



# NASASPS Annual Conference

Phoenix, Arizona  
April 30 – May 3, 2023

## Conference Presenters

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**Jared Abdirkin** - Director, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), New England Board of Higher Education

Jared started at the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) in August 2021, primarily focused on State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) as well as serving on the team of Senior Directors. Prior to joining NEBHE, Jared spent a decade in primarily public postsecondary institutions focused on academic affairs, program and college leadership, and admission and retention efforts. Highlights of his work include: maintaining and expanding transfer programs to ensure student readiness and seamless credit acceptance; organizing the movement of undergraduate programs from fully in person to combinations of in-person, hybrid, and remote; and the stabilization, re-organization, and growth of both a student services and an academic affairs department. Jared's professional passions are in team development and mentorship, process improvement, and intraorganizational communication. Jared earned a BS degree in Human Development and an MS degree in College Student Personnel from the University of Rhode Island.



**Marianne Boeke** - Vice President, Research & State Partnerships, NC-SARA

Dr. Marianne Boeke joined NC-SARA in 2018. As the Vice President for Research and State Partnerships, she oversees all aspects of SARA data collection and reporting, supervises other related research projects, and curates the State Authorization Surveys (The Guide). She provides state and regional compact support and with senior leadership, works on policy-related issues. Prior to joining NC-SARA, Marianne served as a Senior Associate at the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) for 14 years. She worked on a variety of long and short-term projects collaborating with the Aspen Institute, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, National Science Foundation (NSF), Strada Education Network, WICHE, and WCET State Authorization Network (SAN). She has worked at WICHE/WCET and at the Western Governors University (WGU) during the inaugural years; she has also held several institutional administration positions in both Washington, D.C. and Colorado. Marianne's work in state authorization began in 2011 when she co-created the SHEEO survey on state authorization.



**Melanie Booth, Ed.D.** - Vice President, Educational Programs and Engagement, NC-SARA

"Dr. Melanie Booth serves as Vice President, Educational Programs and Engagement at NC-SARA. In this role she leads the development of educational programs and resources with and for states, institutions, and other constituents - focusing on facilitating communities of learning and practice - as well as leading the strategy for outreach, partnership support, events, writing, and communications for the organization. Prior to joining NC-SARA, Melanie served as an independent consultant to multiple institutions and higher education organizations in areas of quality assurance, programmatic and institutional accreditation, learning assessment, program review, strategic planning, faculty development, work/learn partnerships, online programming, and student success initiatives. From 2016-2018 she served as the Founding Executive Director of The Quality Assurance Commons for Higher and Postsecondary Education, and prior to that, was the Vice President for Educational Programming at WASC Senior College and University Commission

(WSCUC). Melanie holds an Ed.D. in Higher Educational Leadership and Change from Fielding Graduate University, a master's degree from San Diego State University, and a bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University. (More info: <https://nc-sara.org/people/melanie-booth-edd>)



**James Cheek** - *Senior Regulatory Specialist/Financial Assessment Coordinator, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)*

James Cheek has worked as a Regulatory Specialist at the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission since June 2019. Before starting at GNPEC, Mr. Cheek worked as a General Manager at Chick-fil-A in Athens, Georgia. James holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia.

**Heather DeLange** - *Director of Private Postsecondary Education, Colorado Dept. of Higher Education*

Heather DeLange serves as the Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education for the Colorado Department of Higher Education. In her role she oversees the private, degree-granting colleges and universities and the religious training institutions that operate in the state. In the vein of state authorization, she also serves as the State Portal Entity for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, of which all Colorado public institutions participate as well as several private colleges/universities and private occupational schools. Ms. DeLange has served in several roles for the Department of Higher Education since 2003, clearly she roots deep. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Colorado State University and was part of the first cohort in the Masters of Arts in Higher Education Administration and Leadership at Adams State University. Heather DeLange serves at the Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education for the Colorado Department of Higher Education. In her role she oversees the private, degree-granting colleges and universities and the religious training institutions that operate in the state. In the vein of state authorization, she also serves as the State Portal Entity for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, of which all Colorado public institutions participate as well as several private colleges/universities and private occupational schools. Ms. DeLange has served in several roles for the Department of Higher Education since 2003, clearly she roots deep. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Colorado State University and was part of the first cohort in the Masters of Arts in Higher Education Administration and Leadership at Adams State University.



