**Suzanne Anarde** began 27 years serving rural communities as founding Director of Tri-County Housing in Colorado. She joined Rural LISC in 2005 as a consultant, and in 2010 as Senior Program Director managing loan and grant portfolios for partners in California, Oregon and Utah. In 2013, Suzanne was appointed Rural LISC Vice President, overseeing revitalization work with 86 rural community-based organizations in 44 states. Suzanne served on the Colorado State Housing Board for seven years and was President of Fowler School Board for 18 years as an elected representative, a rural district in southeastern Colorado. She also serves as a Board member with Fannie Mae’s Affordable Housing Advisory Council, National Rural Housing Coalition, U.S. Bank Advisory Committee, Dakotas America Advisory Board, and CEI National Advisory Board serving rural Maine.

**Lawrence (Lonnie) Berger** is Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on the ways in which economic resources, sociodemographic characteristics, and public policies affect parental behaviors and child and family wellbeing. He is engaged in studies in three primary areas: (1) examining the determinants of substandard parenting, child maltreatment, and out-of-home placement for children; (2) exploring associations among socioeconomic factors (family structure and composition, economic resources, household debt), parenting behaviors, and children’s care, development, and wellbeing; and (3) assessing the influence of public policies on parental behaviors and child and family wellbeing. His work aims to inform public policy in order to improve its capacity to assist families in accessing resources, improving family functioning and wellbeing, and ensuring that children are able to grow and develop in the best possible environments.

**Nicole Bernsen** is a former middle and high school teacher with a bachelor's degree in global and international studies from UC Santa Barbara, a teaching credential in social sciences from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and a master's degree in political science from the University of New Mexico. She is currently a PhD student and graduate research assistant in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine. Her research focuses on labor markets, rural communities, and youth aspirations. Nicole is also head coach of the UMaine Women’s Rugby team.
Catherine Biddle’s research focuses on ways in which rural schools and communities respond to social and economic change in the 21st century. She is particularly interested in how schools can more effectively leverage partnerships with external organizations or groups to address issues of social inequality and how non-traditional leaders—such as youth, parents and other community members—may lead or serve as partners in these efforts. Her interests are driven by her professional background in community development that leverages schools. Prior to joining the faculty at UMaine, she spent five years as a research affiliate with the Center on Rural Education and Communities at the Pennsylvania State University and two years as the managing editor of the Journal of Research in Rural Education. Dr. Biddle also served as the executive director of the Nanubhai Education Foundation, an international education nonprofit working in rural India, and as an out of school time educator for the national nonprofit organization Citizen Schools.

Tarrant County, Texas Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks was elected NACo president on July 24, 2017. Active in NACo since 1991, Brooks most recently served as chair of NACo’s Large Urban County Caucus, which works to address the challenges facing the nation’s 100 largest counties. He has served on NACo’s Board of Directors, chaired NACo’s Health Steering Committee Subcommittee on Health Reform and chaired NACo’s Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board. He is also the chairman of the National Organization of Black County Officials. For more than 30 years, Brooks has represented his community as a volunteer, a city official and a county commissioner. Brooks has served in numerous local, state and federal leadership positions and is passionate about improving residents’ health and welfare. He has spearheaded many programs in Tarrant County, including the Tarrant County Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program, the Nurse Family Partnership — an evidence-based nurse home visitation program for first-time mothers and their children — and the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Health Care for the Homeless.

Linda Burton is the Director of the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University. Previously, she served as dean of Social Sciences at Duke's Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, was named James B. Duke Professor of Sociology in 2007. Burton came to Duke in 2006 from Penn State, and has more than a decade of administrative experience from leading two National Institute of Mental Health consortia and postdoctoral training programs and a lengthy history of leading large-scale studies of poverty, family processes, and human development across the life course. Her work is nationally recognized, most recently with a Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association, the inaugural Wiley Alexis Walker Award for Outstanding Research in Family Science, and the Family Research Consortium IV Legacy Award. She received the 2017 Duke University Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentoring. Burton has on many editorial boards and national committees. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in sociology from the University of Southern California and a B.A. in gerontology. She is a Gerontological Society of America fellow and an elected member of the Sociological Research Association.
**Jess Carson** is a Research Assistant Professor with the Vulnerable Families Research Program at the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire. Since joining Carsey in 2010, she has studied poverty, work, and the social safety net, including policies and programs that support low-income workers like affordable health insurance, food assistance programs, and quality child care. Her other interests include health within and across families, and the intersection of health and employment across the income spectrum. Jess is also working on a long-term project around the challenges and opportunities facing people who live and work in rural communities, with the goal of highlighting the strategies that work best to support them. She has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of New Hampshire.

