

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

2023 HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS DIVISION PROJECT DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HEADQUARTERS, LBJ BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE SESSION #1 MAY 22ND-23RD *Monday, May 22, 2023*

7:30 AM –9:00 AM Registration Desk Open Period (Use C- Street Visitors' Entrance)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Welcome General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Dr. Stacey Slijepcevic, Director of HSI Division

Beatriz Ceja, Senior Director Institutional Service

Opening Remarks:

Amanda Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Programs

Dr. Nasser Paydar, Assistant Secretary for Office of Postsecondary Education

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM Keynote Speaker

Luis Maldonado, Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)

“How Did We Get Here?” The Role of Advocacy and Organizing in Programs to Support Hispanic-Serving Institutions

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM Morning Break

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Dr. Wil Del Pilar, Senior Vice President of Higher Education Policy and Practice – The Education Trust

Using Data for Equity: HSIs and Latinx Student Success

A postsecondary degree is the ticket to achieving social and economic mobility, yet too few students are not able to enroll in, afford, and complete college.

Hear about The Education Trust’s work on closing gaps in access and success and on making college more affordable for students, particularly those from low-income families and families of color.

12:00 PM – 1:20 PM LUNCH and NETWORKING (On your own)

1:30 PM - 2:20 PM General Session, LBJ Auditorium)

Bonnie Latreille, Student Loan Ombudsman, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid

Bold Actions on Loans and Repayment: on-going efforts to support students, with respect to borrowing and repayments

2:30 PM – 3:20 PM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Dr. Jennifer Engle, Senior Advisor, Office of Postsecondary Education

Department’s Perspective on the Raising the Bar Initiative; Raise the B.A.R: Using Data to Drive Improvement in Student Outcomes

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM Concurrent Sessions (Grantee Presentations)

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Academic, Student, and Faculty/Staff Supports
Improving and Supplementing Faculty and Staff Professional Development

Allan Hancock College, P031S200031

Presenters:

Stephanie Crosby, Title V Project Director

Maria Grando, Title V Grant Coordinator

Moderator: Kurrinn Abrams

Room Number: 1W105

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Hiring and Professional Development

Nuestra Promesa: Ensuring Culturally Responsive Practices through the Hiring, Onboarding, and Professional Development of Staff and Institutional Partners, Northeastern Illinois University, P031S180151

Presenters:

Tricia Rosado, Director, Caminos al Éxito (Title V grant)

Willie Correa, Assistant Director, Caminos al Éxito (Title V grant)

Moderator: Jymece Seward

Room Number: 1W108

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Partnerships and Institutionalization

From Bright Spots to Institutional Change, Mercy College, P031C210053

Presenter:

Stuart Sidle, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Psychology Professor, HSI STEM Project Director

Moderator: Dr. Robin Dabney

Room Number: 1W103

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Supporting and Continuing Operations beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic

Academic and Student Supports and Continuing Operations Beyond the Covid-19 Pandemic: Best Practices from the University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MS) Title V Projects, University of Puerto Rico – Medical Sciences Campus, P031S200104, P031S160068

Presenter:

Dr. Ruben Garcia, Professor and Project Director

Moderator: Rick Gaona

Room Number: 1W113

Topic: Evaluation

Evaluation Panel

Presenters:

Christos Valiotis, Dr. Rafael Ríos McConnell

Moderator: Margarita Melendez

Room Number: 1W117

Topic: Re-Engaging Students through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports

Creating a Culture of Cariño (care) in Student Learning Spaces in Community Colleges, Mission College, P031C210063

Presenter:

Jorge Murillo, Program Analyst, HSI-STEM Grants

Moderator: Alexandra Bolden

Room Number: 1W114

Topic: Using Data to Make an Impact: Building Evidence Effectively in an HSI Title III/V Grant Program
Once Upon a Grant: Using Data Storytelling to Effectively Convey Your Grant Journey, Miami Dade College, P031S200153

Presenter:

Dr. Belkis L. Cabrera, Project Director, WeLearn 366 Institute

Moderator: Njeri Clark

Room Number: 1W109

4:30 PM -5:30 PM Meet your Program Specialist

Njeri Clark – 1W109

Jymece Seward – 1W108

Dr. Robin Dabney- 1W103

Alexandra L. BOLDEN, EDS- 1W114

Kurrinn Cusumano-Abrams, MA

- 1W105

Rick Gaona - 1W113

Meléndez-Gotay, M.A., M.Ed.

