## Contents

Acknowledgments vii

### Part 1: A Conference and Research Summary: Lessons from Diverse Perspectives

1 **Introduction and Overview**  
   *Maude Toussaint-Comeau and Bruce D. Meyer*  
   3

2 **Bringing Together Policymakers, Researchers, and Practitioners to Discuss Strategies for Improving Economic Mobility**  
   *Maude Toussaint-Comeau*  
   7

### Part 2: Trends, Policies, and Programs Affecting the Poor

3 **Past Trends and Projections in Wages, Work, and Occupations in the United States**  
   *David Autor*  
   51

4 **The Earned Income Tax Credit, Welfare Reform, and the Employment of Low-Skilled Single Mothers**  
   *Hilary Williamson Hoynes*  
   65

5 **Reflections on Economic Mobility and Policy**  
   *Bruce D. Meyer*  
   79

6 **Helping Low-Wage Workers Persist in Education Programs: Lessons from Research on Welfare Training Programs and Two Promising Community College Strategies**  
   *Lashawn Richburg-Hayes*  
   89

7 **Financial Aid and Older Workers: Supporting the Nontraditional Student**  
   *Bridget Terry Long*  
   109

8 **Can Residential Mobility Programs Improve Human Capital? Comparing Social Mechanisms in Two Different Programs**  
   *James E. Rosenbaum*  
   127
9 What Might Improve the Employment and Advancement Prospects of the Poor?  
Harry J. Holzer

10 What We Know about the Impacts of Workforce Investment Programs  
Burt S. Barnow and Jeffrey A. Smith

11 Correctional Programs in the Age of Mass Incarceration: What Do We Know about "What Works"?  
John H. Tyler and Jillian Berk

12 Comparing Apples to Oranges When Evaluating Community-Based Programs and Services  
Robert J. LaLonde

The Authors  
211

Index  
213

About the Institute  
227