**Lanna Dueck** - *Executive Director, Arizona SARA Council*

Lanna Dueck is the Executive Director of the Arizona SARA Council where she leads a 9 member, cross-sector council in the administration of SARA oversight in the state of Arizona. She is also currently serving as an NC-SARA Board member and a member of the W-SARA Regional Steering Committee. Prior to SARA, Lanna served for over 10 years in a multi-campus, online and on-ground higher education institution with oversight over regulatory compliance, accreditation, and curriculum development. Lanna enjoys bringing people together and leveraging regulation and policy into innovative, student-centered solutions.



**Christopher Fagan** - *Associate General Counsel, University of Phoenix*

Christopher is an experienced regulatory lawyer having represented clients across various highly regulated spaces. He is currently Associate General Counsel at University of Phoenix. In that role, he advises the University on state and federal education regulatory matters, including borrower defense to repayment.



**Carolyn Fast** - *Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation*

Carolyn Fast is a senior fellow at The Century Foundation where she works on higher education policy with a focus on institutional accountability and consumer protections. Before joining The Century Foundation, Carolyn was special counsel in the Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau of the New York Attorney General's Office. In that role, Carolyn investigated and brought enforcement actions against for-profit colleges and student loan lenders and servicers, securing millions of dollars in restitution for students and student loan borrowers. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Carolyn clerked for Judge Victor Marrero in the Southern District of New York. Carolyn received her undergraduate degree from Harvard and her law degree from Columbia Law School.



**Dr. Kizuwanda Gayden Grant** - *Chief Administrative Officer, Paul Quinn College*

Dr. Kizuwanda Gayden Grant currently serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for Paul Quinn, the only federally approved urban work college and HBCU. In January 2010, Dr. Grant moved to Paul Quinn College as the chair of the Teacher Education program and associate professor of teacher education. By December 2010, Dr. Grant was asked to assume the Vice President of Academic Affairs role. Dr. Grant has been a higher education administrator for twenty years, and at the age of 34 became one of the youngest Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs in the country. In 2016, the Academic Affairs role was split into two, and Dr. Grant retained accreditation, compliance, student affairs, student conduct, Title IX and University Partnership responsibilities. Currently, as Chief Administrative Officer, Dr. Grant is also responsible for the Work Program, Financial Aid, Athletics, Human Resources and most recently coordinated the College's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Prior to joining PQC, she served as Executive Dean for Communications and Teacher Education, and Associate Dean of Instructional Support at Mountain View College in Dallas, TX, and the Associate Dean of Instruction and Assistant to the Provost, at North Central Texas College, Corinth, TX.

Dr. Grant is very proud of her work to assist in the implementation of mental health support services for Paul Quinn College students, especially the expansion to a Mental Health and Wellness Clinic on campus opening in 2016. The clinic has expanded to include two licensed counselors, and weekly services from University of Texas, Southwestern, Psychiatry professionals. Dr. Grant successfully secured a sizable grant from the Texas Governor's Office and the Trellis Foundation to support campus-based services for students suffering from trauma and in need of basic need support (housing, meals, and transportation). For the past five years, Dr. Grant has served as a Commissioner for the Transnational Association for Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and was elected Vice Chair of the TRACS Commission in 2021, and she also serves as a member of the Board of Governors for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Grant earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of North Texas (2005), a M.S. in Mathematics Education, from Columbia University Teachers College (2001), and a B.S. in Secondary Education - Mathematics, from Grambling State University (1998). Dr. Grant is originally from Seattle, WA, and currently resides with her family in Arlington, TX. Whenever possible, Dr. Grant enjoys international travel, especially to beach destinations, spending time with extended family and friends and experiencing the world through the excited eyes of Lauryn Jai (9) and Jamie DeSean (12).



