

***Topic: The Mission Asset Fund: A comprehensive approach to asset building in an immigrant community***

**Merle Lawrence, Senior Program Officer, Levi Strauss Foundation**

Merle Lawrence joined Levi Strauss & Co. in December 1991, bringing over 15 years of experience in strategic planning, program management, and research and evaluation in local, statewide and national non-profit organizations. She is currently the Senior Manager-US in Worldwide Community & Corporate Citizenship Department and the Levi Strauss Foundation, responsible for developing and managing strategic grant-making and branded philanthropy programs. She earned her BA in Liberal Studies at the University of Connecticut, Storrs and her MSW at San Francisco State University