

the women who attended them. But it seems that women who need education the most should just stay in low-paying jobs that will never help them escape from poverty.

I believe now is a critical time to confront stereotypes and misinformation about the causes of women's poverty. We could do more to increase awareness about the benefits of education and be more effective in lobbying for access to quality adult basic education. We live in the world's richest country that has the means to eliminate poverty and to provide access to education for all who desire it. We need to challenge bad public policies that perpetuate poverty.

---

*Lorna Rivera works with adult learners in the College of Public & Community Services at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Contact her at [Lorna.Rivera@umb.edu](mailto:Lorna.Rivera@umb.edu) for more information about the studies cited in this article.*

### Learn More About Welfare @

[www.faireconomy.org/press/2004/CEOPayRatio\\_pr.html](http://www.faireconomy.org/press/2004/CEOPayRatio_pr.html)  
**United For a Fair Economy**

<http://inequality.org>

**Inequality.org** is a nonprofit organization that provides information about US inequality with regard to healthcare, technology, economics, education, and other issues.

[www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp)

**Institute for Research on Poverty** at University of Wisconsin Madison, is an excellent source for statistics, links, news, research on issues such as health, education, welfare reform, low-wage workers, and child support.

[www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

**Center for Budget & Policy Priorities** has information about Federal Budget expenditures and the congressional reauthorization of TANF.

## It's Never Too Late *by Crecelia Jaurequi*

I am from Mexico where I received only eight years of education. On the one hand, it is difficult for a woman like me to go to school. I have to take care of two daughters and a husband. I have to organize my day from early in the morning, deciding what to cook and cooking early. Then I can have time to go to school and try to get the most that I can learn that day. After that I have to go pick up my daughters from their school. When we get home, I review their homework for that day and see how I can help my daughters. It is important for us that I learn English to help and encourage them. It is important for them to be in school and learn as much as they can.

On the other hand, it is fun to go to school because I have friends and I share time with them. We have little conversations as classmates and forget our problems and feel happy being in school. In conclusion, I want to be in school no matter how difficult it is or will be for me.

*Crecelia Jaurequi is a student at the Marine Avenue Adult Learning Center and Family Literacy Program at the Harbor Community Adult School in Los Angeles.*