The background of the entire poster is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a black graduation cap with a red tassel. The cap is resting on a stack of US dollar bills, including a \$100 bill and a \$20 bill. The lighting is warm, creating a soft glow around the cap and the money.

Virtual Federal Student Aid Boot Camp Speaker Bios

July 6, 2021- July 30, 2021

Speaker Bios



James Bergeron

National Council of Higher Education Resources

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James Bergeron currently serves as president and chief executive officer of the National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER), which represents state, nonprofit, and private organizations that help students and families access, manage, and pay for the costs of postsecondary education.

Prior to joining NCHER in 2014, James worked as the director of education and human services policy for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. In this capacity, he oversaw policy development on all areas of education programs, including the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Workforce Investment Act. Before joining the Committee in 2006, James served as legislative director for Representative Buck McKeon, where he authored important initiatives on college affordability and financial aid simplification.

He began his Capitol Hill service more than 20 years ago as a legislative assistant to former Representative Bob Livingston. He also served as vice president of MARC Associates (now part of Holland & Knight). James received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Colleen Campbell

U.S. Department of Education

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Colleen Campbell is the director of Next Gen communications at the US Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid. Campbell began their career as a financial aid administrator, an experience that still informs their work as an expert on the federal student loan programs, repayment, and servicing. Campbell joined the federal government after serving as the director of the postsecondary education team at the Center of American Progress. They previously held roles in research and policy analysis at the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP). Campbell holds a Master of Public Policy and Master of Arts in Higher Education from the University of Michigan.

Speaker Bios



Rajeev Darolia
University of Kentucky
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Rajeev Darolia, Ph.D., holds the Wendell H. Ford Professorship of Public Policy and is an associate professor of public policy and economics at the University of Kentucky. He serves as associate director of the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, where he is also director of graduate studies for the Ph.D. and MPA programs. Dr. Darolia is a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, a research fellow at the IZA Institute of Labor Economics, a research affiliate at the UK Center for Poverty Research, and a 2018 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow. He serves as an associate editor for Education Finance & Policy, is past associate editor of the Review of Higher Education, and is on the editorial boards of Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Journal of Higher Education, and Educational Researcher.

Dr. Darolia's current research interests include questions about how public policy affects economic mobility and financial security, especially related to education policy. He teaches classes in causal research methods and program evaluation. He routinely advises nonprofit organizations and federal, state, and local policymakers on regulatory, research, and policy topics. He holds a Ph.D. in public policy and public administration, a master's degree in economics, and a bachelor's degree in finance.



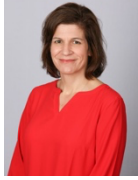
Ashley Harrington
Center for Responsible Lending
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Ashley Harrington is the Federal Advocacy Director and a senior counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). Ashley's portfolio includes general consumer lending issues, with a particular focus on student debt and small business. Ashley recently returned to CRL from a brief project at UNCF (the United Negro College Fund). At UNCF, Ashley served as the director of the National Social Justice Program and was a member of the Public Policy and Government Affairs team. In that role, Ashley led new policy and programmatic efforts to address systemic issues that perpetuate racial and economic inequality. The program's initial focus was criminal justice reform, especially as it intersects with higher education. In addition to spearheading this program, Ashley worked on student debt issues.

Before UNCF, Ashley served as CRL's special assistant to the president and policy counsel. She assumed a lead role in federal advocacy efforts and was a primary negotiator for the Department of Education's 2017–2018 Borrower Defense to Repayment Rulemaking Committee. Ashley previously worked in the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo as special assistant to the chief diversity officer, focusing on supplier diversity in government contracting and state workforce diversity.

Originally from Greensboro, NC, Ashley received her B.A. in public policy analysis from UNC-Chapel Hill, where she was a Morehead-Cain Scholar and a Gates Millennium Scholar. After UNC, Ashley earned her J.D. from New York University School of Law. At NYU, Ashley was a Derrick Bell Public Service Scholar and an articles editor of the NYU Law Review. Upon graduation, she was awarded the Vanderbilt Medal for outstanding service to the law school community. Ashley is admitted to practice law in New York.

Speaker Bios



Karen McCarthy

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

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Karen McCarthy is the director of policy analysis at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Karen currently works in NASFAA's division of policy and federal relations, providing a financial aid administrator's "on-the-ground" perspective to federal student aid policy discussions and debates. She began her career in student aid working in the financial aid offices at several large four-year institutions, including Boston University, Miami University of Ohio, and The Ohio State University. She began work in NASFAA's training department in 1999 before joining NASFAA's policy team in 2010.



Julie Peller

Higher Learning Advocates

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Julie Peller is an experienced professional with a deep background in federal postsecondary education policy, federal budgeting, and professional management. She is recognized as a leader on postsecondary education issues and presents at a variety of forums on topics related to student attainment, federal policy, and student financial aid. Julie is particularly passionate about ensuring that policies support a postsecondary system that enables all of today's students, regardless of age, income, or background, to succeed and reach their goals.

Prior to joining Higher Learning Advocates, Julie was Lumina Foundation's first director of federal policy. As director, she led the development and advancement of the foundation's federal policy agenda. Julie joined the foundation in 2013, where she created the foundation's strategy on federal policy and established the Washington, D.C., office.

Julie also has significant legislative policy experience. She served as a senior policy advisor and the deputy staff director for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor. During her congressional career, Julie consistently worked across the political aisle to achieve policy goals and was intimately involved with significant changes to the Higher Education Act, the federal student aid programs, and other higher education issues. She was a leader in the development of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (the student aid provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 112-152)), the last Higher Education Act reauthorization (the Higher Education Opportunity Act ((P.L. 110-315))), the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (P.L. 110-227), and the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (P.L. 110-84). As such, she holds expertise in congressional process, budget reconciliation, and the provisions of the Higher Education Act.

Prior to her time working in Congress, Julie was a Presidential Management Fellow, where she served at the Department of Education as a budget analyst for a variety of K-12 programs.

Julie received her master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University and earned a bachelor's degree in political science and public policy from The George Washington University. She currently lives in Maryland with her husband and two sons, where she enjoys baking and spending time outside.

Speaker Bios



Rich Williams
U.S. Department of Education
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Rich Williams is the Chief of Staff for the Office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education where he helps oversee over 160 staff engaged in grantmaking and policy development. He has spent his career working on college affordability, student debt, and consumer protection policies. Most recently, he helped lead an initiative at The Pew Charitable Trusts working to devise evidence-based policies that better support struggling student loan borrowers. Prior to Pew, he led efforts to strengthen consumer protections for young Americans at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and helped craft higher education policy and strategy as the Senior Higher Education Policy Advisor for the House Committee on Education and Labor. Before public service, he devised and ran national advocacy campaigns on financial aid for the student chapters of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). Rich is a first-generation college student who received a bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University after attending Coconino Community College.