



NASSGAP Annual Conference

OCTOBER 16 – 19, 2018

ALBUQUERQUE, NM - EMBASSY SUITES by HILTON



COLLEAGUES,



A warm welcome and thank you so much for coming to the 2018 NASSGAP Conference in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico! NASSGAP (under several names) has been providing training to members and advocating for students for 53 years. And with states providing over \$12 billion (with a B) in aid to students, we are a critical component of financing postsecondary education in America. These days, with constrained travel budgets and an abundance of conference opportunities, it can be hard to choose which to attend. NASSGAP is my favorite event because it is a small, welcoming group of passionate experts who work hard to be good stewards of state funding, share ideas about innovative approaches, and explore areas of consensus and issues so we can have a healthy policy debate. Washington has benefited from NASSGAP colleagues as we implement new programs, analyze policy proposals, and advocate for state aid. I have learned each state has a unique set of circumstances

— from workforce needs to the governance structure and political climate — that influence its approach to affordability. And we have much to learn even from states that seem more dissimilar than alike.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire executive committee and conference committee this year. The names are in your program, but a huge “shout out” to Jennifer Lanphear (Maine) and Erin Klarer (Kentucky) for giving so much time to put together a high quality conference. This year NASSGAP rolled out its new website (thank you, Todd Brown, Iowa); continued to advocate and inform “on the Hill” (thank you, Frank Ballmann, New York); advanced relationships with researchers for survey improvements (thank you, Mike Soloman, Illinois); and more. I am fortunate to have worked with such a dedicated group over the last four years and can’t wait to meet and learn from all of you throughout this conference.

Enjoy your time in the Land of Enchantment!

Rachelle

2017–2018 Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

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Rachelle Sharpe
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CONFERENCE DETAILS

Registration on Tuesday is 4 pm to 6 pm outside of
La Ventanna

Join us at 6 pm on Tuesday for the President's Welcome in
La Ventanna

All conference sessions will be held in
Sierra Ballroom III

Lunch will be served on Wednesday and Thursday in
Sierra Ballroom II



Barbara Damron, PhD, RN, FAAN Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department

As the New Mexico Higher Education Department cabinet secretary, and the State Higher Education executive officer, Dr. Barbara Damron has oversight of the state's 28 public institutions of higher education, four tribal colleges, and over 190 private and proprietary post secondary schools. She also chairs the New Mexico Education Trust Board and is a commissioner of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (WICHE) and a commissioner of the Education Commission of the States. She previously worked as Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/National Academy of Medicine Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in Washington, D.C., for Senator Lamar Alexander. Dr. Damron has over 30 years' experience as an advanced practice nurse,

health care executive, college professor, international consultant, and cancer scientist.

Dr. Damron has led New Mexico's statewide Common Course Numbering System, aligning all lower division courses among community colleges, comprehensive/regional universities, research universities, and tribal colleges throughout the state. She has also reformed the General Education Core Curriculum across these higher education institutions and is establishing statewide meta-majors. Dr. Damron is also leading the reform of dual credit in New Mexico, emphasizing quality and useful credential completion. As cabinet secretary, Dr. Damron also oversees the 28 state- and federally-funded post-secondary student financial aid programs.

Dr. Damron is chair-elect of the State Higher Education Executive Officers' Association, the national association of the chief executives of statewide governing, policy, and coordinating boards of postsecondary education.

Dr. Damron received her BSN from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. She received her MSN from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She completed a PhD in educational psychology, with a concentration in social/personality/developmental psychology applied to oncology, from the University of Texas at Austin in 1996. She has received over 30 state, national, and international awards.

Dr. Damron and her husband, Dr. J.R. Damron, live in Santa Fe and have two grown children and one dog. She enjoys hiking, cooking, reading, and all things higher education.

> KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CONFERENCE AGENDA

OCTOBER 16, 2018

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Conference Registration
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	President's Welcome Reception

OCTOBER 17, 2018

Daily Moderator: Diane Lindeman

6:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast (for hotel guests)
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Conference Registration
8:30 AM – 8:45 AM	Welcome – Rachelle Sharpe, NASSGAP President
8:45 AM – 9:30 AM	Keynote Address – Dr. Barbara Damron Higher Education in New Mexico: Enchanted Engagement
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Introductions
9:45 AM	BREAK
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	Capitol Hill Update – Frank Ballmann This session will review developments in the past year and look into the future of federal appropriations for federal student aid, the impact of changes in the FAFSA application process, and the outlook for changes to and reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The update will include a recap of NASSGAP initiatives at the federal level in the past year, as well as initiatives underway at the U.S. Department of Education.
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Prosperity Kids: More Than A Way to Pay for College With a root cause analysis, Prosperity Kids was designed to help parents and children improve their economic status with education, improved job skills, documentation and access to banking, financial education, goal setting, and incentivized savings. Families participating in the pilot, which was launched in 2014, have the highest savings rate in the Nation.
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	LUNCH

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM	New Mexico: Host State Happenings
1:45 PM – 3:00 PM	State Roll Call
3:00 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	State Roll Call continued
6:00 PM	Group Dinner: Hotel Parq Central (included in conference fee)

OCTOBER 18, 2018

Daily Moderator: Colby Shank

6:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast (for hotel guests)
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM	<p>NASFAA Update</p> <p>This NASFAA Washington Update will provide a high-level landscape of the Washington political climate with a focus on federal financial aid policy and how it has impacted students and institutions in recent years. Overall trends in student aid will be discussed, including an overview of reauthorization proposals and predictions for how student aid funding will fare in future budget negotiations. The session will also provide an overview of NASFAA-led projects, services, and advocacy efforts.</p>
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	<p>Mission Graduate Albuquerque</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of central New Mexico’s cradle-to-career education partnership, known as Mission: Graduate. Its goal is to graduate 60,000 more people with post-high school degrees and certificates by 2020. Using a collective impact approach, Mission: Graduate brings together partners from the education, business, government, and nonprofit sectors to take action on collaborative strategies and projects designed to nurture and cultivate the next generation of talent in central New Mexico. This session will describe the work we have underway with local school districts and higher education institutions, as well as our partnership with local and state workforce systems to help working-age adults return to school.</p>
10:00 AM	BREAK
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	<p>Education Commission of the States: State Financial Aid Legislative Activity</p> <p>Which state considers the most legislation related to state aid? What states are adjusting need or merit programs? And what’s up with this free college trend? At the Education Commission of the States, we track legislation related to state financial aid programs across the country. Join us for a discussion of the legislative trends across the states, followed by conversations about how aid programs can become more student-centered, goal-driven and data informed, timely and flexible, and broadly inclusive.</p>

<p>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p>Funding Alternative Credentials (NE and KY)</p> <p>As national and local policies zero in on workforce participation rates and meeting employer needs, many states are experimenting with grant and scholarship delivery outside of traditional Title IV programs. Hear from Ritchie Morrow about Nebraska’s Community College Gap Assistance Program and Erin Klarer about the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship for two different approaches of providing access to alternative workforce development programs.</p>
<p>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>1:30 PM – 2:15 PM</p>	<p>Next Generation of Financial Aid Notifications (WV)</p> <p>Traditionally we have sent award letters through the mail or via e-mail and then waited for the phone to ring. By leveraging existing technology, states can provide dynamic electronic award letters that produces data to properly access the award letter notification process.</p>
<p>2:15 PM – 3:00 PM</p>	<p>RTI: NPSAS, Administrative Collection</p> <p>The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is collecting data for the 2017–18 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, Administrative Collection (NPSAS:18-AC), which is designed to be the first NPSAS to feature state-level financial aid estimates on a wide scale. This session will provide an overview of the NPSAS:18-AC study and the basics of the expected data products. In addition, new concepts and approaches that NCES and RTI are exploring for future NPSAS data collections, with the goals of maximizing response rates and data quality while minimizing the burden placed on postsecondary institutions, will also be discussed.</p>
<p>3:00 PM</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>3:30 PM – 4:15 PM</p>	<p>IHEP: The State of Free College: Sounds nice, but what does it really mean?</p> <p>As college costs steadily rise, students face unprecedented financial barriers as they pursue higher education. Many federal, state, and institutional policymakers tout free-college programs as solutions to addressing college affordability challenges. But IHEP analysis of two state free-college programs, Tennessee Promise and New York’s Excelsior Scholarship, show that to help low-income students afford college, free-college programs must be designed with equity at their core. Free-college programs hold enormous promise in helping more students afford college, but these programs must be equity-driven and designed to best serve the students most in need.</p>