**Cynthia "Cyd" Grua** - *Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs & Utah SARA State Portal Entity, Office of the Commissioner for Higher Education, Utah System of Higher Education*

Cynthia Grua's primary responsibilities for the Utah System of Higher Education are serving as the state portal agent - interfacing with Utah's 18 SARA institutions and with the state regulator, Department of Commerce Division of Consumer Protection, and coordinating the state concurrent enrollment program. She contributes to projects around transfer credit and program articulation and academic policy. Cyd has 33 years' experience in higher education administration, 10 years as the distance education director for the University of Utah and 23 years in the system office.



**Jessica High** - Associate, Duane Morris, LLP

Jessica High is an attorney at Duane Morris, LLP. Her practice focuses on counseling private sector colleges and universities in matters of state and federal regulation, accreditation compliance, student complaints and employee disputes. Ms. High was previously a Campus Director and founder of a private allied health college branch campus location. She has close to 20 years of experience in this sector, 10 years of which she spent employed by private sector colleges in their financial aid, admissions, accounting, student services, and human resources departments. Ms. High regularly speaks at higher education conferences on best practices and regulatory issues impacting postsecondary educational institutions.



**Tom Jankowski** - Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, University of Phoenix

Tom Jankowski is Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at University of Phoenix. Tom is an experienced lawyer in the higher ed space, advising primarily on federal regulatory issues, including borrower defense to repayment.



**Michael Kaiser** - Program Manager - Initial Authorization, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

Michael Kaiser has worked at the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission since 2018. He is currently a Program Manager at the agency. Mr. Kaiser grew up in Buffalo, NY, but now lives in Savannah, GA. Michael holds a master's degree in history from Emory University.



**Nan Kalke, PhD** - Co-Founder and Principal, Higher Education Licensure Pros LLC

Nan Kalke, PhD, is the Co-founder and Principal of Higher Education Licensure Pros (HELP) LLC. HELP is a consulting firm that provides higher education institutions with research analysis and strategic planning to comply with professional licensure requirements and deliver outstanding student support. Nan has experience and expertise that includes researching state-specific licensure requirements, aligning curriculum against external standards (gap analysis), and designing communication strategy and templates. Prior to HELP, Nan had experience working in both a not-for-profit, land-grant university and a for-profit, online university in specialized accreditation, program and operational management. She was principal investigator at the University of Minnesota on child welfare and foster care training projects and directed the MSW distance education program. At Capella University, she worked with school leaders to gain specialized accreditations and provided program and operational support for the School of Counseling. Nan received her PhD in Organizational Leadership and Policy Development from the University of Minnesota in the higher education track.

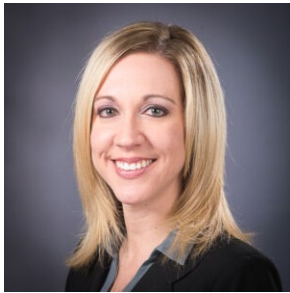


**Nicholas Kent** - Chief Policy Officer, Career Education Colleges and Universities

Nicholas Kent is Chief Policy Officer at Career Education Colleges and Universities. In this role, he serves as senior advisor to association leadership by providing statutory, regulatory, and policy guidance on matters relating to higher education. Additionally, Nicholas is President of the CECU Research Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports and promotes research to improve higher education, particularly career and technical education. Prior to his current role, Nicholas was Managing Director at Dulles Advisory Group, a higher education and strategic management consulting firm. In this position, he worked with postsecondary institutions to assist and guide them on the vastly regulated field of higher education, including advising nonprofit and proprietary organizations regarding strategic and technical issues pertaining to accreditation and the federal student financial assistance

programs. Nicholas previously held a government appointment as Director of Policy, Planning and Research at the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

Before time in public service, Nicholas served as Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for a private equity sponsored company. For approximately eight years, he was responsible for leading and managing regulatory operations, including accreditation and state authorization activities, for a system of 53 postsecondary institutions. Nicholas began his career in education as a professional staff member for an accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Nicholas earned his bachelor's degree in political science from West Virginia Wesleyan College and his master's degree in higher education administration with a concentration in policy from The George Washington University. He is a current member of the Association for Education Finance and Policy and a frequent writer and speaker on topics related to higher education.