- 1W117

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE SESSION #1 MAY 22ND-23RD

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration Desk Open Period (Use C- Street Visitors' Entrance)

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Welcome, Dr. Stacey Slijepcevic, HSI Division Director

Problem of Practice, Dr. Vicki Robinson, Director of the HBCU Division

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM Morning Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

IES Presentation - Dr. Matt Soldner, Commissioner,

National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance & Agency Evaluation Officer and Dr. Josh DeLaRosa, Director, Annual Reports and Information/NCES [logic models, performance monitoring, using NCES data tools to build evidence and do research]) - Moderator: Margarita Melendez

12:00 PM – 1:20 PM LUNCH and NETWORKING

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM Concurrent Sessions (Grantee Presentations)

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Academic, Student, and Faculty/Staff Supports

Comprometid@s: Impacting the Latinx Teacher Preparation Ecology, Sacramento State University, P031S170150

Presenters:

Dale Allender, Associate Professor of language and literacy in the Department of Teaching Credentials

Pia Wong, Associate Dean for Research and Engagement in the College of Education

Moderator: Njeri Clark

Room Number: 1W105

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Partnerships and Institutionalization

How Good Financial Structure makes Institutionalization Easier, La Sierra University, P031S190114, P031S210063

Presenter:

Marvin A. Payne, PhD, Associate Professor, Biochemistry, Director, Title V Programs

Moderator: Kurrinn Abrams

Room Number: 1W108

Topic: Re-Engaging Students through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports

Leveraging Academic Student Success Engagement Teams: A Three-Pronged Approach to Addressing Students' Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs to Persist in their First Year, California State University Channel Islands, P031C210044

Presenter:

Sandra Birmingham, M.Ed., HSI STEM Project Director

Moderator: Alexandra Bolden

Room Number: 1W103

Accessible and Flexible: A Competency-Based Education Model, El Paso Community College, P031S210238

Presenter:

Myshie M. Pagel, Ph.D., Dean of Education and Career and Technical Education – Valle Verde campus

Moderator: Rick Gaona

Room Number: 1W113

Developing a student-centered STEM Academy at Orange Coast College, Orange Coast College, P031S180011

Presenter:

Angelo Esposito, Title V Project Director

Moderator: Jymece Seward

Room Number: 1W114

Asset-based Strategies for Supporting STEM Student Success at 2-yr HSIs, Miami Dade, Wolfson Campus, P031C210030

Presenters:

Dacia Steiner, Grant Project Director

Logan Saucer, STEM Student Transfer Manager

Moderator: Dr. Robin Dabney

Room Number: 1W109

Topic: Using Data to Make an Impact: Building Evidence Effectively in an HSI Title III/V Grant Program

How to Write a Winning Evaluation Plan (before award) and how to Use it Efficiently and Effectively (after award)!, Antelope Valley College & Glendale Community College

Presenters:

Christos Valiotis, Dean – Mathematics/Sciences/Engineering Division, Antelope Valley College

Tom Voden, Mathematics Professor, Glendale Community College

Moderator: Margarita Melendez

Room Number: 1W117

2:30 PM – 3:20 PM Concurrent Sessions (Grantee Presentations)

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Academic, Student, and Faculty/Staff Supports

Building Deliberate Support Structures: Success Seminars and Student Retention, Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY), P031S160147

Presenter:

Sara Crosby, Director, BMCC Learning Academy

Moderator: Njeri Clark

Room Number: 1W105

Supplemental Instruction Model to Bolster Graduate Learning at Texas A&M International: Best Practices and Lessons, Texas A&M International University, P031S190304

Presenter:

Dr. Kenneth Tobin, TAMU Advanced Research and Curriculum Co-Director

Moderator: Richard Gaona

Room Number: 1W103

Con Ganas: Designing an Integrated Model for Student Success, Western New Mexico University, P031S220121

Presenter:

S. Otto Khera, Director, Grants and Rural Initiatives & Project Director, Con Ganas

Moderator: Alexandra Bolden

Room Number: 1W108

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Partnerships and Institutionalization

Establishing External Partnerships to Increase Student and Faculty Engagement, Miami Dade, Wolfson Campus, P031S200168

Presenters:

Uyen Le, Project Director of the Gateways Title V Grant

Dr. Frandley Defille, Teaching & Learning Manager of the Gateways

Moderator: Dr. Robin Dabney

Room Number: 1W117

Topic: Evidence-Based Strategies for Equity & Inclusion

Supporting Equitable Outcomes in STEM Through an Asset-based Educational Model, Indiana University Northwest,
P031C210109