OCTOBER 18, 2018

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM	NASSGAP Business Meeting and Committee Meetings
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OCTOBER 19, 2018

Daily Moderator: Ritchie Morrow

6:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast (for hotel guests)
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	New and Improved nassgap.org Experience NASSGAP’s new website in all of its glory! This session will provide a high-level overview of the new and improved NASSGAP website, including major enhancements and new user functions.
9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Redesigning State Aid (MA) This session will detail the process of revamping state financial aid policy in an environment where private colleges with significant endowments reign. Highlights of a study of Massachusetts state financial aid by a prominent researcher that provided the impetus for change, challenges of gaining stakeholder consensus, and important strategy to secure funding for new affordability goals will be presented. Overall lessons learned in a politically charged environment will surely leave you enlightened!
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Third Way: The Pell Divide First, we will provide an introduction to Third Way and the work of the higher education team. Then we will dig into the results of our report, “The Pell Divide: How Four-Year Institutions are Failing Low- and Moderate-Income Students.” This is a report where we analyzed Pell graduation rate data of four-year institutions across the country.
10:30 AM	BREAK
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM	The Relationship between School District Poverty Levels and FAFSA Completion Using publicly available data from the Department of Education and the U.S. Census, we explore the relationship between school district poverty levels and FAFSA completion from the filing cycles of 2016 to 2018. Overall, we find disparities in FAFSA completion where low-income districts are completing the FAFSA at lower rates than their higher income counterparts.
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Executive Committee Meeting

Thank you to our 2018 Conference Planning Committee!

TITLE	NAME
Member at Large - conference co-chair/ program chair	Jennifer Lanphear
Member at Large - conference co-chair/site chair	Erin Klarer
President	Rachelle Sharpe
Past President	Clantha McCurdy
President Elect	Elizabeth McDuffie
Treasurer	Irala Magee
Director of Federal Relations	Frank Ballmann
Host State	Harry Rommel
Host State	Mia Candelaria
Volunteer	Diane Lindeman
Volunteer	Deena Lager
Volunteer	Ritchie Morrow
Volunteer	Colby Shank

PRESENTERS



Frank Ballmann
Director, Federal Relations
New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC)

Mr. Ballmann has worked with the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) since 2008. He initially came on board as a contractor in October 2008 and became a HESC employee in October 2009. He became the NASSGAP federal relations lead in March 2010. He has 35 years of experience in education finance and financial aid programs, not counting completing the FAFSA and receiving grants, scholarship, loans, and work-study to attend college.

Prior to HESC, he worked for a variety of organizations ranging from start-up companies to major financial institutions. He has provided education finance, college savings, and financial aid program advisory services to a wide range of organizations, including state and nonprofit agencies in Alaska, California, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, and Virginia, as well as the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Ballmann holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and political science from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and has earned his CPA certificate.



Todd Brown
Division Administrator, Financial Aid Program
Administration, Iowa College Student Aid
Commission

Todd Brown has worked in higher education financing for the past 14 years, beginning as a graduate assistant in the financial aid office at the University of Northern Iowa. He has worked for the Iowa College Student Aid Commission for the past ten years, currently serving as division administrator for financial aid program administration. In this role he oversees the implementation, administration, and distribution of state and federal scholarship, grant, and loan repayment programs; the state authorization process; and marketing/communication staff.

Mr. Brown is also the commission's liaison to the Iowa General Assembly. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelor's degree in marketing and a master's degree in higher education administration.



Austin Caperton Research Analyst and Manager of Institution Relations RTI International

Austin Caperton is a research analyst and manager of institution relations at RTI International. He previously served as report designer and analyst in the College Board's research and analysis group before spending almost a decade in higher education publishing, working with faculty and administrators at a variety of postsecondary institutions. He currently manages outreach and institution relations initiatives for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) postsecondary sample surveys.



Angelo Gonzales Chief Strategy Officer United Way of Central New Mexico

Angelo Gonzales is chief strategy officer at United Way of Central New Mexico (UWCNM), where he leads the implementation of UWCNM's impact agenda and its associated strategic initiatives — Mission: Graduate and Mission: Families. Mission: Graduate is a cradle-to-career education partnership with a big goal for educational attainment: 60,000 new graduates with college degrees and certificates by 2020. Mission: Families is a new initiative focused on the vision of resilient families, free from adverse childhood experiences, in central New Mexico.

