

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individuals for key administration posts: William E. Spriggs, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Labor; and Rebecca M. Blank, Under Secretary for Economics Affairs, Department of Commerce.

President Obama said, "It gives me great confidence that these talented individuals have chosen to serve our country in my administration. Their dedication and commitment will make them valued assets to our team, and I look forward to working with them in the coming months and years."

President Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individuals today:

Rebecca M. Blank, Under Secretary for Economics Affairs, Department of Commerce

Rebecca M. Blank has been the Robert S. Kerr Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution since July 2008. Prior to coming to Brookings, she was dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and co-director of the National Poverty Center. She served as a Member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, from 1997–1999. She has been Professor of Economics at Northwestern University and Director of the Northwestern University/University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research. Dr. Blank's research has focused on the interactions between the macroeconomy, government policy, and the behavior and well-being of American families. Her 1997 book, "It Takes A Nation: A New Agenda for Fighting Poverty", won the Richard A. Lester Prize for the Outstanding Book in Labor Economics and Industrial Relations. Her more recent work includes the books "The New World of Welfare" (co-edited with Ron Haskins, 2001, Brookings Press), "Is the Market Moral?" (co-authored with William McGurn, 2003, Brookings Press), "Working and Poor" (co-edited with Sheldon Danziger and Robert Schoeni, 2006, Russell Sage Press) and "Insufficient Funds: Savings, Assets, Credit, and Banking among Low-Income Families" (co-edited with Michael Barr, Russell Sage Press, 2009.) She is a faculty affiliate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Blank has served in a wide variety of advisory and professional roles, and is currently on the Board of Directors of MDRC, the Economic Policy Institute, and the Urban Institute.