

# THE POSTSECONDARY NATIONAL POLICY INSTITUTE'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM FOR ALUMNI



## PROGRAM GUIDE

**Virtual Event**  
**Wednesday, November 17**  
11:00AM–4:00PM ET



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## OUR MISSION

The Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI) provides current and prospective policymakers with a substantive and collegial foundation on which to build federal higher education policies that drive positive outcomes for students and their families.

## OUR VISION

To become a rite of passage for individuals who work on or aspire to work on federal higher education policy, to contribute to the diversification of the postsecondary policymaker cohort, and to be an indispensable provider of continuing education to senior officials who work in the federal higher education policy space.

# A LETTER FROM MARYELLEN MCGUIRE



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Postsecondary National Policy Institute's Higher Education Symposium for Alumni. This event officially launches our Alumni Network, and we could not be any happier that you are joining us. When we first launched PNPI, our programming solely focused on educating current policymakers in the federal postsecondary space. We have since expanded our programming to include prospective policymakers, leaders and emerging leaders, and up-and-coming researchers. Today we are launching new, exclusive programming for you, our alumni.



The goal of the Alumni Network is to provide extended learning to our participant and speaker alums that keeps you current and connected: current on the policies and programs that drive what you do and connected to resources and one another. The Alumni Network was born out of a desire to keep each and every one of you engaged and informed.

Over the course of the symposium, my colleagues and I hope that you gain further insights into issues that you are grappling with and are introduced to new ways of thinking about the work that you do. We have brought together issue experts, practitioners, and leaders in the space to help you do so.

As always, our hope is to keep the conversation with you going once you leave –to have you back for future events and to continually engage you in dialogue with experts, with your fellow participants, and with us. Welcome back, alums; we look forward to learning beside you!

Warmly,

*MaryEllen McGuire*

MaryEllen McGuire, Ph.D.  
President & Founder  
Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI)

# WHAT DOES PNPI MEAN TO YOU?



Below are testimonials from some of our esteemed alumni.



**Jinann Bitar, Director of Higher Education Research, The Education Trust**

"I met people at PNPI that I still collaborate with years later. This is the event that truly kicked off my understanding of the full scope of higher education legislation. The knowledge learned absolutely contributed to my continued work in the field today."



**Noelle Verhelst, Legislative Director, Rep. Smucker (R-PA)**

"PNPI seminars have really helped build my foundation of understanding on higher education policy. I wish there were groups like PNPI that existed in other policy fields!"



**Tamara Hiler, Director of Education, Third Way**

"PNPI has been a confidence boost for me—teaching me the leadership skills I need to successfully build and manage a team of rock stars so we can be as effective as possible when it comes to shaping policy that will improve students' lives."



**Tim Carlton, Legislative Director, National Governors Association**

"During my nearly 8 years on Capitol Hill, there wasn't an organization or advocacy group that did a better job of educating young staff like me on complex issues facing higher education. I knew that when I participated in a PNPI event, I would walk away with a better understanding of the issues covered and the views expressed would be presented in a neutral manner... Simply put, there isn't an organization in Washington, D.C. doing better professional development for Congressional staff than PNPI."

## 11:00–11:05AM WELCOME

MaryEllen McGuire, President, PNPI

## 11:05AM–12:00PM CONTENT SESSIONS

### Option 1: The Federal Student Loan Pause: What Is Ahead?

**Speakers:** *Dominique Baker, Southern Methodist University; Scott Giles, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation; and Julie Morgan, U.S. Department of Education*

### Option 2: What's New in Financial Aid?

**Speakers:** *Derek Kindle, University of Wisconsin–Madison; Karen McCarthy, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA); and Thelma Ross, Prince George's Community College*

## 12:00–1:00PM BREAK

## 1:00–1:45PM CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

### Option 1: Why Does Representation Matter?

**Speaker:** *Michelle Cooper, U.S. Department of Education*

### Option 2: Why Does Language Matter?

**Speaker:** *Deborah Santiago, Excelencia in Education*

## 1:45–2:00PM BREAK

## 2:00–3:30PM SKILLS WORKSHOPS

### OPTION 1: DESIGNING EFFECTIVE AND ENGAGING MEETINGS

**Facilitator:** *Rae Ringel, Ringel Group*

### Option 2: How to Craft Great Presentations

**Facilitator:** *Christine Clapp, Spoken with Authority*

## 3:30–4:00PM SYMPOSIUM WRAP-UP

Join us for a closing wrap-up and access to a virtual symposium swag bag!

# CONTENT SESSIONS

11:05AM–12:00PM

## OPTION 1: THE FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PAUSE: WHAT IS AHEAD?

The student loan pause is ending in January—but are borrowers, servicers, and the U.S. Department of Education ready for what's to come? This panel will contemplate the end of the pause and help participants better understand how borrowers might be impacted.