Presenter:

Kristin Huysken, Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, Associate Professor of Geology

Moderator: Jymece Seward

Room Number: 1W114

From Enrolling to Serving: Supporting Students of Color at a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), Yakima Valley College,
P031S200065

Presenter:

Dr. Julie Swedin, Faculty UDEAL Grant Director

Moderator: Margarita Melendez

Room Number: 1W109

Topic: Re-Engaging Students through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports

CASA: How STEM Cohorts Foster Academic Success for Underrepresented Students, Northeastern Illinois University,
P031S200084

Presenter:

Brittany Pines, Senior Director, Grants and Sponsored Initiatives

Moderator: Kurrinn Abrams

Room Number: 1W113

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM General Session. LBJ Auditorium

Operationalizing the Servingness Framework: Metrics for Institutional Transformation

Beth Mitchneck, Professor Emerita, University of Arizona,

Barbara Walker, Special Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Diversity Initiatives, UC Santa Barbara, and

Adanari Zarate, Activity Director, UC Santa Barbara

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM Closing Remarks and Group PhotoGraph

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE SESSION #2 MAY 24TH-25TH *Wednesday, May 24, 2023*

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration Desk Open Period (Use C- Street Visitors' Entrance)

General Session -LBJ Auditorium

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Welcome

Dr. Stacey Slijepcevic, Director of HSI Division

Beatriz Ceja, Senior Director Institutional Service

Opening Remarks

Amanda Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Programs

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM Keynote

Luis Maldonado, Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)

“How Did We Get Here?” The Role of Advocacy and Organizing in Programs to Support Hispanic-Serving Institutions

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM Morning Break

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Dr. Wil Del Pilar, Senior Vice President of Higher Education Policy and Practice – The Education Trust

“Using Data for Equity: HSIs and Latinx Student Success”

A postsecondary degree is the ticket to achieving social and economic mobility, yet too few students are able to enroll in, afford, and complete college.

Hear about The Education Trust’s work on closing gaps in access and success and on making college more affordable for students, particularly those from low-income families and families of color.

12:00 PM – 1:20 PM LUNCH and NETWORKING (On your own)

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Concurrent Sessions (Grantee Presentations)

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Academic, Student, and Faculty/Staff Supports

Strengthening Course Design and Student Support of Hispanic and Historically Underserved Students in Online High-Risk Courses, Austin Community College (ACC), P031S200108

Presenter:

Dr. Erasmus Addae, Associate Vice Chancellor, Distance & Alternative Education

Moderator: Dr. Robin Dabney
Room Number: 1W105

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Supporting and Continuing Operations beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic

Economies of Scale to Transform a Small, Remote Campus Post-COVID, University of New Mexico - Los Alamos, P031S200088

Presenter:

Anne Jarrett, Project Director and PI – Title V Grant
Moderator: Kurrinn Abrams

Room Number: 1W108

Topic: Evaluation

Evaluation Panel

Presenters:

Christos Valiotis, Dr. Rafael Ríos McConnel, and possible 3rd panelist

Moderator: Margarita Melendez
Room Number: 1W103

Topic: Re-Engaging Students through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports

CompleteUTEP: a Holistic Approach to Support Stop-out Students on Their Way to Degree Completion, The University of Texas at El Paso, P031S210199

Presenter:

Daniela Rosiles, Project Manager for Academic Affairs

Moderator: Rick Gaona
Room Number: 1W113

Let's Talk Wellness: Addressing STEM Student Mental Health Wellness Through Compassionate and Innovative HSI STEM Grant Programming, Colorado State University Pueblo, P031C210043

Presenter:

Abby Davidson, Director, Tutoring and Student Academic Support; Director, HSI STEM Grants (CBASE & MAPS)

Moderator: Alexandra Bolden

Room Number: 1W117

Topic: STEM – Focused Topics: Promising Practices in Articulation Agreements

The Realities of the Transfer Process: Determining Which Transfer Pathway is Best, San Diego State University
P031C210157

Presenters:

Stacy D. Ochoa PhD, STEM Pathways PI/Project Director/Director of Advising College of Sciences

Rosalynn Ayala M.Ed., STEM Pathways Transfer Advisor Assistant Director/ College of Sciences, Student Success Center (CoS SSC)