**Rosa Maria Castañeda** is a senior associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation with a crosscutting portfolio to advance opportunity for low income families and children. In this role, she provides strategic guidance for the foundation’s investments in two-generation strategies, including overseeing and coordinating its grants to support program pilots, build evidence and promote policy and system reform. She also manages a national portfolio of grants to close the degree completion gap for low income students in the nation’s community colleges, advance opportunity for immigrants and refugees, and to promote economic success for families in rural America. Prior to joining Casey, she was a manager at Pew Charitable Trusts in the state fiscal and economic policy division, and led research on child and family at the Urban Institute.

**Matthew D. Chase** serves as the Executive Director of the National Association of Counties (NACo), the only national association representing America’s 3,069 county governments. Previously, Matt served nearly a decade as executive director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Prior to becoming NADO’s executive director, he was the organization’s legislative affairs director and deputy executive director. He began his career with the Professional Managers Association, serving as membership services director and chief operating officer. During his professional career, Matt has focused on promoting America’s economic competitiveness, strengthening the intergovernmental system of federal, state and local officials, and engaging local government officials in the federal policymaking process. In addition, he is a regular presenter on the impact of federal budget and policy trends on local governments and communities. Matt is a graduate of Hartwick College and holds a master’s degree from The George Washington University.
**Sam Cordes** joined Purdue University in 2003 and served as the Associate Vice Provost for Engagement; Co-Director, Center for Regional Development; Assistant Director and Program Leader, Cooperative Extension; Professor of Agricultural Economics. Dr. Cordes received his BS and PhD degrees in Agricultural Economics from South Dakota State University and Washington State University. He served as Executive Director of Wyoming Governor Evans’ Task Force on Rural Affairs, on faculty at Penn State University in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, as Professor of Agricultural Economics and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wyoming, and in the same position at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), where he founded and directed the Center for Rural Community Revitalization and the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center. Dr. Cordes has written or co-authored more than 200 publications, including books/monographs, book chapters and refereed journal articles; and has held various professional leadership roles. Dr. Cordes received the Distinguished Researcher Award from NRHA; the RUPRI Founders Award; the first recipient of WSU’s Graduate Alumni Achievement Award; and the SDSU Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Katherine J. Curtis** is Associate Professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology and Director of the Applied Population Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her work is centered in demography and extends to spatial, rural, and applied demography, and focuses on two central themes: investigating the population dynamics underlying stratification structures; and examining how the spatial and temporal contexts shape processes generating demographic change and associated inequality. Current projects focus on the spatial and temporal dimensions of the relationship between industry and poverty, and spatial differentiation in migration responses to environmental events.

**Tracey Farrigan** is a geographer with the Resource and Rural Economics Division of the Economic Research Service, USDA. Tracey’s primary areas of expertise are rural poverty and economic impact analysis. In her position at ERS she conducts research on a variety of related topics associated with rural household well-being and Federal policy. Her recent and ongoing work includes research on persistent and concentrated poverty, alternative poverty measures, rural children and veteran populations, tax credits, and food deserts. Tracey received her Ph.D. in economic geography from The Pennsylvania State University and her M.S. in resource economics from the University of New Hampshire.
Todd Flournoy is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology and the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests cluster in economic and community sociology and the sociology of work. Current projects examine effects of mass job displacement from deindustrialization on worker geographic mobility, on various indicators of community well-being, and on local government planning, revenues, and programs. Todd worked as a licensed architect in Los Angeles until the Great Recession, an event that continues to spur his interests in economic shocks and labor market disruptions.

