



College of Education



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wayne State University's College of Education partners with Gleaners Community Food Bank for its annual conference on "Understanding the Impact of Poverty on Education" Feb. 5-7**

*Gleaners Community Food Bank unites with K-12 and higher education educators to address issues of poverty in the community.*

Gleaners Community Food Bank, with broad community support, fights hunger in southeastern Michigan. Gleaners is committed to distributing nutritional, high quality food and through education and advocacy, works to reduce reliance on the emergency food system. For more than 36 years, Gleaners Community Food Bank has been nourishing communities by feeding hungry people. Join them, on February 5<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> as they continue to play an instrumental role in impacting today's economy.

According to the Michigan Nonprofit Association, non-profits generate more than \$108 billion each year and employ more than 440,000 people in Michigan. In the 50 years following President Lyndon Johnson's "war on poverty," the nonprofit sector has experienced massive growth, increasing 25 percent since 2001 alone (According to Huffington Post writer Ira Silver in the article *A Positive Legacy of the War on Poverty We Can All Agree Upon*). After adjusting for inflation, the \$316 billion Americans gave to charity in 2012 is about 2½ times the amount contributed in 1972 (According to the Charitable Giving Statistics published by the National Philanthropic Trust). However, the question remains, is it enough to help families rise out of poverty? What are the challenges that face today's families and what services are available to assist them? The *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Understanding the Impact of Poverty on Education*, sponsored by the College of Education at Wayne State University, will feature two activities including a luncheon on Thursday, February 6, from noon – 1:30 p.m. and a panel of local community leaders on Friday, February 7, from 11:00 a.m. to noon, that will serve as a platform for local non-profits, dedicated to addressing the issues of poverty and homelessness, to disseminate information and share experiences with the educational community.

The poverty conference kicks off Feb. 5 with a free community lecture and reception.

Michael Dantley, professor and dean of the School of Education of Loyola University Chicago, **will deliver a keynote address, *We Are They and They Are We: The Personal Praxis of Probing Poverty***, Dantley has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, including academic appointments in the School of Education, Health and Society at Miami University. The kick-off event also includes a performance by [Kinetic Affect Poetry](#).

The registration for the full, three-day conference is \$180 or \$100 for a single day. However, a discounted rate of \$50 will be offered to attendees involved with the community sponsors, affiliates of non-profit agencies, and WSU faculty and staff. For more information or to register, visit [www.coe.wayne.edu/poverty](http://www.coe.wayne.edu/poverty).

*Wayne State University is a premier institution offering more than 370 academic programs through 13 schools and colleges to nearly 28,000 students.*