

## Spotlight on ILA Institutional Members

ILA Members are doing amazing leadership work around the world, from starting new degree programs to nurturing young people who make a difference, from running innovative workshops and seminars to fostering organizational change. We are pleased to shine an ILA spotlight on the programs of our members. If you would like to nominate yourself or another ILA institutional member to be featured on these pages, please contact ILA at [ila@ila-net.org](mailto:ila@ila-net.org).

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### Spotlight on California/Nevada Community Action Partnership First Annual Poverty Summit

The California/Nevada Community Action Partnership (Cal/Neva) presented a workshop titled *Integrated Leadership to End Poverty* at ILA '06 in Chicago last November. Workshop presenters shared examples of how federal, state, and local levels can work together to end poverty. Cal/Neva is the state trade association for Community Action Agencies, America's official anti-poverty agencies.

We are very excited to announce the First Annual Poverty Summit, scheduled to take place during the Cal/Neva 2007 Annual Conference. Recent reports show that the national poverty rate is at a 32-year high. This is the perfect time for Cal/Neva to lead Community Action Agencies and other federal Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funded entities in a new direction.

There are a variety of reasons people in this country live below the federal poverty level; because of this, finding one solution to ending it will be

impossible. One of the first steps to reinvigorate the "War on Poverty" begins with consensus building activities that will bring national attention to this growing trend.

This summit will provide an atmosphere where multiple ideas will be generated, new goals will transpire, and we can look ahead with a new agenda. California's diversity will be a tremendous asset in the discussion. Our agencies reach out to more than 50 counties, each providing unique services to meet a variety of different needs. Following the National Community Action Partnership's lead, on April 12, 2007 we will spend a full day listening to our peers, asking tough questions of experts, speaking

with representatives at the state level, and generating new ideas to solve this national crisis. We will create regional and national goals that will be used as building blocks for future policy reform.

The Poverty Summit will feature speakers that have years of industry experience serving some of



For more information on the Poverty Summit and the Cal/Neva 2007 Annual Conference, please visit their Web site at <http://www.cal-neva.org>.

the country's neediest communities. We will obtain input from a variety of experts and leaders including those involved in successful programs such as: Second Chance Program, National Economic Development and Law Center, and California Community Economic Development Association.

Our member agencies have years of experience behind them which makes their anti-poverty leadership and expertise invaluable. Summaries of discussions and goals developed at the Summit will be published in the "California Conversation Report," a nationally distributed publication.

Cal/Neva recognizes that this event is a key component towards creating a national solution and hopes the summit provides the leadership that will bring positive attention to this growing problem. For more information on the Poverty Summit and the Cal/Neva 2007 Annual Conference, please visit the Cal/Neva web-site at <http://www.cal-neva.org>.