Charles W. Fluharty is the founder, President, and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). Since RUPRI’s founding in 1990, over 300 scholars representing 16 different disciplines in 100 universities, all U.S. states and 30 other nations have participated in RUPRI projects, which address the full range of policy and program dynamics affecting rural people and places. A Clinical Professor in the University of Iowa College of Public Health and a graduate of Yale Divinity School, he was a German Marshall Fund Transatlantic Fellow from 2007-2011. Chuck is the author of numerous policy studies and journal articles, has presented dozens of Congressional testimonies and briefings, and is also a frequent speaker before national and international audiences, having delivered major public policy speeches in over a dozen nations. He has provided senior policy consultation to most federal departments, state and local governments, associations of government, planning and development organizations, and many foundations.

Robert Francis (Bob) is a doctoral student in Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. His research interests include US poverty and inequality, social policy, and rural communities. Currently, his primary project involves a qualitative examination of work and nonwork among prime-age, working-class men in rural Pennsylvania. He was a 2015 University of Pennsylvania Summer Institute on Inequality Pre-Dissertation Fellow. His work has been awarded by the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) and appeared in the edited volume Faith and Race in American Political Life. Bob holds a BA in Sociology and Theological Studies from Wheaton College (IL) and an MA in Social Science from the University of Chicago. Bob is a compulsive list maker, a proud resident of Steeler Nation, and an (occasionally) avid runner.
Pierce Greenberg is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at Washington State University. His research describes how social and environmental outcomes are unequally distributed across space in the rural coal-mining region of Appalachia. This work examines how the historical process of uneven development contributes to spatial stratification within counties. He also investigates whether coal mining waste sites—called coal impoundments—are disproportionately located near disadvantaged neighborhoods. This work bridges the literature on rural poverty, spatial stratification, and environmental inequality. As a former journalist, Pierce is also interested in the use of public records requests in sociological research. His work has been published in Rural Sociology, Social Science Research, Social Currents, and Journal of Appalachian Studies. He will start a new position as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Creighton University in Fall 2018.

David B. Grusky is Barbara Kimball Browning Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Professor of Sociology, Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Director of the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, and coeditor of Pathways Magazine. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, corecipient of the 2004 Max Weber Award, founder of the Cornell University Center for the Study of Inequality, and a former Presidential Young Investigator. His recent books are Inequality in the 21st Century (with Jasmine Hill, 2017), Social Stratification (with Kate Weisshaar, 2014), Occupy the Future (with Douglas McAdam, Robert Reich, and Debra Satz, 2012), The New Gilded Age (with Tamar Kricheli-Katz, 2011), and The Great Recession (with Bruce Western and Chris Wimer, 2011).

Anne Hazlett serves as the Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture. An Indiana native, she has a deep and lifelong passion for rural America, small towns and the people who call them home. Serving as legal counsel for the Agriculture Committees in both the U.S. House and Senate, Anne has been an advocate for rural communities on many issues important to rural America from Farm Bill legislation to broadband and nutrition programs. Anne also served as Director of Agriculture for her home state of Indiana and Chief of Staff for Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. At USDA, Anne is leading the Rural Development mission area to create an environment for rural prosperity, from greater access to broadband connectivity and medical care to workforce training through distance learning. In this work, she is particularly passionate about helping families and community leaders touched by the opioid epidemic find hope and partnership in building a brighter future. Hazlett is a graduate of Kansas State University, the Indiana University School of Law, and the University of Arkansas.
**Thomas G. Johnson** is the Frank Miller Professor Emeritus of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Professor Emeritus in the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. He previously served on the faculty of the University of Saskatchewan, Virginia Tech, and the University of Illinois. Affiliated with RUPRI since 1990, Tom is director of RUPRI’s Analytic and Academic programs and the Community Policy Analysis Center. He is a founding member RUPRI’s Community Policy Analysis Network and of the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Consortium. Tom received the 2001 RUPRI Community Policy Analysis Network Outstanding Leadership Award. He is the 2002 Fellow of the Southern Regional Science Association, 2006 recipient of the Outstanding Contribution through Economics Award from the Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, 2007 recipient of the USDA Undersecretary’s Group Honor Award for Excellence. In 2012 Tom received the University of Missouri Provost’s Award for Leadership in International Education and the University of Missouri President’s Award for Economic Development. Tom has authored over 250 articles, papers, and book chapters and has co-authored 5 books.