Previously, Dr. Gonzales served for five years as the founding executive director of Mission: Graduate. From 2011 to 2018, he was a research assistant professor and associate director of the University of New Mexico Cradle to Career Policy Institute (formerly known as the Center for Education Policy Research). Dr. Gonzales brings significant public policy experience and training to his current role, having worked for U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman for over six years in both his

Washington and Albuquerque offices. Dr. Gonzales has also worked at Sandia National Laboratories and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and he currently teaches executive leadership in the MBA in Education Leadership program at the UNM Anderson School of Management.

Dr. Gonzales earned his PhD and MA in political science from the University of California at Berkeley, and he holds a BA in chemistry from Pomona College.



Erin Klarer
VP Government Relations,
Kentucky Higher Education Assistance
Authority/ Kentucky Higher Education Student
Loan Corporation

Ms. Klarer began working at KHEAA and KHESLC in 2004 and has held positions as a loan technician, technical writer, operations analyst, and, since 2011, vice president of government relations.

Her interest in student financial aid policy began while earning her bachelor's degree in English at Eastern Kentucky University. She contributed to undergraduate research with the National Collegiate Honors Council regarding the policy overlap of America's War on Drugs and the FAFSA. Later, when a change to the university's grading scale resulted in students losing merit-based grants and scholarships, Ms.

Klarer spearheaded research and advocacy through the Student Government Association to reverse the policy decision.

She has since earned her master's degree in public administration from the University of Louisville and is working on a graduate certificate in public financial management from the University of Kentucky's Martin School of Public Policy. Ms. Klarer founded and continues to lead the Frankfort Area Young Professionals Network, volunteers as the chair of the Government Relations Committee for the Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and serves on the Government Relations Committee for the Education Finance Council. Her husband, Jon, and children, William (6) and Charlotte (4), say she works too hard.



Danielle Lowry
Graduate Student, Administrative and Policy
Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Ms. Lowry is a doctoral candidate in education administration and policy studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Before enrolling at Pitt, she worked for a nonprofit at Kent State University that assisted mostly first-generation, nontraditional students with admissions, FAFSA completion, and navigating the complex web of higher education administrative offices. She attended Ohio State University and completed a master's in public administration while working for an organization that provided professional development opportunities to adult education instructors and program administrators in Ohio. Her research focuses on financial aid policies and their effect on college access and completion of marginalized and underrepresented student populations.



**Clantha McCurdy, PhD
Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and
Student Financial Assistance
Massachusetts Department of Higher
Education**

Dr. Clantha Carrigan McCurdy is the senior deputy commissioner for access and student financial assistance for the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Overseeing the Commonwealth's Office of Student Financial Assistance, she is responsible for managing the state's annual budget for scholarships, grants, loans, and tuition waivers and advises the Board of Higher Education on statewide financial aid policy and related student services initiatives. She has chief responsibility for other statewide initiatives, which include GEAR UP, the statewide Student Financial Aid Advisory Council, and the Police Career Incentive Pay Program. With over

30 years of higher education experience, Dr. McCurdy represents the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on numerous state, regional, and national boards and committees. She is a leader in higher education, financial aid, and access policy and continues to direct many of the Department of Higher Education's initiatives that serve to promote college access for students throughout the Commonwealth.

Dr. McCurdy has a doctorate in education policy, leadership, and administration from the University of Kansas, and a master of arts and education specialist degrees in counseling and student personnel from the University of Florida, where she also completed her undergraduate studies.



**Stephen Payne
Assistant Director of Federal Relations
National Association of Student Financial Aid
Administrators**

Stephen Payne is the assistant director of federal relations at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), where he works primarily on the association's congressional advocacy and policy priorities. Mr. Payne joined NASFAA in June 2015, and he is a graduate of Penn State University, where he studied education policy. He serves on the board of directors of the Committee for Education Funding, the nation's oldest and largest coalition of education associations.



