



BEYOND THE PARTISAN DIVIDE: CHARTING A PRINCIPLED APPROACH TO FEDERAL HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

Speaker Biographies

Sandy Baum is a fellow in the Education Policy Program at the Urban Institute and professor emerita of economics at Skidmore College. An expert on higher education finance, she speaks and writes extensively about issues relating to college access, college pricing, student aid policy, student debt, and affordability. Since 2002, Baum has coauthored the College Board's annual publications *Trends in Student Aid* and *Trends in College Pricing*. She is a member of the board of the National Student Clearinghouse and has chaired major study groups through the College Board and the Brookings Institution, developing proposals for reforming federal and state student aid. Baum's articles on higher education finance have been published in professional journals, books, and the trade press. She was the principal researcher on the Urban Institute's college affordability website, and her recent work includes briefs on graduate student enrollment and financing. She is the author of *Student Debt: Rhetoric and Realities of Higher Education Financing* and coauthor with Harry Holzer of *Making College Work: Pathways to Success for Disadvantaged Students*.

Douglas Harris is professor of economics, the Schleider Foundation chair in public education, and founding director of the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans at Tulane University and a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He has used his research on the measurement of college performance, community college policies, and cost-effectiveness of college access programs to advise governors, members of Congress, and White House staff on various policies. He is also principal investigator on a \$3 million US Department of Education grant to carry out one of the first randomized trials of a financial program similar to many recent free college and promise scholarship proposals. *Value-Added Measures in Education*, his first book, was nominated for the national Grawemeyer Award in Education and praised by national leaders, such as Randi Weingarten and Bill Gates. He has published dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles and more than 100 reports and analyses that have been widely cited in the national media, including CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, NPR, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *National Journal*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, and by such commentators as David Brooks and Malcolm Gladwell.

Amy Jones oversees all aspects of education policy for Chairwoman Virginia Foxx of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Before assuming this role, Jones specialized in higher education and student loan policy and other legal issues arising in education policy for the committee. Previously, she was an attorney at Dean Blakey, where she handled issues important to the higher education community and the student loan industry. Jones also clerked at the US Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education. She received her BA in political science and justice and her JD from American University.



Andrew Kelly is senior vice president for strategy and policy at the University of North Carolina (UNC). Kelly leads the newly formed Division of Strategy and Policy, which is charged with enhancing and furthering the UNC system's strategic goals. In addition to serving as a higher education policy expert to the president and the board of governors, he is tasked with developing a robust performance measurement system and identifying new initiatives to promote system goals. Before joining UNC, Kelly was a resident scholar in education policy studies and the founding director of the Center on Higher Education Reform at the American Enterprise Institute. Kelly conducted research on college affordability innovation in higher education and federal and state policy and advised members of Congress, state policymakers, and presidential candidates. Kelly has published work in academic journals and in popular outlets, such as the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Education Week*, the *Atlantic*, and *National Review*.

James Kvaal is a founder of the College Movement, a new nonprofit that advocates for public policies that help students graduate from college and find jobs. Most recently, Kvaal was a Towsley policymaker in residence at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy. He was President Obama's deputy domestic policy adviser for three years, where he worked on several domestic policy issues, including higher education. In 2012, Kvaal was the policy director on President Obama's reelection campaign. Over his career, Kvaal has served in the US Department of Education, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Clinton White House. He attended Stanford University and Harvard Law School.

Ted Mitchell is the president of the American Council on Education, the major coordinating body for America's colleges and universities. Before joining the council, Mitchell was the undersecretary of the US Department of Education, responsible for all postsecondary and adult education policy and programs and the \$1.3 trillion federal student aid portfolio. Before federal service, Mitchell was CEO of the NewSchools Venture Fund, a national investor in education innovation. He previously was president of the California State Board of Education and president of Occidental College and held leadership roles at the University of California, Los Angeles, including vice chancellor. Mitchell was deputy to the president and to the provost at Stanford University and began his career as a professor at Dartmouth College, where he was chair of the Department of Education.

Margaret Spellings took the helm of the University of North Carolina system in 2016 following a distinguished career in public service and education policy at the state and national levels. She was chief White House domestic policy adviser and then US secretary of education, where she led the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, and spearheaded stronger accountability in the nation's public schools through No Child Left Behind. As head of North Carolina's 17-campus university system, Spellings has focused on improving economic and social mobility in the state.