute at Aquinas College. In addition, he was a team-teacher in the Community Leadership major. Heartwell went to Aquinas College from a career that paired politics and religion. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a graduate of Western Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree. For 14 years prior to his appointment at Aquinas, Heartwell served as Pastor of Public Ministries at Heartside Ministry, a faith-based program serving the homeless poor. During the last eight years of his tenure at Heartside Ministry, Heartwell held elected office as a City Commissioner in Grand Rapids, MI. The Third Ward, which he represented, has a population of approximately 68,000 people and is the most racially and economically diverse of the city's three wards. As a Commissioner, Heartwell championed civil rights and economic empowerment legislation and was seen as a friend of business and the poor, operating on the philosophy that an economically vibrant city has a better opportunity to address the needs of the poor than does an economically distressed city.

Prior to his service on the Grand Rapids City Commission, and prior to his employment at Heartside Ministry, George Heartwell spent 15 years in mortgage banking with his family's firm, Heartwell Mortgage Corporation. The last two years of his tenure at Heartwell Mortgage he served as its President. He was elected Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids in 2003 and continues to serve in that role.

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**Zenia Kotval, Ph.D.**

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**Zenia Kotval is an Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Michigan State University. Dr. Kotval's research focuses on the impacts of policy choices on community planning. She has been involved with MSU's research project on the Cool Cities Initiative and participates in the Cool Cities Initiative Evaluation Advisory Committee.**

She consults on an ongoing basis, for the Center for Economic Development at the University of Massachusetts. Her training and experience combine project administration, data analysis and

evaluation of fiscal impacts of planning and development issues. She holds a bachelor's degree in architecture and Masters and Ph.D. degrees in regional planning. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

#### Forum Coordinator

**AnnMarie Schneider, M.S.**

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**Ms. Schneider is the Program Planning Director for the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research with a background of over 20 years of professional accomplishments in communications and marketing, as well as public policy and government relations.**

She is responsible for creating networks comprised of faculty researchers, policy practitioners, community activists, and business leaders to further inform policy discussion. While coordinating an annual policy forum series and several policy education initiatives, Ms. Schneider also codirects MSU's Legislative Leadership Program, a national model for state government–university partnerships. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's in Speech and Communication from Bellarmine University and the University of Louisville, respectively.

#### IPPSR Director

**Douglas B. Roberts, Ph.D.**

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**Dr. Roberts currently serves as Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University and has been affiliated with IPPSR since April 2003.**

He holds more than 28 years experience in Michigan government, including 10 years as state treasurer, and time as director of the Senate Fiscal Agency, deputy superintendent of the Department of Education, deputy director of the Department of Management and Budget (DMB), and acting director of DMB. He holds a doctorate and a master's degree in economics from MSU and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Maryland. He has been affiliated with IPPSR since April 2003.