Elizabeth McDuffie Executive Director North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Elizabeth McDuffie has been the executive director of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority since December 2014 after serving as director of grants, training, and outreach at the authority for 17 years. She earned a master of business administration from Meredith College, a bachelor of science in industrial relations and psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an associate of arts degree from St. Mary's College.

With over 36 years in the financial aid profession, Ms. McDuffie has worked in financial aid offices at public and private two-year and four-year institutions in North Carolina, as well as the state agency.

She is president-elect of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs. She has also served on the executive board of the North Carolina Association of Financial Aid Administrators and as agency liaison for the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. In addition, she served a three-year term on the College Scholarship Service Assembly Council.

One of Ms. McDuffie's most rewarding accomplishments was the creation of FAFSA Day, a statewide initiative that helps high school seniors complete their financial aid forms on one Saturday each February. Since 2001, FAFSA Day has helped tens of thousands of North Carolina students and their families complete FAFSAs.

She is married to a retired financial aid administrator and has two sons, the younger of whom is a senior at North Carolina State University.



Brian Weingart Senior Director of Financial Aid West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

Mr. Weingart began working in financial aid in 2002 and started at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission in 2011, administering state financial aid. He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Alderson Broaddus University and a master's degree in educational leadership from West Virginia University.



Sarah Pingel, EdD Senior Policy Analyst Education Commission of the States

Dr. Pingel supports states by providing analysis tailored to student financial aid and college affordability policies. A data wonk at heart, she also prepares research, authors reports, and organizes convenings designed to help policy leaders learn from one another. Before working at Education Commission of the States, Dr. Pingel held various positions within three institutional financial aid offices. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, a master's degree from Bryn Mawr College and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Denver. When she isn't knee deep in policy research, she can be found cross-country skiing, bouncing around with her daughter, or practicing her French.



Ona Lara Porter, MA President and CEO Prosperity Works

Ms. Porter is known for her powerful, no-nonsense approach to problem solving and strategy development in such diverse fields as business, education, health, and human services. Her tenacity to empower individuals and organizations to name and create the environments that lead to success may be measured by her oft-stated remark, "Don't tell me NO; tell me How!" She believes that "working for what we do want instead of against what we don't want" allows individuals of diverse talents and perspectives to create and invest in high-impact goals that literally change their lives. A powerful speaker, Ms. Porter was educated at the University of California and Inter American University and has for the last 35

years distinguished herself in business, education, health, and family and child advocacy. Her prolific endeavors as a researcher and writer, editor, and producer include such major works as "Kids In Crisis: New Mexico's Other Bomb," "The Effects of Power and Powerlessness on Our Lives," "First Things First: Caring for Preschool New Mexico," "Discovering What Families Need," and "From Here To There: The Work Book For Families On The Move." For five years she produced a TV program in Albuquerque on families called Impact New Mexico and wrote a column, "Family Matters," for relocation experts Runzheimer International.

Ms. Porter is the president and CEO of Prosperity Works, where she leads statewide policy and practice initiatives to develop and test high impact strategies to break the cycles of poverty. Among these is Prosperity Kids, a 2GEN child savings account program that boasts the highest savings rate in the nation

Ms. Porter and her spouse of 31 years, Miriam Rand, and their four daughters are proud to have been primary plaintiffs in the case that legalized same-sex marriage in New Mexico.



Amanda Roberson Assistant Director of Research and Policy Institute for Higher Education Policy

Amanda Janice Roberson is the assistant director of research and policy at the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), where she manages projects for the policy research team. Much of Ms. Roberson's work centers on postsecondary data, metrics, and infrastructure, including contributions to the postsecondary metrics framework and designs for a federal student-level data network.

Her research interests include using data to inform policy and practice; advocacy that advances equity in higher education; college access, affordability, and success; and federal and state policy. Ms. Roberson earned a master of public administration degree from the George V. Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University, with a focus on nonprofit management and economic development.



Harrison "Harry" Rommel, PhD Director of Financial Aid and Institutional Finance New Mexico Higher Education Department

Dr. Harrison "Harry" Rommel is the director of institutional finance and financial aid at the New Mexico Higher Education Department, where he oversees all of the state's financial aid programs and the budgets of the state's public postsecondary institutions and special schools. He received his BS in biochemistry from the University of New Mexico, graduating magna cum laude, and has a PhD in physical chemistry from the University of Washington, where he studied the condensed matter physics of a new type of organic optically active materials.

