March 1 - 3 Conference: Practitioners, Academicians to Join Forces in Examination of California's Children's Issues, Services

Office of Public Information
March 1 - 3 Conference
PRACTITIONERS, ACADEMICIANS TO JOIN FORCES
IN EXAMINATION OF CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN'S ISSUES, SERVICES

(Jonathan Kozol, Richard Louv, Dr. Shirley Heath featured)

Approximately one of every five children in California grow up in poverty, a startling statistic and the major reason for mobilizing the people who can combat the problem.

Practitioners and academicians will convene March 1-3 at USD to promote awareness of and focus on resolving the problem at a conference titled Growing Up in Poverty.

The San Diego Unified School District, United Way, the Ecumenical Conference, California Compact and the USD-based Children's Advocacy Institute are joining with USD's Social Issues Committee to produce the three-day conference.

An estimated 250 to 300 participants from the humanities, social sciences, law, economics, education, the religious community and the child care field will examine the vast array of problems facing children in poverty.

Nationally renowned educator and author Jonathan Kozol will deliver the March 1 keynote address. "Rachael and Her Children," his book on homeless children, and "Illiterate America," are considered his most highly acclaimed books.

Dr. Shirley Heath, a Stanford University English and linguistics professor with the Stanford Council for the Humanities, is the keynote
speaker on March 2. She is author of four books, including "Ways with Words," and has spoken worldwide on children's issues.

On March 3, San Diego Union columnist Richard Louv, who specializes in reporting on children's issues, will deliver the keynote address.

Approximately one out of every five children in California live in poverty, according the state Commerce Department.

"Many children are deprived of adequate nutrition, health care and education," said Professor Joan Anderson, a USD economist and member of the Social Issues Committee.

The conference is intended to help all participants share creation of a broader perspective for policy development, direct services and administration.

"The conference," Anderson said, "also will deepen the understanding of academicians of the practical aspects of the problems, and will help explore new, more effective and efficient policies.

"Attendees of the conference will contribute toward solutions in a way calculated to touch not only the minds, but the hearts and souls of the American people."

For conference planning and registration, please contact Judy Rauner at 260-4798.