



Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Overview

The Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI) is the leading source of professional development for current and prospective policymakers who work on federal higher education issues. We believe that by providing policymakers with a knowledge base to support thoughtful decision-making, we can help drive better outcomes in postsecondary education.

PNPI Congressional Seminars

PNPI's professional development seminars for Congressional staff enable participants to consider a full range of higher education topics while engaging in constructive dialogue with policy experts, researchers, college administrators and colleagues. Seminars provide a nonpartisan, nonpolitical forum in which attendees consider research, gain a deeper understanding of how policies are implemented, and think through possibilities for reform. Designed to increase participants' capacity to devise workable, sustainable and affordable higher education solutions, these events provide opportunities to candidly discuss issues of importance in a closed-door setting.

Prospective Policymaker Boot Camps

PNPI's Prospective Policymaker Boot Camps are designed to prepare the next generation of policymakers for a career in federal higher education policymaking. Modeled after our Congressional work, boot camps provide individuals, including students, a chance to deepen their postsecondary knowledge base while networking with individuals currently working in the field.

Leadership Development Program

In 2018, PNPI launched the Leadership Development Program (LDP), a four-month professional development opportunity for leaders in the higher education policy space. Premised on the belief that leadership can be developed, strong leaders impact organizational health, and strong sectors are led by strong organizations, the LDP provides senior decision makers with the skills and community needed to advance their leadership potential and careers.

Summer Scholars

The Summer Scholar Program provides an opportunity for highly motivated students with demonstrated financial need to learn about federal higher education policy in Washington, D.C. A fully funded experience, scholars have their day-to-day living and travel expenses covered and are paid for the work that they do.

Additional Resources

In addition to seminars, PNPI hosts briefings for Congressional staff, publishes summaries of recent postsecondary research and policy reports, produces issue primers on higher education topics, and compiles postsecondary fact sheets on today's diverse student body.

Impact

Since its launch in 2012, attendance at PNPI events has indicated great interest in the professional development we provide. Survey results from past events show that participants leave seminars with a better understanding of the issues presented, feel events are well planned and executed, and are very interested in attending future seminars or briefings. End-of-year impact surveys indicate that PNPI participants retain what they learn and apply the knowledge they have gained while creating, considering and negotiating federal policies.