Dr. Rommel has been with the department since 2008, except for two years spent administering a U.S. Department of Education STEM Grant at Northern New Mexico College. He has over 15 years of teaching experience from the K-12

through college level and is an adjunct faculty member at Central New Mexico Community College and Santa Fe Community College. He was previously a member of the Northern New Mexico Workforce Development Board and serves as board member of the New Mexico Partnership for Math and Science Education. When not in the office or the classroom, he enjoys the solitude of the outdoors, adventure and off-road motorcycling, alpine backpacking and mountaineering, and evening trips to the dog park.



Rachelle Sharpe, PhD
President, NASSGAP
Deputy Executive Director
Washington Student Achievement Council

Dr. Rachelle Sharpe is the deputy executive director of the Washington Student Achievement Council. She has worked for WSAC for over 12 years and has helped to create an affordability framework, initiate an adult reengagement initiative, and develop the Roadmap to increase educational attainment. Previously, she managed the state's financial aid and college access programs at the agency, including \$300 million in annual funding and about fifteen programs. Dr. Sharpe's background includes 15 years in higher education student services in the areas of college access, admissions, and financial aid. She was financial aid director for Cascadia Community College, assistant director of financial aid for Green River Community College, admissions/financial aid counselor for The Evergreen State College, and TRiO Upward Bound advisor for Oregon State University. Dr. Sharpe has served on the NASSGAP executive committee for four years and enjoys the expertise from other states and the collegiality of the association.



Nicole Siegel
Education Communications Advisor
Third Way

Nicole Siegel is Third Way's education communications advisor. In this role, she elevates Third Way's efforts to focus the national higher education conversation on improving outcomes, particularly for low-income students, and works to expand that discussion beyond the higher ed wonks in our nation's capital to the people it impacts every day across the country.

Prior to her time at Third Way, Ms. Siegel consulted with the Asheville Chamber of Commerce on a workforce development initiative to better connect local college students to career and professional development opportunities, managed her parents' restaurant in the mountains of Western North Carolina, and was the communications specialist for Smarter Balanced, one of the two testing consortia for the Common Core State Standards. She graduated with a BA in anthropology from North Carolina State University and holds a master's degree in public administration from American University.



J. Ritchie Morrow Financial Aid Officer, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Mr. Morrow is the financial aid officer with Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. He coordinates the awarding of the Nebraska Opportunity Grant and the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship, administers the FAFSA Completion Initiative, works on numerous reports published by the Commission, and helps develop policy recommendations presented to the Nebraska Legislature and governor. Previously, he worked in the financial aid offices at Indiana University–Bloomington, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Wayne (Nebraska) State College, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He has been in the field of financial aid since 1992, the last 15 years at the commission.

A life-long Nebraskan originally from Kearney, Mr. Morrow received his bachelor of arts in education from UNK with the idea of teaching business to high school students. Instead he enrolled in the Higher Education Administration program at IU, graduating with a master of science in education.

His wife of 23 years, Amber, teaches at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, NE. They have one son, James, who is a freshman at the University of Nebraska at Omaha studying political science with a concentration in international and domestic security affairs and is participating in the AFROTC program.



Wesley Whistle Education Policy Advisor Third Way

Mr. Whistle is Third Way's education policy advisor, where he works on higher education policy to improve student outcomes through increased transparency and accountability at the federal level. Through data analysis, research, and legislative advocacy, Mr. Whistle is moving the conversation around college from one exclusively focused on cost to one focused on the value students are getting from institutions of higher education.

Before joining Third Way, he served his alma mater as the director of institutional effectiveness and research at Kentucky Wesleyan College, where he worked to improve student outcomes. There, he oversaw assessment, data analytics, and government reporting and was heavily involved in the college's reaccreditation. Mr. Whistle also worked in similar roles at the University of Louisville. He graduated with a BS in political science from Kentucky Wesleyan and a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in education policy from the University of Kentucky.

Join colleagues to discuss state and federal student aid, policy changes, and program delivery.



SAVE THE DATE

NASSGAP 2019 - OCTOBER 22-25

WASHINGTON, D.C. - EMBASSY SUITES

Agenda and registration details will be posted soon at nassgap.org