Moderator: Jymece Seward

Room Number: 1W114

Topic: Using Data to Make an Impact: Building Evidence Effectively in an HSI Title III/V Grant Program

The Numbers Speak: How Data Can Help You Quantify Project Effectiveness, University of Puerto Rico – Aguadilla,
P031S200138

Presenter:

Jesús Lee-Borges, Full Professor at the University of Puerto Rico – Aguadilla

Moderator: Njeri Clark

Room Number: 1W109

2:30 PM – 3:20 PM

Concurrent Sessions (Grantee Presentations)

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Supporting and Continuing Operations beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic,
Culturally Responsive Best-Practice Program Management in a Post-Pandemic World, University of Arizona, P031S20086

Presenters: Dr. Cindy Trejo, Title V, Project Outreach FAMILIA University of Arizona

Lupe Waitherwerch, Outreach Manager for Project Outreach FAMILIA

Moderator: Alexandra Bolden

Room Number: 1W108

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Academic, Student, and Faculty/Staff Supports

Developing a Title V FLIGHT (Financial Literacy, Integrated Guidance and Health Career Tracks) Program: An Engaging, Transformational, Multi-Pronged Mentorship Program for Hispanic and Other Low-Income Students Who Might Otherwise Not Complete Their Degree, University of the Incarnate Word, P031S210056

Presenters:

Sandra McMakin, Project Director

Dr. Tanja Stampfl, Professor and Chair Title V FLIGHT Faculty Advisory Board

Moderator: Rick Gaona
Room Number: 1W114

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Partnerships & Institutionalization

Leveraging HSI Projects for Strategic Institutional Impact, Ventura College, P031C210056

Presenter:

Adrienne Arguijo-Morgan, Grant Director HSI STEM, Servingness: Aspiration, Identity, and Learning (S:AIL) in STEM

Moderator: Kurrinn Abrams
Room Number: 1W103

Topic: Evidence-Based Strategies for Equity & Inclusion

Why Would I Want to Go into a Teaching Profession in Schools that Didn’t Want Me? California State University, San Marcos, P031S180132

Presenter:

Dr. Patricia Stall, Professor Emeritus in the School of Education

Dr. Juan Gaytan, Education Career Specialist

Moderator: Njeri Clark
Room Number: 1W105

Topic: Re-Engaging Students through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports

Best Practices for Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs - STEMulating Student Stories of Belonging, Moreno Valley College, P031C210186

Presenter:

Donnell Layne, Director, STEM Innovation Center & Makerspace

Moderator: Jymece Seward
Room Number: 1W113

Re-Engaging 21st Century Learners after the COVID-19 Pandemic, Sul Ross State University, P031S220165

Presenter:

Joseph Olan, Director RGC Title V DHSI

Moderator: Dr. Robin Dabney

Room Number: 1W117

Topic: STEM – Focused Topics: Experiential Learning/Internships

See Yourself Succeeding: Reframing Student Mindsets through Internships and Backwards Planning, New Jersey City University, P031C210145

Presenter: John Grew, Director of Research, Grants & Sponsored Programs

Moderator: Margarita Melendez

Room Number: 1W109

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Operationalizing the Servingness Framework: Metrics for Institutional Transformation

Beth Mitchneck, Professor Emerita, University of Arizona

Barbara Walker, Special Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Diversity Initiatives, UC Santa Barbara, and
Adanari Zarate, Activity Director, UC Santa Barbara

4:30 PM -5:30 PM Meet your Program Specialist

Njeri Clark – 1W109

Jymece Seward – 1W108

Dr. Robin Dabney- 1W103

Alexandra L. BOLDEN, EDS- 1W114

Kurrinn Cusumano-Abrams, MA
- 1W105

Rick Gaona - 1W113

Meléendez-Gotay, M.A., M.Ed.
- 1W117

PROGRAM

DAY 2

Thursday, May 25th, 2023

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration Desk Open Period (Use C- Street Visitors' Entrance)

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Welcome - Dr. Stacey Slijepcevic, HSI Division Director

Problem of Practice, Dr. Vicki Robinson, Director of the HBCU Division

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM Morning Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM General Session - LBJ Auditorium

IES presentation (Dr. Matt Soldner, Commissioner,

National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance & Agency Evaluation Officer and Dr. Josh DeLaRosa, Director, Annual Reports and Information/NCES [logic models, performance monitoring, using NCES data tools to build evidence and do research]) - Moderator: Margarita Melendez

