

October 7, 2013

Dear ....

You are invited to participate in the upcoming forum: "Poverty, Partnerships and the Public Good: A Call for Engagement by North Carolina Institutions" – to be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> in Chapel Hill. This small gathering of select invitees will be hosted by the UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity and the UNC Program on Public Life. We hope you can join us.

The last decade has presented notable challenge in North Carolina. Even as the economy grew, leading to 2008, poverty and economic inequality became more pronounced. Then, with the unfolding of deep and wounding recession, economic hardship mushroomed and prospects for recovery and enhancement proved slow and illusive. Our poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, and uninsured rates rose to among the worst in the nation.

Against this stubborn backdrop, in 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly altered the political and economic landscape markedly. Major changes in taxation, health care, economic development, unemployment compensation, public education, government benefits, and an array of other programs were initiated. The impact on low income North Carolinians may prove enormous.

We convene this initial set of intimate discussions to explore obligations, strategies and opportunities for various North Carolina advocates, service providers, institutions, universities, and funders – private and public – to address the challenges presently faced by poor and low income North Carolinians. The forum, as set forth below, will be organized into four panels that we hope will trigger active discussions among the 50 or so invitees. Lunch will be provided. Please confirm your participation with Mary Irvine at the Poverty Center at [poverty\\_center@unc.edu](mailto:poverty_center@unc.edu) by November 1.

Sincerely,

Gene R. Nichol

Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor and Director,  
Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity  
UNC School of Law