**Lynette Kuhn, M.Ed** - *Division Chief, Pennsylvania Department of Education*

Lynette Kuhn is the Chief for the Division of Higher Education, Access, and Equity at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In her current role, Lynette uses her 16 years of experience in higher-education administration in the oversight of state authorization processes for degree-granting institutions. Previously, she has worked as a career school administrator, overseeing the compliance and accreditation of six institutions in three different states. Lynette holds a Master of Education in Higher Education and Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society with an emphasis in labor employment and relations, both from Penn State

University. She is currently in the process of completing her Doctor of Education degree in Leadership and Administration. Lynette enjoys working with school leaders and regulators to ensure learners have access to and receive quality education.



**Aaron Lacey** - *Partner and Practice Chair, Higher Education Practice, Thompson Coburn LLP*

The Chair of Thompson Coburn's Higher Education Practice, Aaron assists institutions to navigate a wide range of complex legal and regulatory matters. Aaron has substantive experience in federal, state, and accrediting agency laws and standards that govern postsecondary institutions, and regularly advises on issues involving students, faculty and staff, facilities, academics, governance, and operations. He also leads the Firm's extremely active higher education transactional practice. He and his colleagues have experience negotiating, documenting, and implementing merger, asset acquisition, stock acquisition, joint venture, and religious

sponsorship and affiliation transactions for both nonprofit and proprietary higher education clients. In recent years, the practice has managed numerous non-traditional arrangements, as well, including for-profit to non-profit conversions and the acquisition of distressed institutions.



**Kevin LaMountain** - *Executive Director, Arizona Private Postsecondary Education*

Kevin LaMountain is currently the Executive Director at the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education. Prior to Kevin's position with Arizona, he served in numerous roles in the private postsecondary space for over 30 years. Kevin's experience in education ranges from service roles in career services, student services, and financial aid through Dean of Student Affairs and culminating in a Divisional President position for a large postsecondary institution. Kevin has dedicated his career to serving those individuals who seek to reach their goals through higher education. A graduate of Northern Arizona University's educational leadership program, Kevin has dedicated his career to serving those individuals who seek to reach their goals through higher education. He advocates for always doing the "right thing" for students, faculty, and staff in these institutions.

Kevin is also the past president of the Arizona Private School Association and currently serves on the board of Caurus Academy, a small charter school system based in Anthem, Arizona. This is Kevin's first term on the NASASPS board and he is serving as Vice President for 2022-23.



**John Lane** - *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Equity Initiatives, State Higher Education Executive Officers*

John Lane joined SHEEO in June 2021, and serves from the Washington, D.C., office as the vice president for academic affairs and equity initiatives. In this role, Dr. Lane leads policy and project development in educational equity, academic programs, and student success. Dr. Lane will also facilitate the work of SHEEO’s Equity Advisory Committee and collaborate with SHEEO staff to explore and develop the equity implications of academic affairs, data, research, and finance projects by identifying and promoting best policies and practices related to closing equity gaps. Before joining SHEEO, Dr. Lane served in a variety of roles, most recently as the director of academic affairs for the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Lane also served as the chair of music theory at Wheaton College and associate vice president for academic affairs at Allen University. At the Commission, he was responsible for academic statutory and regulatory policy development (including transfer, dual enrollment, and institutional missions), and program development and assessment for state public and nonpublic institutions. He provided oversight for initiatives in research, innovation, and economic development (SmartState); educator preparation; workforce development; adult and military postsecondary population development; and interstate reciprocities. Dr. Lane holds a doctorate in musical arts in composition from the University of South Carolina, a master of divinity in scripture and interpretation from Harvard University, and a bachelor of music in music education from the University of South Carolina.