**Iryna Kyzyma** is currently a researcher at Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research and a research affiliate at the IZA Bonn. She completed her PhD at the University of Bremen in September 2015 and was working at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW Mannheim) during two years following her PhD defense. During her PhD studies, Iryna has also spent a semester at Harvard University as a research fellow at the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy. Iryna’s research interests fall in the field of Applied Public and Labor Economics with a particular focus on redistribution, income and poverty dynamics, intergenerational income mobility, and evaluation of policy effects. Her current research projects also cover the topics in the area of Health Economics, especially those related to health inequalities and the impact of childhood circumstances on health outcomes in the adulthood.

**Huan Li** is currently a Post-doctoral Research Associate at Purdue University, Department of Agricultural Economics. Li received degrees in Economics in the Department of Economics at the State University of New York at Binghamton (M.S. and Ph.D.). Li’s research is in environmental economics and applied microeconometrics, grounded in economic theory and characterized by rigorous causal inference. Among Li’s research topics are environmental voluntary regulation, air pollution and health, social mobility, and race inequality.
**Daniel T. Lichter** is the Ferris Family professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Professor of Sociology, former Director of the Cornell Population Center, and current Robert S. Harrison Director of the Institute for Social Sciences. He joined the Cornell University faculty in August 2005. Dr. Lichter is past-president of the Population Association of America (2012) and the Rural Sociological Society (2010-11). He also has served as editor of Demography (2002-2004). Dr. Lichter is a member of the research advisory board of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unintended Pregnancy, a policy fellow of the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire, and a member of the poverty working group (on race and ethnicity) at the Stanford Center of Poverty and Inequality. Dr. Lichter has published widely on topics in population and public policy, including studies of concentrated poverty and inequality, intermarriage, cohabitation and marriage among disadvantaged women, and immigrant incorporation. He is especially interested in America’s racial and ethnic transformation, growing diversity, and the implications for the future. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin.

**Shannon Monnat** is Associate Professor of Sociology and the Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion at in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Dr. Monnat received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the State University of New York at Albany in 2008. As a scholar of social inequality and social demography, Dr. Monnat's research examines the correlates and consequences of social disadvantage, particularly at the intersections of place, public policy, and health. A common theme binding much of her work is a concern for rural people and places. Her current research focuses on geographic differences in opioid misuse and mortality and other diseases and deaths of despair. Her research has been funded through multiple sources, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Institute for New Economic Thinking.

**Doug O’Brien** is the President & CEO of NCBA CLUSA, where he works with the cooperative community, both domestically and internationally, to deepen its impact on individuals and communities. Before coming to NCBA CLUSA, Doug led the work of the White House Rural Council and served in top positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. O'Brien's experience in academia includes teaching, researching and writing at the University of Arkansas Agricultural and Food Masters in Law Program and Drake University Law School. In his role at the White House, O’Brien drove the work of the White House Rural Council, and has served as Chair of the Rural Working Group of the Organization for Economic and Competitive Development, Senior Advisor to governors, as Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and as Counsel on the Senate Agricultural Committee. He has worked as a career Legal Specialist at USDA and for the Organization for Competitive Markets, and has written numerous articles, and was the lead co-author of a book on producer marketing associations. O’Brien was raised on a diversified farm in Dubuque County, Iowa, and holds degrees from Loras College, University of Iowa Law School, and the University of Arkansas Masters in Agricultural Law Program.
**Heather O’Connell** is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at Louisiana State University. Her research focuses on understanding race and the persistence of racial inequality in the United States with particular attention to spatial dynamics and the role of place.

**José Pacas** is currently a research scientist for IPUMS at the Minnesota Population Center working on the IPUMS CPS and USA projects. Pacas formerly worked at the Poverty Statistics Branch at the Census Bureau focusing on the Supplemental Poverty Measure. He received his MPP from the Humphrey School and PhD in Applied Economics, both at the University of Minnesota.

**Emily Partin** was born and raised in Grundy County, TN. She has a Masters in Clinical Psychology and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. Emily worked in community mental health for 15 years prior to her current role as Family Resource Center Director for Grundy County Schools. She is also a founding member of the Discover Together Collaborative and is now serving as Director of the program. Emily serves on multiple boards in the area and has a great passion for community building. She is the liaison between Discover Together, Tracy Elementary and many other community programs.

