

Brenda Spotton Visano

University Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University

Toronto, ON, CA

Spotton Visano engages a variety of research methods to examine ways to improve access to basic financial services for low income Canadians.

Biography

Brenda Spotton Visano is a University Professor in the School of Public Policy & Administration and the Department of Economics at York University. A graduate of McGill University, Iowa State University and University of Toronto, she is a member of the National Research Sub-Committee advising the National Steering Committee on Financial Literacy.

Professor Spotton Visano was the Inaugural Director of the Transition Year Program at York University (2010-2015) and a Director of the ACCESS Community Capital Fund (2009-2015). Other previous leadership positions include the President, Canadian Women Economists Network and the Chair of Senate of York University.

Among her publications is her 2006 book “Financial Crises: Socio-economic Causes and Institutional Context” and her 2009 co-edited book “Room to Grow: Celebrating Atkinson’s Living Legacy,” a collection of reflections on the contributions of Atkinson College to advancing higher education for non-traditional students. In addition to publishing many book chapters and articles in top-tier refereed academic venues, she is the author of 16 government, professional, and technical reports for various government ministries and agencies in Canada, UNESCO and NGOs.

Professor Spotton Visano has been invited to contribute to various government consultations including those held by the Alberta Ministry of Finance, Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, the Federal Task Force on Financial Literacy and the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Her current research project in Community Finance and Consumer Financial Services is a multi-faceted project focused on Canadian micro-financial services delivery, regulation and education.

Collaborating with community partners in the Black Creek Financial Action Network and numerous graduate and undergraduate students, Professor Spotton Visano engages a variety of research methods to examine ways to improve access to basic financial services for low income Canadians.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research, Public Policy, Financial Services

Areas of Expertise

Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy, Alternative Financial Institutions (Payday Lenders Microcredit), Financial Literacy, Economic Literacy, Social Justice, Financial Education, Community Outreach, Community Development, Leadership, University Teaching, Adult Education

Affiliations

Principal Investigator : York University Community Finance Project

Event Appearances

The Pedagogical Consequences of the Crisis: Is Economics Changing?

Progressive Economics Forum Summer School

Gender Budgeting and Analysis

Presentation to Delegation from the Ministry of Gender Equality & Family of the Republic of Korea

Financial Crises: Socioeconomic Causes and Institutional Context

Progressive Economics Forum's School for Union Activists and Public Policy Makers

The Global Economic Crisis: Can Canada Escape a Lost Decade?

Alternative Federal Budget Roundtable 2012

Knowing where you stand before knowing where to go...

Presentation to the Federal Task Force on Financial Literacy

Education

McGill University

Ph.D. Economics

Iowa State University

M.S. Economics

University of Toronto

B.A. Economics

Accomplishments

Status of Women Award of Distinction

2012

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations

Award for Dedicated Service

2004

Canadian Association of University Teachers

Teaching Award

2000

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations

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