**Sam Loftin** - *Director of Consumer Protection, Washington Student Achievement Council*

Sam currently serves as the Director of Consumer Protection for the Washington Student Achievement Council, where he leads a team responsible for administering the state authorization statute for degree-granting institutions operating in Washington State. Sam is also the SARA State Portal Entity (SPE) on behalf of Washington State and previously served as the W-SARA RSC Chair. Prior to his current role, Sam served as an administrative leader and instructor at two Washington State community colleges. Before working in higher ed, Sam was a Legal Aid attorney and focused on helping low-income clients gain access to housing, healthcare, protective orders, and other elemental needs. Sam has a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Louisiana State University, a Master of Arts in English from Oregon State University, a Master of Education in College Student Services from Oregon State University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee.



**Cam Maeyaert** - *Director Private Postsecondary Institutions, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

Ms. Cathie Maeyaert is the Director of Private Postsecondary Institutions with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Ms. Maeyaert has worked for the Coordinating Board since 2012, primarily overseeing authorization of private postsecondary educational institutions operating in Texas. She serves as the Coordinating Board’s Title IX Coordinator for Institutions and as Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator. Prior to that, she worked in the areas of compliance, accreditation, and licensing for a private for-profit multi-state educational system. Ms. Maeyaert has been an adjunct instructor at both a for-profit college and a non-profit private university. Throughout her career, Ms. Maeyaert has served on boards of directors for various non-profit charitable organizations. In a previous life, Cathie practiced intellectual property and employment law and developed continuing legal education seminars. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamline University and a Juris Doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law. This is her second term serving on the NASASPS Board of Directors and is serving as President for 2022-23.



**Kristian Maul, JD** - *Co-Founder and Principal, Higher Education Licensure Pros LLC*

Kris Maul, JD is the Co-founder and Principal of Higher Education Licensure Pros (HELP) LLC. HELP is a consulting firm that provides higher education institutions with research, analysis, and strategic planning to comply with professional licensure requirements and deliver outstanding student support. Kris has over 13 years of experience navigating the complex and ever-changing landscape of professional licensure compliance. He has supported colleges and universities of all types and sizes, with students in all U.S. states and territories. His experience includes extensive research, analysis and interpretation of professional licensure laws, regulations, rules and policies. He has created systems

and processes for compliance with federal and state requirements, developed student resources to successfully navigate all steps to licensure, advocated for institutions and graduates with state licensure boards and agencies, and presented to regulators, institutions and students on various licensure topics. Kris received his Juris Doctor from Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, stand-up-paddle board, and camping near national parks with his spouse and kiddo.



**David McClintock, CPA** - *Managing Director, McClintock & Associates, P.C.*

Dave McClintock has been an auditor with McClintock & Associates since 2003 and Managing Director of the firm since 2017. He has worked extensively with public, private non-profit and proprietary postsecondary institutions on a variety of audit and accounting matters, including federal student aid regulatory compliance, financial responsibility and the composite score ratios, the 90/10 rule, and changes of ownership. In 2018, Dave joined the advisory board for Career Education Review (CER), and he was selected in 2021 to serve as an advisor to the U.S. Department of Education's negotiated rulemaking committee on institutional and programmatic eligibility matters. Prior to joining McClintock & Associates, Dave held various positions in the investment industry. He received his undergraduate degree from Miami University and his MBA from the University of Chicago.