**Mark Partridge** is the Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy at Ohio State University. Professor Partridge is Managing Editor of the *Journal of Regional Science*, is the Co-editor of the *Springer Briefs in Regional Science*, and serves on the editorial boards of several other journals. He has published over 125 peer-reviewed academic journal papers and coauthored the book *The Geography of American Poverty: Is there a Role for Place-Based Policy?* Professor Partridge has received research funding from many sources including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Brookings Institution, European Commission, U.S. NSF, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USDA, Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council, and World Bank. His research includes investigating poverty, inequality, and regional growth and policy. Professor Partridge is a Fellow and President Elect of the Regional Science Association International and has received the prestigious NARSC Isard and Boyce Awards. He also served as Chair of NARSC and will serve as NARSC President in 2018. Dr. Partridge was President of the Southern Regional Science Association and is an SRSA Fellow.
Lisa R. Pruitt is Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law at UC Davis School of Law. She teaches and writes about law and rural livelihoods as well as gender issues and critical race theory. Pruitt has written extensively about rural poverty including as it relates to domestic violence termination of parental rights voting rights and abortion access. She has also written about spatial inequality in relation to government services including constitutional rights such as the sixth amendment right to counsel.

David Rothwell is an Assistant Professor in the Human Development and Family Sciences program at Oregon State University. Rothwell studies poverty and family policy. Current projects include understanding how the social safety net offsets child poverty, developing an Oregon Poverty Measure, and cross-national comparisons of family financial well-being. Prior to joining Oregon State University, he was an Associate Professor of Social Work at McGill University in Montreal.

Andrew Schaefer is a Vulnerable Families Research Scientist at the Carsey School of Public Policy. Andrew joined Carsey in May 2010 as a research assistant on the Vulnerable Families research team. Much of his work at Carsey focuses on poverty, the social safety net, and women and work, including policies and programs that support low-income and other working families. Andrew is currently working on projects exploring counties with high child poverty and the economic conditions of immigrants in rural places. Andrew received his PhD in sociology from the University of New Hampshire in 2017, with concentrations in work, family, and religion. His dissertation explores the relationships between religious affiliation and gendered labor patterns in U.S. counties. In 2011, he earned a master’s degree from the UNH sociology department and he received his undergraduate degree in sociology from Keene State College in 2009.

Shoshana Shapiro is a PhD student in Joint Program in Public Policy and Sociology at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on poverty alleviation and human services interventions in rural America. Shoshana has previously worked in the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy in the Department of Health and Human Services and as a middle school English teacher in Durham, North Carolina.
**Jennifer Sherman** is Associate Professor of Sociology at Washington State University. Her research looks at the ways in which job loss, poverty, and inequality affect individuals and families, particularly in rural U.S. communities. Her aim is to understand how labor market changes affect family life, cultural discourses, and gender norms. She is author of the 2009 book, *Those Who Work, Those Who Don’t*, and co-editor of the 2017 volume, *Rural Poverty in the United States*. She has authored numerous articles on topics including rural poverty survival; rural education; surveillance and control of low-income parents; the impacts of the Great Recession on low-income families; relationship struggles amongst the poor; and the growth of inequality in high-amenity rural communities. Dr. Sherman is a Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) Fellow and a member of the Rural Sociological Society’s Council and Chair of its Awards and Endowments Committee.

**Tim Slack** received his Ph.D. from Penn State in 2004. His scholarly interests are in the areas of social stratification and social demography with emphasis on forms of spatial inequality. His scholarship has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes, including *Rural Sociology* and *Social Science Research*. His research program has been funded by sources including the National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Agriculture. Recent and ongoing research projects include studies of working poverty and other forms of underemployment; household livelihood strategies including participation in the informal economy (i.e., unrecorded work for cash barter and self-provisioning); and various aspects of regional inequality (e.g., place-based poverty dynamics, food stamp program participation, disaster vulnerability and resilience). At LSU he teaches a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, ranging from introductory sociology to a specialized graduate seminar on the sociology of poverty.