12:00 PM – 1:20 PM LUNCH and NETWORKING

1:30 PM - 2:20 PM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Bonnie Latreille, Student Loan Ombudsman, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid
Title – TBD: on-going efforts to support students, with respect to borrowing and repayments

2:30 PM – 3:20 PM General Session, LBJ Auditorium

Dr. Jennifer Engle, Senior Advisor, Office of Postsecondary Education

Department's Perspective on the Raising the Bar Initiative; Raise the B.A.R: Using Data to Drive Improvement in Student Outcomes

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM Concurrent Sessions (Grantee Presentations)

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Academic, Student, and Faculty/Staff Supports

Improving the Lifelong Learning Process for Faculty and Instructors, Community College of Aurora,
P031S190138

Presenter:

Monica Paez, Title V Project Director

Moderator: Margarita Melendez
Room Number: 1W105

Topic: “Promising Practice”: Partnerships and Institutional Buy-In/Institutionalization

Institutionalizing Your Title V Grant, Pueblo Community College, P031S210016 – OPTICA, P0315180049 –
PODER, P03315180031 – La Calle (co-op w/ CSU-Pueblo)

Presenter:

Michael Gage, Director of Student Support and Outreach

RaeAnn Gutierrez, OPTICA Grant Director

Moderator: Rick Gaona
Room Number: 1W108

Topic: Evidence-Based Strategies that Help Support Equitable and Inclusive Environments

Creating Equity and Student Success Through Innovative First-Year Experience Programs, El Paso Community
College, P031S160105

Presenter:

Sandra Lujan, First Year Experience Project Director

Moderator: Alexandra Bolden
Room Number: 1W103

Topic: Re-Engaging Students through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports

Increasing Graduate Enrollment, Quality of Education, and Student Support Services Amidst the Pandemic,
Dominican University, P031M190004

Presenters:

Roberto Curci, Vice Provost, Dean of the Brennan School of Business, and Project Director of the Title V Part B –
PPOHA

Douglas Keberlein Gutiérrez, Associate Dean, Rosary College of Arts and Science

Moderator: Kurrinn Abrams
Room Number: 1W113

We Belong: Sharing our stories on how to Thrive, Engage and Matter in STEM Fields, William Paterson University,
P031C210131

Presenters:

Dr. Sandra Hill, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Rose Mitchell, ASPIRE Program Coordinator

Moderator: Jymece Seward
Room Number: 1W117

Topic: STEM – Focused Topics: Experiential Learning/Internships

Increasing Student Agency and Expanding Work-Based Learning Experiences Using Team Internships, Glendale
Community College, P031S200141

Presenters:

Michael Davis, Activity Director, Title V Adelante GCC grant

Moderator: Dr. Robin Dabney
Room Number: 1W114

Topic: Using Data to Make an Impact: Building Evidence Effectively in an HSI Title III/V Grant Program

How to Write a Winning Evaluation Plan (before award) and how to Use it Efficiently and Effectively (after award)!,
Antelope Valley College & Glendale Community College

Presenters:

Christos Valiotis, Dean – Mathematics/Sciences/Engineering Division, Antelope Valley College

Tom Voden, Mathematics Professor, Glendale Community College
Moderator: Njeri Clark
Room Number: 1W109

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM Closing Remarks and Group Photo

Speaker Biographies

(In alphabetical order)



JOSUE "JOSH" DELAROSA

Josue "Josh" de la Rosa serves as the Director of the Annual Reports and Information Staff within the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). His responsibilities include overseeing the production of several reporting programs aimed at making NCES data more accessible to parents, educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public. These programs include the Condition of Education and the Digest of Education Statistics.

Josue has extensive experience in the field, having previously held positions as a Data Scientist with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and as a Supervisory Survey Statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Josue's educational background includes a Master of Arts degree in Data Analytics from Queens College, and a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's University.



DR. JENNIFER ENGLE

Dr. Jennifer Engle is a Senior Advisor in the Office of Postsecondary Education leading our Raise the Bar: College Excellence & Equity initiative. Prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Jennifer was the founding Director of the U.S. Program Data strategy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she focused on improving education-to-workforce data systems and their use to identify and close equity disparities in student outcomes. She also served as the Deputy Director for Data, Measurement, Learning, and Evaluation for the Postsecondary Success strategy during her tenure at the foundation. Jennifer has also held leadership positions at the Pell Institute, the Education Trust, and the Institute for Higher Education Policy. She has focused her work over the last 20 years on using data and evidence to improve college access, affordability, completion, and value for students of color and students from low-income circumstances. Her work is both a professional and a personal calling given her own experience as a first-generation college student who benefitted from the federal Pell grant and work-study programs.



