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## Wednesday Open Thread

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Posted by **Alexander2** on June 16th, 2010

**Today WEE feature Celicia Rouse in the "Obama Women" series.**

**Dr. Cecilia Rouse is a respected labor economist. On March 10, 2009, she made history by becoming the first American woman confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisors.**

### What She Does

Dr. Cecilia Rouse is the voice of education and labor on the [Council of Economic Advisers](#). Dr. Rouse, alongside chair [Christina Romer](#) and fellow member [Austan Goolsbee](#), advises the president on the nation's economic outlook. The trio provides written and oral analysis of the American economy and recommends changes to education, health care and labor policy. They are actively involved in lifting the economy out of the current recession and creating jobs.

### Path to Power

Cecilia Rouse attended Harvard University, earning a bachelor's degree in 1986 (magna cum laude), and a doctorate in economics in 1992. She became a professor of economics at Princeton University the same year she graduated.

Rouse is currently on leave from Princeton University, where she is the Theodore A. Wells '29 Professor of Economics and Public Affairs. She has been a senior editor of *The Future of Children* and the *Journal of Labor Economics*.

Her research focuses on labor economics and the economics of education. Recent research includes studying Florida's school accountability and voucher programs, technology-based programs in schools in large urban districts, strategies for increasing educational attainment among community college students, and the impact of student loans on post-college occupational choices.

Other topics have included the study of the economic benefit of community college attendance, the Milwaukee Parent Choice Program, and the effects of education inputs on student achievement. She has also studied the existence of discrimination in symphony orchestras, unions in South Africa, and the effect of financial aid on college matriculation.

Rouse is the founding director of the Princeton University Education Research Section, and has been the director of the Industrial Relations Section. She was a member of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on the Transition to Adulthood. ([More here](#))

## Personal Life

Dr. Cecilia Rouse has two siblings – Forest Rouse, a physicist, and Carolyn Rouse, an anthropologist and professor at Princeton University. Her father is a research physicist who received his PhD from Cal Tech in 1956. Her mother worked as a school psychologist.