**Michele Statz** is an anthropologist of law and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth. She is also the P.I. on a three-year, NSF-funded study of rural access to justice in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. This project examines how the socio-spatial dimensions of rurality influence legal advocacy, rights mobilization, and individual and community health. Statz’s concurrent work includes collaborative and interdisciplinary projects on global youth; citizenship, race, and identity; reproductive justice; and public interest immigration lawyering. Her new book, *Lawyering an Uncertain Cause: Immigration Advocacy and Chinese Youth in the U.S.* (Vanderbilt Press 2018) explores constructions of age and vulnerability in legal advocacy on behalf of young Chinese migrants. Statz also co-edits and curates youthcirculations.com, a platform for research, art, and activism around youth mobility and the politics of representation.
**Barry Steffen** is a social science analyst in the Office of Policy Development and Research of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His work includes analyzing housing and community development policy issues, supporting HUD’s strategic planning and research planning, and researching affordable housing needs. Recent research has focused on the relationships between housing, health, and food security. He has contributed to numerous HUD reports, independent research papers, and several books. He holds a Master of Science in public policy analysis from the University of Rochester.

**Brian Thiede** is Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography at Pennsylvania State University. His research interests include poverty and inequality in the United States, with a particular emphasis on rural areas. Recent and ongoing studies have analyzed the spatial concentration of poverty, and poverty dynamics among newborn children, ethnic and racial inequality, and the working poor.

**Ann R. Tickamyer**, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, is Professor of Rural Sociology, Sociology, Demography, and Gender and Women’s Studies at Penn State University. She is past head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education in the College of Agricultural Sciences; a past president of the Rural Sociological Society and a past editor of its flagship journal, *Rural Sociology*. Her research interests are in the areas of spatial inequalities, rural poverty and livelihoods, gender and development, including integrating gender and women’s empowerment into development projects, and social welfare policy in the United States and Southeast Asia. She has published numerous journal articles, book chapters, and five books, most recently a comprehensive edited volume on *Rural Poverty in the United States* (co-edited with J. Sherman and J. Warlick, 2017, Columbia University Press).

**Charles Tolbert** is Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and a Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Community Research and Development at Baylor University. He is also a Research Associate with Special Sworn Status at the Center for Economic Studies, U.S. Census Bureau. Tolbert obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He previously held faculty positions at Florida State and Louisiana State Universities. His work has appeared in outlets such as American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Rural Sociology, Social Forces, Social Science Quarterly, Environment and Planning, Rural Perspectives, Applied Sociology, and American Demographics. He has received funding from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce Interior and Labor. Tolbert has served as president of the Southern Sociological Society, the Southwestern Social Science Association, and the Southern Demographic Association.
Bruce Weber is professor emeritus in the Department of Applied Economics at Oregon State University and senior economist in the Rural Policy Research Institute at the University of Iowa. He teaches an online course on Rural Poverty and the Social Safety Net. His current research focuses on poverty, upward mobility and economic inequality in rural areas and the impacts of changes in social safety net programs. He is co-editor of Rural Wealth Creation (Routledge, 2014).

Stephan Weiler holds the William E. Morgan Endowed Chair as Professor of Economics at Colorado State University. He received his BA (Honors) in Economics and MA in Development Economics from Stanford University in 1988, and his Economics PhD from UC-Berkeley in 1994 where he studied with eventual Nobel Laureate George Akerlof. From 2004 through 2006, Stephan was appointed as Assistant Vice President and Economist at the Federal Reserve’s Center for the Study of Rural America to lead the Center’s applied research work. The Center was the focal point in the Federal Reserve System for rural and regional development issues, providing cutting-edge research perspectives to private, public, and nonprofit decision makers. His research, comprising over one hundred articles, book chapters, and policy papers, has spanned a variety of development and labor market issues in Africa, Appalachia, Europe, and the American West, now being distilled into the new Regional Economic Development Institute.