BONNIE LATREILLE, J.D.

Bonnie Latreille is the Student Loan Ombudsman for the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid, where she represents the voice of the borrower in the management of the \$1.5 trillion federal student loan portfolio.

Previously, Bonnie was the Director of Research and Advocacy for the Student Borrower Protection Center, a nonprofit organization focused on alleviating the burden of student debt for millions of Americans and advancing economic opportunity for the next generation of students. In this role, Bonnie passed dozens of state laws establishing stronger state and local protections for student loan borrowers.

Prior to joining SBPC, Bonnie served in the Office for Students and Young Consumers at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where she specialized in student loan servicing compliance and consumer complaint data. Bonnie led the Bureau's work on servicing compliance under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, and her work identifying consumer harm to borrowers pursuing PSLF led to Congress dedicating \$700 million in 2018 to expand the program. Prior to her work in the Office for Students, Bonnie worked as an investigator at the CFPB, focusing on mortgage and debt collection compliance.

Bonnie previously worked for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation designing and implementing oversight for accountable care organizations, and in legal aid handling class action litigation stemming from the 2008 mortgage crisis. Bonnie received a bachelor's in economics from the University of Texas at Dallas and a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law.



LUIS MALDONADO

Luis Maldonado was appointed vice president for government relations and policy analysis at the American Association of Colleges and Universities in 2019. He aids the president of AASCU in this position by directing and coordinating activities that advance the mission of the association, serving as the direct liaison with government officials, federal agencies and other stakeholders to develop policies and positions that support regional comprehensive state colleges and universities.

Mr. Maldonado has more than 28 years of combined experience in government relations and advocacy efforts with various organizations in Washington, D.C. He has worked in advocacy for multiple organizations including three non-profit organizations: most recently with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; in two former positions that included serving in a legislative affairs capacity and as chief advocacy officer; and in senior advocacy positions with the Council on Foundations and the American Diabetes Association.

Mr. Maldonado has a master's degree from the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland at College Park.



AMANDA FUCHS MILLER, J.D.

Amanda Fuchs Miller has more than three decades of experience working inside and outside of government. She most recently worked in the U.S. Senate, where she has held several senior roles throughout her career. Previously, she served as President of Seventh Street Strategies, where she consulted for education non-profits and foundations to provide advocacy, policy and communications support. Before that, she served as Vice President of Government Affairs at Teach For America. Amanda worked in the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Justice, and in the Clinton Administration in the Office of Presidential Personnel. After graduating from college, she spent seven years working as the research and policy director on Senate campaigns and at Democratic political organizations. Amanda serves as an Adjunct Professor at American University, where she has taught advocacy and education policy courses, and has taught courses at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and at The Biden Institute at the University of Delaware. She graduated with a joint degree from Northwestern University School of Law (J.D.) and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government (MPA), and has her B.A./B.S. from Boston University in Political Science and Journalism.



DR. BETH MITCHNECK

Beth Mitchneck is Professor Emerita in the School of Geography, Development & Environment at the University of Arizona. She is currently leading a National Science Foundation project to develop metrics to assess institutional transformation at Hispanic-Serving Institutions. In addition, she is a higher education consultant specializing in faculty affairs and equity in STEM and works with universities to promote equitable evaluation processes. She has held numerous administrative positions at the University of Arizona including interim vice provost, interim dean, and associate dean; and, most recently, Vice Provost for Faculty Success at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. She also was the lead program officer for the National Science Foundation's ADVANCE program to promote gender equity in academic STEM. Mitchneck has a dual research focus on migration and displaced populations with an emphasis on Georgia and Ukraine, and on gender equity in STEM. Her most recent co-authored publications include: "A Recipe for Change: Creating a more inclusive academy" in *Science* and "Housing and integration of internally displaced persons: The case of Ukraine in 2018" in *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*. Mitchneck regularly publishes in popular press in venues such as *Foreign Affairs* online, *The Hill*, and *Inside Higher Education*.



