



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Fresh Food – A Recipe for Healthy Schools and Communities

Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 7:00 – 8:50 a.m.

Speaker Biographies

Helen Binns is a Board-certified pediatrician and Professor in Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, formerly known as Children's Memorial Hospital, and the director of the Center for Obesity Management and Prevention (COMP) at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. Dr. Binns also directs the Nutritional Evaluation and Lead Evaluation Clinics at the hospital. She completed medical school at Northwestern University and a pediatric residency and Ambulatory Pediatrics Fellowship at Children's Memorial Hospital. In 1996, she completed a MPH degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Binns directs the Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG), a practice-based research network, and has extensive experience with practice-based research in primary care settings. Her research has focused on nutrition, tobacco and lead poisoning prevention.

Erika Allen is the Chicago and National Outreach Manager for Growing Power, a national nonprofit organization and land trust supporting people from diverse backgrounds, and the environments in which they live, by helping to provide equal access to healthy, high-quality, safe and affordable food in communities and schools. Growing Power provides hands-on training, on-the-ground demonstration, outreach and technical assistance to help people grow, process, market and distribute food in a sustainable manner. As the daughter of Will Allen, who won a MacArthur "genius" award for founding Growing Power, she spent her formative years involved in all aspects of farm management from transplanting seedlings to managing farm stands and farmer's markets. She received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her MA in art therapy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Currently, she co-chairs the Chicago Food Policy Council and serves as civic co-chair for Chicago's Organic initiative Education, Training and Schools sub-committee. Ms. Allen received the Chicago Tribune's Good Eating Award in 2006. She was appointed by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to the legislatively created Illinois Food, Farms and Jobs Act Council. She is the proud mother of Emiliano "ayo" her toddler.

Rochelle Davis is President and CEO of the Healthy Schools Campaign, a national not-for-profit organization that advocates for healthy school environments. Davis' work to improve school food in Chicago has included playing an active role in Chicago Public Schools' local procurement program and its recent purchase of \$1.2 million of antibiotic free chicken. In addition, the Healthy Schools Campaign has worked through the legislature for state policies that support school health including green clean schools legislation and incorporating health and wellness into school report cards. Davis served as Principal Investigator for the Partnership to Reduce Disparities in Asthma and Obesity in Latino Schools funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. She co-chairs the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health's Action Learning Collaborative. She co-authored *Fresh Choices*, a cookbook published by Rodale Press and serves as Executive Editor of the *Quick and Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools*. In 2007 she received the Chicago Tribune's Good Eating Award.

Tricia Kovacs is an Outreach and Education Coordinator and Small Business Liaison for the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Washington State Lead for the National Farm to School Network. She was the founding program manager of the department's Farm-to-School Program, established by the Local Farms-Healthy Kids Act passed by Washington legislators in 2008 just one vote shy of unanimous approval. The program was designed to support links between farms and schools around the state to increase local food purchasing and to facilitate education about food, farming, nutrition and the environment. She is the coordinator and lead author on "A School's Guide to Purchasing Washington-Grown Food," a new publication that clarifies state and federal rules for applying a geographic preference in school food procurement and provides tips for farm to school programs. She and her husband are the parents of a four-year-old daughter and a one-year-old son.