**Shelley Mann** - *Associate Director of Programs, Swipe Out Hunger*

Shelley is the Associate Director of Programs at Swipe Out Hunger. Her enthusiasm for food justice brought her to the front doors of more than 36 food banks during her many years in this work. Shelley has always been a passionate advocate for social change and believes that the answer to food equity can only be found through gender, racial, and economic justice. Shelley's focus has primarily been in the SNAP program. Most of which has been spent developing, evaluating, and directing food bank outreach programs to ensure that people have access to the benefits they are entitled to. Shelley joins us from the Food Bank for the Heartland and lives in Nebraska.



**Srini Med** - *Vice President & General Counsel, University of Phoenix*

Srini Medi is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel for University of Phoenix. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, an MBA and a Juris Doctorate (JD) from the University of Houston. Srini has focused on higher education during the most recent 12 years of his professional career, working for universities and companies and in roles that are uniquely relevant to what we were seeking in our next General Counsel. Most recently, Srini served as general counsel for Bisk Education, Inc., an Online Program Management company that partners with leading institutions to deliver online degree and certificate programs to learners around the world. Prior to Bisk, he worked for nearly eight years at Kaplan, Inc., where he led their Commercial Transaction team and supported Kaplan University. Srini's early career was spent working on the law firm side, in the Corporate, Real Estate and Securities practice areas. He has also worked as in-house counsel in the hospitality industry.



**Ross Miller** - *Director of State Authorization and Reciprocity, Indiana Commission for Higher Education*

Ross Miller is Director of State Authorization and Reciprocity at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. He has been with the Commission since 2012, prior to that he was with the Indiana Commission on Proprietary Education. He is responsible for authorization of private, for-profit and private, non-profit institutions with a physical presence in the State of Indiana. He works directly with the Indiana Board for Proprietary Education in approval of initial institutional authorization, initial degree authorization, and institutional and program renewals at the staff level. In addition, he is responsible for institutional SARA authorization, state reciprocity, Indiana participation in the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP), Commission policy development, and student complaints concerning public, private, for-profit, and private, non-profit institutions. Ross Miller received his B.S. and M.A. from Ball State University.



**Joel Musika - Manager - Higher Education, Parchment**

Joel has been with Parchment since 2017. He has 3 daughters, and in his free time likes to spend time with my family, play the guitar and piano, and enjoy any water sport with a board.



**Crystal Puderbaugh - Director of Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents**

Ms. Crystal Puderbaugh is the Director for Academic Affairs with the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR). In her current position, she provides leadership to the private and out of state postsecondary education (PPS) division of KBOR, a fee-funded unit responsible for the oversight and approval process for any private or out-of-state postsecondary education institution wishing to operate within the state of Kansas. Ms. Puderbaugh’s responsibilities also include the management of the division budget and analysis of operating activities to ensure the division operational goals are met. She is a graduate of Washburn University, Friends University and is currently in the dissertation phase of the Doctorate of Educational Administration program at Kansas State University. Ms. Puderbaugh has served on the NASASPS Board of Directors previously in the following roles: President 2019-present Vice President 2018-2019, Treasurer 2017-2018, Director 2015-2017.



**Ken Sauer, Ph.D. - Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer, Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

Ken Sauer is Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Executive Director and Chair of the Indiana Board for Proprietary Education, and a member of the Governor’s Health Workforce Council. Ken has been a member of the MHEC Commission as the Governor’s designee from Indiana since 2007, is a past Chair of MHEC, and serves on the M-SARA Regional Steering Committee and the NC-SARA Data Committee. He also leads Indiana’s inter-agency effort to scale up Credential Engine, Indiana’s implementation of an NGA grant focusing on Learning and Employment Records as part of the NGA Skills-Driven States Community of Practice, and the Indiana e-Transcript Program. Previous employers include the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. He holds a Ph.D. in Government/International Relations from Claremont Graduate University.



**Brandon S Sherman - Of Counsel, Maynard Cooper & Gale**

Brandon is Of Counsel in Maynard Cooper’s Higher Education practice group. He regularly counsels clients on the rules and procedures related to participation in federal student financial assistance programs, marketing and advertising practices, accreditation, state authorization, nondiscrimination laws, and cybersecurity.