DR. NASSER PAYDAR

Dr. Nasser H. Paydar serves as the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Dr. Paydar served as chancellor of Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and executive vice president of Indiana University (IU). An IU faculty member for more than 36 years, he has held various administrative and executive leadership positions at the university. Paydar joined IUPUI in 1985 as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering. From 1989 to 2003, he held a number of positions in the school, including chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, associate dean for graduate programs, associate dean for academic programs, and executive associate dean. From 2004 to 2007, he served as vice chancellor and dean of Indiana University–Purdue University Columbus. Paydar was appointed chancellor of Indiana University East in 2007, serving in that role until he returned to IUPUI in 2012, when he was named the campus’s executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer. He became IUPUI’s fifth chancellor in 2015. As an IUPUI faculty member, he has served as principal and co-principal investigator on research grants from federal and state agencies and private companies, including Cummins Electronics, DePuy, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center. His research in the area of solid mechanics, with applications in biomechanics and electronic packaging, has been published widely in scientific journals. Paydar earned bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering from Syracuse University.



DR. WIL DEL PILAR

Wil Del Pilar, Ph.D., serves as Ed Trust's Senior Vice President. In this role, Wil spearheads Ed Trust's mission to highlight inequities and outline solutions in order to improve access, success, affordability, and completion in higher education for low-income students and students of color.

Prior to joining Ed Trust, Wil served in Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's administration as deputy secretary of postsecondary and higher education, where he developed and implemented the state's strategic vision for higher education. Before joining Governor Wolf's team, Wil had experience in the Pennsylvania Department of Education, working as an executive assistant in the state's higher education office. In this role, he managed an array of services for the state, including the College Access Challenge Grant and the Pennsylvania Information Management System.

Aside from working for Pennsylvania's Department of Education in higher education policy roles, Wil has held senior development positions, as the director of development at Pennsylvania State University and at the University of Florida's Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program. In both positions, he fought to secure funding to support access and success initiatives for historically underrepresented students.

In addition to his policy and development experience, Wil has a wealth of institutional experience, working in admissions at Chapman University in Orange, California, and the University of California Santa Cruz, as a financial aid counselor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and as a research assistant at Penn State.

Wil holds a doctorate in higher education/higher education administration from The Pennsylvania State University, a master's degree from California State University-Dominguez Hills, and a bachelor's degree from Chapman University.



DR. VICKI ROBINSON

Dr. Vicki Robinson is the Director of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Division at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Postsecondary Education. She oversees 10 programs: 2 Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities programs; Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions Program; Master's Degree Programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities; 2 Predominantly Black Institutions programs; Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program; Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success Program; Center of Educational Excellence for Black Teachers Program at Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program. Her division is responsible for awarding grants which total over \$615 million annually to eligible institutions to improve academic, administrative, and fiscal capabilities and are intended to expand college access nationally, strengthen institutional capacity, and advance innovation in postsecondary education.

Dr. Robinson has an extensive background in education at the local, state, and national level working with schools, school districts, State education agencies, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations serving students from Pre-K to postsecondary throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Vicki is very passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion and her life's purpose is to educate, inspire, and empower. She has served as a mentor and coach for over 25 years. Dr. Robinson received her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Master of Education in Special Education at Bowie State University and her Bachelor of Science in Business Management at the University of Maryland.



DR. STACEY A. SLIJEPCEVIC

Stacey Slijepcevic, Ph.D. is the Director for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Division in the Office of Post-Secondary Education (OPE) at the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Slijepcevic provides oversight of the administration of HSI Division programs: Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions; Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans; HSI STEM and Articulation programs, as well as numerous programs under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) that support innovative, replicable education improvement projects that respond to problems of national significance at the postsecondary level. She is committed to supporting the vital work of the HSI Division to promote reform, innovation and improvement in postsecondary education while helping to strengthen the capacity of colleges and universities.

Dr. Slijepcevic joined the Higher Education Program within OPE in 2014. Before joining OPE, Dr. Slijepcevic was an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the National Science Foundation (NSF). At the NSF, her portfolio focused on international partnerships for science and technology innovation; education training and outreach; and diversity in STEM. She has served on advisory committees for K-12 science education and Minority Affairs in Higher Education, as well as a federal liaison for Department of Education working groups and interagency task forces.

Dr. Slijepcevic has over 14 years of academic research experience with expertise in plant pathology, molecular biology, and epigenetics. She earned her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Virginia Tech.



