# COMMUNITY RESEARCH PARTNERS:

# MOVING FROM DATA TO ACTION IN COLUMBUS

Thursday morning, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Community Research Partners** (CRP) is a nonprofit research center based in Columbus, Ohio, that makes data and information accessible, useful, and meaningful to support planning, policy, and action. This session will showcase two major projects which illustrate how CRP has used data, information, and knowledge to help strengthen communities.

**Lynnette Cook, Ph.D.,** Executive Director of CRP, will begin by introducing this session and the moderators (5 minutes)

**Ohio Student Mobility Research: The Implications of School Moves on   
Students, Districts, and Communities**

Student mobility, the phenomenon of students in grades K–12 changing schools for reasons other than customary promotion, has consequences for schools, students, communities, and public policy. With implications ranging from poor educational outcomes for highly mobile students; to increased stress on teachers, administrators, and stable students in high mobility schools; to policies regarding educational accountability, funding, curriculum, and instruction, student mobility is a complex yet pivotal issue.

In partnership with **The Thomas B. Fordham Institute**, CRP undertook a statewide analysis of student mobility with particular focus on key urban areas. Utilizing school building and student-level data, CRP conducted detailed analysis of student mobility over a two year period. The products of this research were a statewide overview and urban area profiles detailing the magnitude of student mobility, mobility patterns, and implications for several policy related issues.

* **Aaron Schill**, Associate Director of Data Services, CRP, will introduce the *Ohio Student Mobility Research Project* (10 minutes)
* Three professionals who know the *Ohio Student Mobility Research Project* and represent both funders and users of the research will form a panel discussion on why it was important to invest in this project and how the data are being used (20 minutes)
  + **Aaron Churchill**, Ohio Research & Data Analyst,   
    The Thomas B. Fordham Institute
  + **Ann Bischoff**, Senior Director of Policy and Grants, KidsOhio.org
  + **John Farley, Ph.D.**, CEO, Educational Council
* Questions and Discussion (20 minutes)

**Benchmarking Central Ohio: The Design and Implementation of a   
Successful Community Benchmarking Project**

Benchmarking is a process by which standardized, measurable indicators are used to track and assess how a community is doing. Communities do this in several ways. This includes benchmarking against: best practices, policies or leaders in a field; other communities across the nation; the state and nation; or community-established goals, targets, or trends. The indicator data used for benchmarking might address areas such as demographics, the economy, education, health and safety, civic participation, transportation, arts and culture, and the environment.

In 2007 CRP designed and implemented a benchmarking project for central Ohio at the request of the **Columbus Partnership**, a group of local business leaders interested in civic improvement. Since then, with the help of an advisory group of subject matter experts and support from **The Columbus Foundation** and the Columbus Partnership, CRP has produced four reports in the popular *Benchmarking Central Ohio* series and is in the process of releasing the fifth. With *Benchmarking Central Ohio* CRP has developed a useful resource which can be used to help strengthen communities through data, information, and knowledge.

* **Devin Keithley**, Senior Research Associate, CRP, will introduce the *Benchmarking Central Ohio* project (10 minutes)
* Three professionals who know the *Benchmarking Central Ohio* project and represent both funders and users of the research will form a panel discussion on why it was important to invest in this project and how the data are being used (20 minutes)
  + **Lisa S. Courtice, Ph.D.**, Executive Vice President, Community Research and Grants Management, The Columbus Foundation
  + **Stephen J.H. Lyons**, Vice President, Member Services & Community Engagement, Columbus Partnership
  + **Bill LaFayette, Ph.D.**, Owner, Regionomics LLC
* Questions and Discussion (20 minutes)