Prior to joining Maynard, Brandon served as Senior Counsel to the Deputy Secretary of Education. In that role, he advised senior Department officials on a wide range of higher education issues, including cybersecurity, accreditation, and federal financial aid regulations.



**Robert Shireman - Director of Higher Education Excellence and Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation**

Robert Shireman is director of higher education excellence and senior fellow at The Century Foundation working on education policy with a focus on affordability, quality assurance, and consumer protections. He served in the Clinton White House as a senior policy advisor to the National Economic Council, and in the Obama administration as deputy undersecretary of education. In 2004 he founded The Institute for College Access & Success, and in 2011 launched the policy organization California Competes. In his various roles since 1989 Shireman has led successful efforts to reform student loans, streamline the financial aid process, promote campus diversity, and



protect consumers from predatory colleges. He has shepherded the evolution of the nation's income-based student loan repayment system from its initial adoption in 1992 to its expansion and improvement by President Barack Obama. He organized the federal response to emerging signs of predatory for-profit career training in 2009, leading to a widely discussed set of regulatory reforms and enforcement actions. He led an effort that significantly simplified the process of applying for federal college aid and pressed for and ultimately won the elimination of costly middlemen from the federal loan programs so that more grant aid could be made available to low-income students.

Under Shireman's leadership, in 2018 The Century Foundation won a contract with the State of California to develop recommendations for reforming the state's approach to college affordability. In addition to his role at Century, Shireman serves on the board of uAspire, a national nonprofit that helps low-income students find quality, affordable college options, and The Opportunity Institute, an education policy think tank.

Shireman holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, a Master's in Education from Harvard, and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.



**Terrell Strayhorn** - *Professor of Higher Education and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Illinois State University*

Dr. Terrell Strayhorn is one of the world's leading authorities on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in education and workplaces. Author of 12 books, including *Students' Sense of Belonging: A Key to Educational Success for All* (Routledge, 2019), and over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters, and reports, Strayhorn is a member of the Research Advisory Board for the Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) Freedom Schools, Diversity Scholar in Residence at Harrisburg Area Community College, and Visiting Scholar in the Evelyn Reid Syphax

School of Education at Virginia Union University (VUU), where he previously served as Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. He directs the VUU Center for the Study of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and owns a national consulting firm that works with hundreds of schools, districts, colleges, and businesses annually to design strategic plans, optimize outcomes, and achieve DEIB goals. Full Bio: <https://bit.ly/TLSBioFall22>



**Roger Swartzwelder** – *Shareholder, Maynard Cooper & Gale*

Roger Swartzwelder is a Shareholder and member of the Firm's Education Practice Group. He represents institutions of higher education in a wide array of regulatory, accreditation, and operational issues. Prior to joining the Firm, Roger served nearly 14 years as general counsel and chief compliance officer for a multi-state system of colleges. Roger previously was in private practice at Dow, Lohnes in Washington specializing in higher education matters. He also worked at a nationally recognized accrediting agency for more than 13 years, including more than eight years as Associate Executive Director and Associate

Executive Director/In-House Counsel



**Jonathan Tarnow, Esq.** – *Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP*

Jonathan Tarnow is a partner in the law firm Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, where he is a member of the Government and Regulatory Affairs Practice Group, its Education Team, and its Privacy, Cybersecurity and Data Strategy Team. Jonathan applies over two decades of experience in higher education law to advise clients on a wide range of matters involving the U.S. Department of Education, accrediting bodies, state educational agencies, and other governmental and nongovernmental regulators. He regularly guides educational institutions through changes of ownership and other complex transactions, and he represents clients in a

variety of regulatory compliance reviews and audits including administrative agency appeals. Jonathan is a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) and was selected by the U.S. Department of Education to represent postsecondary institutions on financial responsibility issues during its 2018-2019 negotiated rulemaking. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from The George Washington University.