DR. MATTHEW SOLDNER

Dr. Matthew Soldner (@mattsoldner) is the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) at the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). He was appointed in July 2018. He is the Department's Evaluation Officer, responsible for the Department's effort to design, conduct, and learn from evaluations of federal programs and policies. He also oversees the Department's Regional Educational Laboratories, which partner with educators and policymakers to increase the use of research and evidence to enhance education programs and improve student performance, and the What Works Clearinghouse, which reviews education research to provide educators with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions. Before coming to NCEE, Dr. Soldner was a Principal Researcher at American Institutes for Research. His primary focus was the evaluation of efforts to improve postsecondary outcomes for students, particularly those who have been traditionally underserved by education systems, at two-year and four-year colleges. His areas of interest include competency-based education, federal financial aid, developmental education, and academic and career advising. Dr. Soldner also served as the Senior Technical Advisor to the Postsecondary, Adult, and Career Education Division of IES's National Center for Education Statistics. He began his career working in Student Affairs at UMBC, the University of Maryland—Baltimore County. Dr. Soldner's masters and doctoral degrees are from the University of Maryland's College of Education.

About IES

The Institute of Education Sciences (@IESResearch) is the statistics, research, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education. IES is independent and non-partisan. Its mission is to provide scientific evidence on which to ground education practice and policy and to share this information in formats that are useful and accessible to educators, parents, policymakers, researchers, and the public.



DR. BARBARA ENDEMAÑO WALKER

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Barbara Endemaño Walker has a Ph.D. and M.A. in Geography from UC Berkeley and a B.A. in Anthropology and African Studies from UCLA. She concurrently serves as the Director of Strategic Research Initiatives and the Special Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Diversity Initiatives at UCSB. Prior to joining the Office of Research, she was an NSF Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology and the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) at UCSB. Her research and publications focus on broadening participation in higher education and STEM, the political ecology of marine resources, and gender and the environment, and she has conducted field work in Ghana, French Polynesia, Mexico, and California. Her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, NOAA Sea Grant, the Social Science Research Council, and the Department of Education, among others. She was a founding board member of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP), and she leads national and state-wide projects that focus on broadening participation in higher education in the context of the research enterprise. Through the Center for Research, Excellence, and Diversity in Team Science (CREDITS), she oversees programs that increase the capacity for diverse science teams and provide tools for university leadership to enact institutional transformation. She also leads the California Alliance for Hispanic-serving Social Science Advancement (CAHSSA) which strengthens community-based research and public scholarship in the social sciences to align with the Hispanic-serving mission of the majority of institutions of higher education in California. She serves on two advisory committees at the National Science Foundation (NSF): The Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE) and the Business Operations and Advisory Committee (BOAC). She is also co-author of the book *Funding Your Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences: A Practical Guide to Grant and Fellowship Proposals* (Routledge 2017).



BEATRIZ CEJA-WILLIAMS

Beatriz Ceja-Williams is the Senior Director for Institutional Service in the Office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role she leads four Divisions that administer several multimillion-dollar programs targeted at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions, (HSIs) and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) along with other programs that seek to improve college access, completion, and affordability. Given her recent appointment as Senior Director, she continues to serve as the Director for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Division (HSID). As the Director for the HSID she is responsible for the administration of the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions, the Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans and the HSI STEM and Articulation programs. Prior to joining the Office of Postsecondary Education, she served as a Program Manager for the Teacher Quality Programs in the Office of Innovation and Improvement. As a Program Manager she oversaw the administration of several discretionary programs including: Race to the Top District, Teacher Quality Partnership, School Leadership, Supporting Effective Educators, and Transition to Teaching. Mrs. Ceja-Williams has also served as the federal liaison to the states of Florida, Arizona, New Mexico, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the U.S. Department of Education's Migrant Education Program. Mrs. Ceja-Williams has presented at numerous education conferences on school leadership, teacher quality, migrant students, and cultural literacy. Fellowships include, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellowship Program, the Department's Excellence in Government Fellows Program, and the Executive Leadership Program. Mrs. Ceja-Williams earned her BA in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and her MA in Education and Human Development with an emphasis in Bilingual Education and Special Education from George Washington University.



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ADANARI ZARATE, PHD

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Dr. Adanari Zarate has a PhD from the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara. She is currently serving as Associate Director and professor for the ÉXITO Program at University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Zarate has worked within educational settings for over 15 years in her hometown of Santa Ana, and in Santa Barbara and Ventura County high schools. Areas of research expertise include Ethnic Studies in high school and higher education, sociocultural linguistics, and culturally sustaining pedagogies. Her academic training comes from a BS in Child and Adolescent Studies from Cal State Fullerton, an MA in Education from Cal State Long Beach, and an MA in Chicana and Chicano Studies from UC Santa Barbara.