

## **Featured Speaker:**

### **Natalia Kolesnikova**

#### **Economist**

#### **Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis**

Dr. Natalia Kolesnikova is an economist in the Research Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. She received her doctoral degree in economics and public policy and a master's degree in economics from Carnegie Mellon University in 2007 and 2004, respectively. She also holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in mathematics from Novosibirsk State University, Russia. Dr. Kolesnikova's primary areas of research include labor economics and applied microeconomics.

## **Response Panelists:**

### **David Belcher**

#### **Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs**

#### **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

Dr. David Belcher serves as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), a position he has held since July 2003. His primary responsibility in this role is to oversee the academic mission of the university. During his first year at UALR, Dr. Belcher chaired the university's strategic planning initiative. His provostial priorities have included strengthening UALR's research mission, curricular development, particularly at the master's and doctoral levels, and retention of students. Prior to his arrival at UALR, he served for 9 ½ years as Dean of Missouri State University's College of Arts and Letters. Dr. Belcher holds degrees from Furman University, the University of Michigan, and the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. In 1981, Dr. Belcher was awarded a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship to study in Vienna, Austria.

### **Edward L. (Ed) Franklin**

#### **Executive Director**

#### **Arkansas Two Year College Association**

Dr. Franklin is currently serving as the Executive Director and CEO of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges where he provides information about the value and impact of two-year colleges while working as a liaison to various governmental and educational agencies. He also helps provide staff development opportunities for faculty and staff and works with business and industry to help facilitate partnerships with the two-year colleges in Arkansas. He earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Arkansas and a doctoral degree from the University of Kansas. Dr. Franklin has over 30 years experience in working at Community and Technical Colleges. He has written chapters in numerous books and has spoken at over 100 conferences on topics such as community college leadership, The Americans with Disabilities Act, programs for academically under prepared students, legal issues in classroom instruction, organizing for institutional effectiveness, guidelines for student services programming, student success programs and institutional evaluation. Dr. Franklin has also developed and produced over 20 different educational television programs and was a finalist for an American Cable Excellence (ACE) Award for educational programming. He was appointed by Secretary of Education Riley to serve on the Board of the National Technical Institute for the

Deaf in Rochester, New York where he served for five years. He was appointed by Governor Huckabee to the Southern Growth Policies Board Council for a New Economy Workforce and was named as one of 15 members of the Cisco Networking Academy Advisory Council. He serves on the board of the Arkansas Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Technology Coalition and was recently appointed by Governor Beebe to the Workforce Cabinet.

**Steven Murray**

**Chancellor**

**Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas**

Dr. Steven Murray is the Chancellor of Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas (PCCUA). Dr. Murray came to PCCUA in 1980 and has served as English instructor, director of academic advisement, division dean, vice chancellor for instruction, executive vice chancellor, and, since 2003, chancellor. His experience includes faculty positions at Western Illinois University and Old Dominion University. Dr. Murray holds a BA and MA in English and an MA in English and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration. He serves on the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Executive Committee, the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC) external advisory committee, the Steering Committee of the Delta Bridge Project (Phillips County's strategic planning initiative), and the American Association of Community Colleges' Commission on Academic, Student, and Community Development. He chairs the Board of Directors of Mercy Ministries and the Oversight Committee for the University of Arkansas Online AA Degree Consortium, a distance education collaboration involving three community colleges in the University of Arkansas system.

**Sandra Porter**

**Associate Director of Workforce Training**

**Arkansas Department of Workforce Education**

Mrs. Sandra Porter, originally from Missouri, joined the Department of Workforce Education as Program Manager for Business/Marketing Technology in June 2004. She was named Associate Director for Workforce Training in July, 2008. She earned a B.S. Degree in General Business Education from Missouri Southern State University in 1979 and a Master of Education in Vocational Education from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1991. Mrs. Porter began her 25-year teaching career in 1979 as a business instructor in Carl Junction, Missouri. After moving to Arkansas in 1985, she served as Director of Students at the Draughon's School of Business in Little Rock for two years. In 1987, she was a business instructor at McClellan High School in Little Rock. From 1989 to 2004, she taught business at Bryant High School.