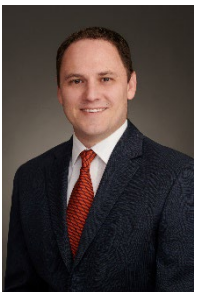


**John Ware** – *Director, Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools*

John Ware has served as Executive Director of the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools since 1997 and is responsible for the oversight and regulation of Ohio’s 230 career colleges and schools. In addition to the Board’s general oversight responsibilities, John is responsible for drafting and implementing Ohio’s rules and regulations governing career colleges including academic standards, admissions standards, and regulations governing the recruitment and solicitation of students.

Prior to joining the Board of Career Colleges and Schools, John served as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General for education, providing legal counsel to numerous state education agencies including the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Department of Education. While serving as an Assistant Attorney General, John was responsible for the implementation and prosecution of administrative enforcement actions against state licensed teachers, private elementary and secondary schools, as well as licensed career colleges. John received his Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University and his Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University.

John is also active on many state and national education organizations and previously served as President of NASASPS from 2009-2015. This is his first term on the NASASPS Board of Directors since serving as President.



**Dustin Weeden** - *Senior Policy Analyst, State Higher Education Executive Officers*

Dustin Weeden joined SHEEO in October 2017 as a senior policy analyst, working out of SHEEO’s Boulder office. He leads SHEEO’s state authorization and consumer protection projects. Mr. Weeden’s research interests also include state higher education policy related to finance, governance, affordability, student borrowing, and the commercialization of research. Prior to joining SHEEO, he served as a senior policy specialist with the National Conference of State Legislatures. In this role, Mr. Weeden coordinated the Legislative Education Staff Network, tracked and analyzed state higher education legislation, and authored policy briefs, research reports, blog posts, and State Legislatures

magazine articles on a wide range of topics including outcomes-based funding, affordability, tuition policy, financial aid, and student borrowing. Mr. Weeden holds an M.P.P from the University of Denver and a B.A. in history and political science from Kansas State University.



**Benjamin Welling** - *Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, University of Phoenix*

Ben Welling is VP, Deputy General Counsel at The University of Phoenix, Inc., and oversees the company’s litigation and dispute-related legal matters. His practice encompasses a wide variety of subjects, including government agency investigations, commercial and consumer disputes and employment-related litigation, among other things. He has been with the University since 2010, and has been practicing law since 2005.



**Katie Wendel** – *Counsel, Thompson Coburn LLP*

Katie handles a wide variety of regulatory and transactional work for the nonprofit and for-profit higher education sector, including online education programs, and has extensive knowledge of the laws and policies affecting colleges and universities. In addition to her comprehensive regulatory work, Katie represents higher education institutions and investors in the postsecondary sector with various transactional matters. She works with state, federal, and accrediting agencies on behalf of colleges and universities and helps her clients maintain compliance with complex agency rules and standards.



**Dr. Vashi Worley Moore** - *Student Services Specialist, Sr, Phoenix College*

Dr. Vashi Worley Moore was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. She is an African American first-generation female whose academic pursuit began as a student in the Achieving a College Education (ACE) program. Before graduating high school, Dr. Worley Moore earned college credits at South Mountain Community College (SMCC) as an ACE student. Shortly after completing high school, she attained her Associate degree in Communication from SMCC. Then Dr. Worley Moore earned a Bachelor's degree in Communication from Arizona State University and a Master's degree in Administration with an emphasis in Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Recently, she attained a Doctoral of Divinity and Chaplain License from Heart Bible International University. Dr. Vashi Worley-Moore has been employed with the Maricopa Community Colleges in various capacities for more than twenty-three years. She spent ten years working in Early College Programs as a Dual Enrollment Coordinator. Currently she serves as a Senior Student Service Specialist at Phoenix College in Student Life and Leadership. She is engaged with her local community, whereby, she partners with non-profit organizations to provide potential student access to learning opportunities at Phoenix College. Her primary responsibilities include overseeing the operations of food resources and organizing and promoting student engagement and involvement at campus activities and events.