

**EDUCATION FINANCE RESEARCH CONSORTIUM & NYS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**CONDITION REPORTS PUBLIC FORUM**  
State Museum Theater, June 6, 2003  
Presenter Biographies

James C. Dawson

**Jim Dawson** was appointed as a Regent of The University of the State of New York in 1993 to represent the State's 4th Judicial District (the North Country/Adirondacks). He has served on Regents task forces on school construction, school leadership, and library development. He has chaired the Regents' Cultural Education Committee and the Regents' Administration/Legislation/Litigation Committee. For the past four years he has chaired the Regents' State Aid Subcommittee after serving as Vice Chair for several years. Jim has served (in his salaried life) as a geologist and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor (since 1991) in the Center for Earth and Environmental Science, State University of New York, Plattsburgh, NY since earning his PhD in geology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1970.

William C. Duncombe

**William C. Duncombe** is Professor of Public Administration, and Senior Research Associate, Center for Policy Research, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University. He is also the Associate Director of the Education Finance and Accountability Program at Syracuse University. His research specialties include estimating the cost of educational adequacy, school aid design, educational costs and efficiency, demand and costs of state and local government services, budgeting and financial condition assessment. His work has appeared in numerous journals in public administration and economics. He has also published several reports for the New York State Board of Regents on school finance issues in New York. Professor Duncombe received his B.A. in Economics from the University of Washington, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Public Administration from Syracuse University.

Stephen L. Jacobson

**Stephen L. Jacobson** is Professor of Educational Administration and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo/SUNY. His research interests include teacher compensation, human resource administration, and the reform of administrator preparation and practice. He has published extensively including four books on school reform and leadership. In 1994, he received the Jack Culbertson Award for outstanding contributions to the field of educational administration from the University Council for Education Administration (UCEA). He is a past President of the American Education Finance Association (1999), co-director of the UCEA Center for the Study of School-Site Leadership and co-editor for *Leadership and Policy in Schools*. Prior to receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1986, he was a special education teacher with the New York City Public School system.

James A. Kadamus

**James A. Kadamus** has served as a senior manager in the NYS Education Department for the last twenty years. In February 1996, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner for Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education. He provides leadership for the Department's programs and services for elementary, middle and secondary school pupils and agencies and continuing education students and their families. Mr. Kadamus manages programs to provide technical assistance to elementary, middle and secondary schools engaged in comprehensive school improvement educational reform activities; supervises a staff of over 400 employees, with a State Operations budget of \$40 million; and manages State and Federal local assistance funds in excess of \$1.6 billion annually, plus an additional \$14 billion in State Aid to public schools. As Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Kadamus works closely with the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Regents and other top government officials in formulating policy and regularly represents the Commissioner in matters relating to elementary, middle, secondary and continuing education. Mr. Kadamus has a Bachelor of Arts from Union College and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina where he specialized in education policy. He has completed the highest level management training offered by the Governor's Office to government senior managers. He has also appeared on the Today Show, NBC Nightly News, CNN and seven prime time public television programs on education issues. He has written numerous newspaper and journal articles, academic papers and book chapters and is a frequent speaker and presenter.

**EDUCATION FINANCE RESEARCH CONSORTIUM & NYS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**CONDITION REPORTS PUBLIC FORUM**  
State Museum Theater, June 6, 2003  
Presenter Biographies

Hamilton Lankford

**Hamp Lankford** teaches in the Economics Department at the University at Albany where he has been involved in a variety of activities that link research to education policy in New York State. These include roles as a consultant to the New York State Special Commission on Educational Structure, Policies, and Practices (1993-94) and as a member of the New York State Board of Regents Technical Study Groups concerned with Cost Effectiveness in Education (1995) and the Generation of Revenues for Education (1994). Professor Lankford is also a member of the Technical Advisory Board of the Education Finance Research Consortium. In ongoing research, he, along with Don Boyd and Jim Wyckoff at the University at Albany and Pam Grossman and Susanna Loeb at Stanford University, are studying the linkages between teacher preparation, teacher labor markets and student outcomes. His academic publications include research on the teaching workforce, teacher compensation, special education, the allocation of education resources, and the effects of enhanced school choice.

George A. Perry

**George A. Perry** has been the Executive Director for the New York State Association of School Business Officials since his appointment in July of 1992. Prior to this position, George was an experienced school district administrator with thirty-four years in public school work. He held positions as teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent of schools, the latter for eighteen years. George received a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Health from SUNY Cortland, a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Syracuse University and did additional graduate work in Curriculum and Instruction at the University at Albany-SUNY. He has been involved in numerous community and service activities as well as achieving many administrative accomplishments.

Leanna Stiefel

**Leanna Stiefel** is Professor of Economics at the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. During her twenty-seven years at NYU, she has served as Acting Associate Dean and Director of the Public and Nonprofit program at the Wagner School. Her areas of expertise include school finance and education policy, applied economics and applied statistics. Currently she is working with several others on a study of alternative ways to measure school performance and on a study of segregation and performance of New York City immigrant school children. Professor Stiefel has authored two books and numerous articles for scholarly journals and edited books. She is past President of the American Education Finance Association (2001-02) and currently serves on the U.S. Department of Education's National Center of Education Statistics Technical Planning Panel, the New York City New Visions Research Panel on High Schools, and the policy council of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management. She consulted for numerous organizations, including the National Science Foundation, the Education Commission of the States, the New York ACLU and the Campaign for Fiscal Equity.

James Wyckoff

**Jim Wyckoff** is Associate Professor of Public Administration, Public Policy and Economics at the University of Albany, SUNY. Wyckoff is part of a research team that is just concluding an examination of policies to attract and retain highly qualified teachers in low-performing schools. This team is just beginning a study to examine the attributes of teacher preparation programs that influence teacher retention and student achievement in New York City public schools. In addition to support from the Education Finance Research Consortium, the U.S. Department of Education and the Smith Richardson Foundation have supported this research. Wyckoff is the President of the American Education Finance Association, Director of the Education Finance Research Consortium, a member of the Advisory Council for Teacher Education at SUNY and Associate Editor of the *Economics of Education Review*.