

Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education: *Conversation Series*

SPONSORED BY THE ALBERT SHANKER INSTITUTE AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Is There a Pension Crisis?

March 11, 2015

Noon to 2 p.m.

PANELISTS

CHAD ALDEMAN

Chad Aldeman is an associate partner at Bellwether Education Partners, where he has worked on the Policy and Thought Leadership team since 2012, advising clients and writing on teacher preparation, teacher evaluation, and college and career readiness. He also serves as editor for TeacherPensions.org. Previously, Aldeman was a policy advisor in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education, where he worked on Elementary and Secondary Education Act waivers, teacher preparation and the Teacher Incentive Fund. Prior to joining the department, Aldeman was a policy analyst with Education Sector. He has published reports on state higher education accountability systems, the potential of improving high school accountability by incorporating outcomes data, the school choice process in New York City and Boston, teacher pensions, teacher and principal evaluations, teacher salary schedules and teacher preparation. His work has been featured in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Newsday* and the *Des Moines Register*. Aldeman holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in public policy from the College of William and Mary.

TERESA GHILARDUCCI

Teresa Ghilarducci is a labor economist and nationally recognized expert in retirement security. She holds the Bernard L. and Irene Schwartz Chair in economic policy analysis and directs the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis, which focuses on economic policy research and outreach. Ghilarducci joined the New School after 25 years as a professor of economics at the University of Notre Dame. Her work focuses on the need to restore the promise of retirement for every American worker. To do so, she has put forth a reform idea—the creation of guaranteed retirement accounts (GRAs)—to solve the problems Americans face in planning for retirement: decreasing coverage and contributions, increasing investment risk, portability, leakage, high fees, and the drawdown of benefits in retirement. In February 2010, the White House Middle Class Task Force issued a report calling Ghilarducci's proposal a viable option to help American families save for retirement and called for further research on the plan. In July 2009, the U.S. Government Accountability Office

identified GRAs as one alternative to overhaul the U.S. retirement system. Her most recent book, *When I'm Sixty-Four: The Plot against Pensions and the Plan to Save Them*, investigates the loss of pensions on older Americans and proposes a comprehensive system of reform. Her previous books include *Labor's Capital: The Economics and Politics of Private Pensions*, winner of an Association of American Publishers award in 1992, and *Portable Pension Plans for Casual Labor Markets*, published in 1995.

DAVID CAY JOHNSTON

David Cay Johnston began teaching at Syracuse Law in 2009, after retiring as a *New York Times* reporter in 2008. Johnston teaches a course on the history and principles of tax and property law, and a course on the history and principles of regulating trade and commerce. Best known for his coverage of how the tax system actually works, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in 2001, Johnston also wrote groundbreaking news stories on Enron not paying taxes, some companies using a Bermuda mailbox to escape American taxes, and political spying and brutality by the Los Angeles Police Department. Johnston is a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and a columnist for *Al Jazeera America*, *Tax Analysts* and *NationalMemo.com*. He is a frequent guest on MSNBC, *Al Jazeera*, PBS, CNN, Fox, NPR and other broadcast outlets. In 2012-14, Johnston was the president of the 5,000-member Investigative Reporters & Editors. He edited the 2014 anthology *Divided: The Perils of Our Growing Inequality*. Johnston's 2012 investigative book about restraint of trade, *The Fine Print*, completed his trilogy on the American economy. First came *Perfectly Legal*, a national bestseller on tax policy that won the 2004 Investigative Book of the Year award, followed by his bestseller *Free Lunch*.

DAN PEDROTTY

Dan Pedrotty is a co-director of the Center for Workers' Benefits and Capital Strategies at the 1.6 million-member American Federation of Teachers. The AFT program organizes workers' capital (pension funds and savings plans) into a voice for corporate accountability and retirement security. Pedrotty also represents the AFT with lawmakers and agencies on the issues of capital markets and corporate governance. He graduated from Dickinson College with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1999 and from Wake Forest University Law School with a J.D. in 2002.

NEXT CONVERSATION:

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN: EQUITY IN AMERICAN EDUCATION— LOOKING BACKWARD, LOOKING FORWARD

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

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