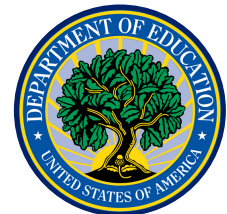
**MacGregor Oberfell**  
PNPI



**Dominique Baker**  
Southern Methodist  
University



**Scott Giles**  
Vermont Student  
Assistance Corporation



**Julie Morgan**  
U.S. Department  
of Education

## OPTION 2: WHAT'S NEW IN FINANCIAL AID?

The new Administration and the pandemic have both had an influence on the application and administration of federal financial aid. This panel will review recent changes and guidance related to the administration of federal student aid, and consider how enrollment and FAFSA completion rates currently intersect.



**Terrell Halaska Dunn**  
HCM Strategists  
PNPI Board



**Derek Kindle**  
University of  
Wisconsin–Madison



**Karen McCarthy**  
National Association of  
Student Financial Aid  
Administrators  
(NASFAA)



**Thelma Ross**  
Prince George's  
Community  
College

1:00–1:45PM

## OPTION 1: WHY DOES REPRESENTATION MATTER?

Representation matters at every level when decisions are being made. Why is it so important to be sure that policymakers and those who influence them represent a wide variety of lived experiences? How might representation in the policymaker ranks shift the way we frame, debate, and craft public policy? Join us and find out.



**MaryEllen McGuire**  
PNPI



**Michelle Cooper**  
U.S. Department of  
Education

## OPTION 2: WHY DOES LANGUAGE MATTER?

Language matters when considering, crafting, and debating public policy. How might the words we choose to describe individuals impact the way we think about them? How might approaching an issue from an asset versus a deficit perspective influence the solutions we consider? Join us for a conversation on language and how we can use it in new ways to frame pressing issues.



**Betsy Prueter**  
PNPI



**Deborah Santiago**  
Excelencia in  
Education



2:00–3:30PM

## OPTION 1: DESIGNING EFFECTIVE AND ENGAGING MEETINGS

How do you craft productive, thought-provoking, and inspirational meetings? This workshop will teach you how to design your meetings to best meet the needs of participants, frame meetings so they are purposeful and relevant, and incorporate creative modalities that will inspire and advance your participants' work.



**Rae Ringel**  
Ringel Group

## OPTION 2: HOW TO CRAFT GREAT PRESENTATIONS

Whether you are in a virtual, in-person, or hybrid event setting, your ability to put together a compelling presentation that clearly and effectively delivers your message makes a difference. This workshop will give you the tools you need to craft great presentations that people will remember.



**Christine Clapp**  
Spoken with  
Authority



## FEDERAL STUDENT AID



[Federal Student Aid \(FSA\)](#), U.S. Department of Education



[National Student Aid Profile: Overview of 2020 Federal Programs](#),  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)



[A History of Federal Student Aid \(FSA\)](#), Lumina Foundation



[Student Aid Reference Desk](#), NASFAA

## LANGUAGE & REPRESENTATION



[Equity Self-Assessment](#), Lumina Foundation



[Equity and Justice Framing Research](#), Lumina Foundation



[Questioning the Deficit](#), EdTrust



[Immigrant voices make democracy stronger](#), Sayu Bhojwani TED Talk



[Representation Matters: Women in the U.S. Congress](#), Center for  
American Women and Politics



[Report Card of Diversity of Top Staff Hires by New Members in the  
117th Congress \(2021-2022\)](#), Joint Center for Political and Economic  
Studies



## EFFECTIVE/ENGAGING MEETINGS



[When Do We Actually Need to Meet in Person](#), Harvard Business Review



[How to Nail a Hybrid Presentation](#), Harvard Business Review



[Plan a Better Meeting with Design Thinking](#), Harvard Business Review

## GREAT PRESENTATIONS



[How to Make a Great Presentation](#), TED



[Avoid "Death by PowerPoint" with 4 Effective Visual Aids](#), Spoken with Authority



[How to convey confidence in a virtual meeting or presentation](#), Spoken with Authority



[Craft Presentation Structure with Sandwich Structure Method](#), Spoken with Authority

# THE PNPI TEAM



## STAFF



**MaryEllen McGuire**  
Founder & President



**Betsy Prueter**  
Chief of Staff



**Jael Greene**  
Operations Manager



**MacGregor Obergfell**  
Associate Director of  
Research &  
Congressional Education



**Irene Cruz**  
Program & Research  
Associate



**Austin Birchell**  
Communications  
Associate

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Hampshire University



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Pennsylvania

# THANK YOU



## Follow PNPI

Join us for future events.



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Update your contact info to hear the latest from PNPI.