



Helen Bader Institute for
NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

*Improving the leadership
and effectiveness of
nonprofit organizations
through education,
research and service*

NONPROFIT RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

December 10, 2009

3:30-5:00 pm

Sheldon B Lubar School of Business, Room N333
3202 N Maryland Ave, Milwaukee, WI

Competition and Collaboration in the Nonprofit Sector: A Research Agenda

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Abstract: In an era of dramatic financial challenges, pressure is growing for U.S. nonprofit organizations to consolidate. Yet, we know little about the current concentration of the sector and even less about the degree of competition in various nonprofit subsectors. In this presentation Young will offer a detailed analysis of concentration patterns across the sector and analyze variations in these patterns by subsector and metropolitan areas. By the standards applied to measured concentration in the for-profit sector, several nonprofit subsectors could be considered highly concentrated while others are relatively unconcentrated.

It is well known that measuring concentration is not identical to assessing effective competition, and is but a starting point for a more thorough competitive analysis. An important distinction (consistent with some for-profit findings) is made between the concentration of resources within larger subsector organizations and inequality in the distribution of resources across those organizations. Some subsectors may be concentrated yet behave competitively because resources are distributed relatively equally among several large organizations. By contrast, other concentrated subsectors may behave less competitively because resources are very unequally controlled by very few organizations. Understanding the patterns of both concentration and inequality in the nonprofit sector is likely a prerequisite to drawing defensible conclusions about the degrees of competition in the sector and the desirability of further consolidation.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Space is limited, so please RSVP to Barbara Duffy, (414) 229-2924 or email bduffy@uwm.edu.

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