

Speakers

Dr. David H Feldman

David Feldman is the chair of the economics department at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is also a professor of public policy for the college's Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy. Prior to coming to William and Mary, he was a member of the economics department at Colgate University. Dr. Feldman's current research examines theoretical and policy questions in the economics of higher education. Together with Robert B. Archibald, he is the author of *Why Does College Cost so Much*, published last year by Oxford University Press. The book explores the economic forces driving college cost and tuition setting, and how these forces affect access to higher education. He has also written many articles for economics and higher education professional journals. His recent work explores topics such as college graduation rates and accountability, the determinants of state higher education spending, and testing competing theories about the causes of rising college cost. In addition to his professional writing, he has also written many policy and commentary articles for major education periodicals and newspapers. Dr. Feldman earned his Ph. D. in economics from Duke University and his A.B. in economics and political science from Kenyon College.

Jane Wellman

Jane Wellman is the Executive Director of the National Association of System Heads, a membership organization of the CEOs of public multi-campus college and university systems in the United States. NASH's mission is to improve the functionality of public systems to best meet future needs for higher education. Wellman is also the founding director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity and Accountability, an independent research and policy organization located in Washington, DC.

Wellman is widely recognized for her work in public policy and higher education, at both the state and federal levels, with particular expertise in state fiscal policy, cost analysis, and strategic planning. In addition to research and writing, she consults with national and international organizations, and is a frequent speaker on the topic of college finances. She began her career in higher education finance at the University of California system, served as the staff director of the California Ways and Means Committee, was Deputy Director of the California Postsecondary Education Commission, and Vice President of Government Relations with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. She received bachelors' and masters' degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

Kris Richardson

Kris Richardson is director of the NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs (AMA). Kris serves as the lead director providing oversight for the interpretations area, thus assisting internal and external constituencies in understanding NCAA legislation and related interpretations. Among his other duties, Kris supports the work of the NCAA Division I governance structure by serving as a staff liaison to multiple cabinets and committees, including serving as the primary staff liaison for the NCAA Division I Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet. He has significant involvement in the work of the NCAA Working Group on Collegiate Model – Rules, including serving as the staff lead for the review of the financial aid legislation; oversees the work of AMA's legislative relief team and Compliance Assistant

team; and serves as AMA's primary liaison to the public and media relations staff. Kris is a 1994 graduate of Capital University, has a master's degree in sport management from The Ohio State University, and a juris doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in November 1997.

Lauren Asher

A nationally recognized expert on student loans and financial aid, Lauren Asher is president of the Institute for College Access & Success, an independent, nonprofit organization working to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. The Institute is home to the Project on Student Debt, which Ms. Asher co-founded in 2005. After serving in senior positions at the Kaiser Family Foundation, National Partnership for Women & Families, and U.S. Department of Labor, she led Asher Policy Consulting from 2002 to 2005. Her clients included foundations and national, state, and local nonprofits working to improve the lives of children, youth, and working families. She holds an M.P.A. from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. from Brown University.

Jeff Baker

Jeff Baker has been a student financial aid professional for more than 30 years, starting at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and including almost 20 years at San Francisco State University. Prior to entering the field of financial aid, Jeff was a public school teacher in the Port Washington, Wisconsin, public schools. For the past 15 years, Jeff has been employed at the Department of Education where he is currently the Director of the Policy Liaison and Implementation Staff for Federal Student Aid. In that capacity he advises senior FSA management on all statutory, regulatory, and policy matters that relate to the Title IV Federal Student Aid programs.

Jeff holds a B.S. in Management from Northeastern University, an M.S. in Education from the University of Wisconsin, and has done postgraduate work in higher education administration at the University of Southern California.

Throughout his financial aid career, Jeff has been an active member of NASFAA, serving as a committee chair, trainer, and twice as a Commission Director. He is a past member of the WASFAA Executive Council and a Past President of the California association.

Jeff is the recipient of numerous awards, including NASFAA's Meritorious Achievement Awards and Regional and State Leadership Award. He has been honored by WASFAA with their Creative Leadership Award and Lifetime Membership Award and is the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award, President's Award, and Lifetime Membership Award from the California association. Jeff is also the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award from the College Board.

Washington Update Panelists

George Chin

George Chin joined the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) in 2008 as a Senior Federal Policy Consultant with a focus on student financial aid issues. He comes to AASCU after serving 26 years as the University Director for Student Financial Aid at the City University of New York (CUNY), with programmatic responsibility for the delivery of over \$600 million of assistance to over 110,000 students at the 19 colleges in the CUNY system.

Prior to his service at CUNY, George served as a Branch Chief for Institutional Review in the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the New York Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Education. He also worked in financial aid at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York and at SUNY at Stony Brook.

His professional association activities have included service as President of the New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA), President of the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (EASFAA), a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), and National Chair of the NASFAA Board of Directors. His public service includes ten years, with five years as the Vice Chair, on the Board of Trustees for the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation.

George holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Masters of Education degree in Guidance and Psychological Services from Springfield College.

Sang Han

Sang Han currently serves as Director of Congressional and Governmental Affairs at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U). The Office of Congressional and Governmental Affairs oversees the association's federal activities and policies on several different fronts, including, among others, higher education and student aid as well as scientific research. In addition to working with member campuses, he is also responsible for representing the association in its interactions with the federal government and other outside organizations and entities.

Prior to joining A·P·L·U in 1999, he served as Legislative Assistant at the Association of American Universities (AAU) and is a graduate of two A·P·L·U institutions, University of California-Berkeley and University of Michigan.

Megan McClean

Megan McClean is the Managing Director of Policy and Federal Relations at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Prior to joining NASFAA in the fall of 2010, she served as the Director of Government Relations for the federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, where she contributed to several congressionally mandated reports on the postsecondary access and persistence of low- and moderate- income students. Megan began her career in higher education as an admissions counselor at Penn State University. She received a master's in higher education at Penn State and BA in political science from Allegheny College.

Barmak Nassirian

Barmak Nassirian is associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (AACRAO), a nonprofit association of more than 2,300 institutions of higher education and 9,000 campus enrollment services officials.

Becky Timmons

Becky Timmons is Assistant Vice President for Government Relations at the American Council on Education (ACE). Her work involves developing strategies to influence federal policy on a wide range of issues affecting colleges and universities -- ranging from accreditation to tax policy to trade relations and immigration. She is especially involved in all facets of federal student aid policy. In keeping with ACE's unique role as the "umbrella" organization, she devotes effort and energy toward working with ACE's sister associations to frame common advocacy positions and implementing them in a coordinated and unified fashion. As an additional part of her duties, she orchestrates a monthly meeting of the Washington-based higher education community with the Assistant Secretary of Education. She oversees federal regulation of higher education and has participated in a majority of the negotiated rulemaking sessions conducted by the Department of Education to effect changes in the Higher Education Act.

She helped to establish and serves as co-chair of the Student Aid Alliance, which is a 60-member coalition that helps to concentrate the efforts of the community to boost student aid appropriations. She and her staff conduct weekly legislative update meeting with 40 Washington based association or college representatives, she serves as a frequent panelist at higher education association conferences and meetings, and is a former president of the Committee for Education Funding, the oldest standing coalition of higher education and elementary and secondary organizations.

Before joining the ACE Government Relations staff in 1982, Timmons carried out legislative and program activities related to international education, and for a period of time served as Acting Director of ACE's Division of International Education. She came to ACE from the Committee on the Future of International Studies, a consortium of 80 universities with longstanding involvement in international affairs. Prior to that, she worked as a senate staff aid, and in several political campaigns.