Emily J. Wornell is a research assistant professor in the Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State University working with the Center for Business and Economic Research and RUPRI. Her areas of specialization are inequality and population change in rural communities, and her research has explored household livelihood strategies; the role of informal work in economic survival for US households; economic incorporation of immigrants in new and rural communities; and social and work networks between immigrants and nonimmigrants in nonmetropolitan communities. Emily regularly presents her research at national conferences, including the Population Association of America, American Sociological Association, and the Rural Sociological Society, and has presented internationally and in community forums. Her research has been supported by grants from the Rural Sociological Society, the International Social Science Council, and the Pennsylvania State University College of Agriculture. Emily received a dual-title PhD in rural sociology and demography from The Pennsylvania State University, and holds degrees from Oregon State University and George Fox University.
Andrew A. Zekeri is professor of sociology and graduate faculty in the Department of Psychology and Sociology at Tuskegee University. His research focuses on rural poverty, family well-being, food insecurity and nutrition, and conspiracy theories about HIV/AIDS. Dr. Zekeri also studies social and behavioral sciences perspective on rural health issues, community and economic development in the rural South. He has published articles in several international refereed scholarly journals. In 2015, Dr. Zekeri’s book, “Issues and Challenges of the American Rural South,” was published by Cognella Academic Publishing. He holds a PhD in rural sociology from The Pennsylvania State University.

James P. Ziliak holds the Carol Martin Gatton Endowed Chair in Microeconomics in the Department of Economics and is Founding Director of the Center for Poverty Research and the Kentucky Federal Statistical Research Data Center at the University of Kentucky. He received BS and BA degrees in economics and sociology from Purdue University, and his Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University. He previously served as assistant and associate professor of economics at the University of Oregon, and has held visiting positions at the Brookings Institution, Russell Sage Foundation, University College London, University of Michigan, and University of Wisconsin. His research expertise is in the areas of labor economics, poverty, food insecurity, and tax and transfer policy.
**Rural Poverty: Fifty Years After The People Left Behind**

**RUPRI Staff Bios**

*Savannah Barrett* is the National Director of Next Generation Programs for RUPRI and Program Director, Art of the Rural. She serves on the board of the Center for Performance and Civic Practice, the Robert Gard Foundation, and Art of Community: Rural S.C. She has widely published essays and presented her work at conferences internationally. She holds a Masters of Arts Management from the University of Oregon, and is an alumnus of the Muhammad Ali Scholars for Peace and Justice at the University of Louisville and from the Kentucky Governor’s School for the Arts. She is the co-founder of the Kentucky Rural-Urban Exchange, and guided programs for the Center for Community Arts and Cultural Policy, Louisville Visual Art, the Oregon Folklife Network, and Paul Paletti Gallery. Savannah was raised on a seventh-generation homeplace in Grayson Springs, Kentucky, where she co-founded a local arts agency in high school.

*Teresa Kittridge* is the Vice President and COO of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). Teresa’s career has included Executive level service in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. She has also been elected to public office. For the first 20 years of her career she served as an elected Officer of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Following her work in the state legislature, she worked in Washington DC and led National Policy Programs for RUPRI. In addition, she has over a decade of experience in the private sector building and leading National and International businesses in publishing as a President and Executive for two Coughlan Companies and built and served as President of MNREM, the Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace. Teresa and holds a M.A. in Organizational Leadership and a B.A. in Business Administration. She served in public office as school board director and board chair and is an active civic and community volunteer.

*Jocelyn B. Richgels* is the Director of National Policy Programs for the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). In this capacity, Ms. Richgels ensures that our nation’s policymakers access and utilize the research and practice conducted by RUPRI Centers as they consider legislation that impacts rural America. She directs the policy outreach efforts for the RUPRI Rural Health and Human Services portfolio and closely tracks the rural development policy dimensions of the nation’s Farm Bill. Ms. Richgels joined RUPRI in 2004, bringing both a background in policy work and a rural upbringing to the position. Ms. Richgels was born and raised on a family farm in rural southwest Wisconsin and her understanding of rural America stems first-hand from this experience. She has over twenty years of public policy experience, including as staff to a Member of Congress from Minnesota, who represented one the most rural Congressional district in the country. Ms. Richgels graduated with honors from the Masters of Public Policy program at the University of Maryland and has an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin.
Erin Taber is an Administrative Assistant at the Rural Policy Research Institute. She is a 3rd year undergraduate student at the University of Iowa, studying Health Promotion and Political Science. Upon graduation, she plans to pursue a Masters’ of Public Health in Epidemiology and aspires to work in global health. At Iowa, Erin is actively involved in Dance Marathon, her sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, and the University Honors Program. She also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Fraternity and Order of Omega.