



Federal Student Loan Debt & Repayment

JANUARY 29–30, 2026

VIRTUAL

Boot Camp Overview

Thursday, January 29 to Friday, January 30

All sessions will be held virtually via Zoom.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Increase participants' understanding of student loan borrowing and student loan debt;
- Deepen participants' understanding of delinquency, default, forbearance, and deferment;
- Expose participants to various perspectives on default mitigation;
- Increase participants' understanding of the federal student loan repayment programs; and
- Strengthen participants' understanding of the Public Student Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program.

MODERATORS

MaryEllen McGuire

President & Founder, PNPI

Betsy Prueter

Senior Director of Programming & Chief of Staff, PNPI

Thursday, January 29

(All times ET)

10:00–10:05 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speaker: MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI

10:05–11:00 AM

Debt Overview

Speaker: Mark Huelsman, The Hope Center

This session will explore the topic of student debt, including how families pay for college, how much students are borrowing, who is borrowing, and what current borrowing patterns look like.

11:10 AM–12:30 PM

Default & Mitigation

Speakers: Jinann Bitar, Ed Trust; Scott Giles, VSAC; and Misty Wilde, SNHU

This session will explain delinquency and default, including what types of borrowers are in default and how delinquency and default rates have changed over time.

12:30–1:15 PM: **Lunch Break**

1:15–2:30 PM

Borrower Perspectives on Student Debt & Default

Speakers: Betsy Mayotte, The Institute of Student Loan Advisors, and Carolina Rodriguez, Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program

This session will cover the challenges borrowers face when managing their student debt and trying to get out of default.

2:30 PM

Close

Friday, January 30

(All times ET)

10:00–10:05 AM

Welcome

Speaker: Betsy Prueter, PNPI

10:05–11:30 AM

Overview of Repayment & Repayment Simulation

Speaker: Brian Denten, Pew Charitable Trusts

This session will review how federal repayment plans work, examine data on repayment rates, and consider the demographics of plan participants. Attendees will also join a repayment simulation to help them better understand repayment plan options.

11:30–11:45 AM: **Break**

11:45 AM–12:30 PM

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Speakers: Rachel Fishman and Sarah Sattelmeyer, New America

This session will provide an overview of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program, including borrower eligibility, cases of denial, and criticisms of the program's management.

1:15–2:30 PM: **Lunch Break**

1:15–2:30 PM

Policy Roundtable

Speakers: Amaris Benavidez, U.S. House of Representatives; Colleen Campbell, Bellwether Education Partners; Preston Cooper, AEI; and Solomon Chen, U.S. House of Representatives

This session will bring together experts to consider how the OBBB will impact federal student loan debt, federal student loan repayment, and borrower engagement.

2:30 PM

Close