

# COSUAA Annual Conference

Hotel Valley Ho, Scottsdale, AZ

April 26 - 29, 2014

## *Student Aid: Today's Issues and Tomorrow's Possibilities*

### Speaker Biographies\*

#### ***Jeff Appel, Deputy Under Secretary of Education***

As Deputy Under Secretary of Education at the US Department of Education, Jeff Appel oversees postsecondary student aid policy initiatives that align Federal Student Aid, the Office of Postsecondary Education, and the Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Jeff joined the Department in 2011 as a Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education and Student Financial Aid in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development. From 2007 to 2011, he worked for Congressman George Miller as a Senior Policy Advisor for the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Education and Labor, where he led numerous student aid and higher education policy efforts that guided legislation for the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, the 2008 Higher Education Act reauthorization, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Before that, Jeff was an Assistant Director at the Government Accountability Office's Education, Workforce, and Income Security group, responsible for managing much of the GAO's research concerning student aid and other postsecondary education issues. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Finance from the University of Arizona and a Master's degree in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University.

#### ***Lauren Asher, The Institute for College Access & Success and The Project on Student Debt***

A nationally recognized expert on student loans and financial aid, Lauren Asher is president of the Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), an independent, nonprofit organization working to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. TICAS is home to the Project on Student Debt, which Lauren 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 MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a BA from Brown University.

#### ***Jeff Baker, Federal Student Aid***

Jeff Baker has been with the U.S. Department of Education for over 15 years, most recently as Director of Policy Liaison and Implementation for Federal Student Aid, where he advises senior FSA management on policy matters related to the Title IV programs. Jeff served in the student aid profession for more

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\* Scheduled speakers as of April 19, 2014.

than three decades, beginning his career at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and later spending over 20 years at San Francisco State University. Before that he taught public school in Wisconsin.

Jeff holds a Bachelor's degree from Northeastern University and a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, with additional postgraduate work from the University of Southern California.

Jeff holds numerous professional awards including NASFAA's Meritorious Achievement, Regional Leadership, and State Leadership Awards; WASFAA's Creative Leadership and Lifetime Membership Award; CASFAA's Distinguished Service, President's, and Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards; and the College Board's Distinguished Service Award.

### ***Rohit Chopra, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau***

Rohit Chopra is an Assistant Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and leads the agency's work for students and young Americans. He was designated by the Secretary of the Treasury as the CFPB's Student Loan Ombudsman, a new position created in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. He holds a BA from Harvard College and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

### ***Jason Delisle, New America Foundation***

Jason Delisle is director of the Federal Education Budget Project at New America. He oversees the management of a database of information on federal funding for every school district and institution of higher education in the United States, writes issue briefs regarding the education budget process, and conducts research on funding for federal education programs.

Jason regularly publishes articles on the project's blog, EdCentral. His work has also been featured on numerous national television and radio programs, and in print publications such as *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *Education Week*, *The New York Times*, *National Review*, *Rolling Stone*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *The Washington Post*.

Before coming to New America Jason served as a senior analyst on the U.S. Senate Budget Committee and, from 2000 to 2006, as a legislative aide in the office of Representative Thomas Petri. He has a master's degree from George Washington University and a bachelor's degree from Lawrence University.

### ***Justin Draeger, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators***

Justin Draeger is President and CEO of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. He serves as the primary voice of NASFAA and as the liaison between the association members, the U.S. Congress, federal agencies and the media. Most of Justin's career has been devoted to assisting disadvantaged populations achieve their educational goals and better their communities.

Since 2002, Justin has been engaged in either administering, interpreting, communicating, or developing student financial aid policy. His prior experiences include working as a financial aid director, regulatory and policy analyst, and spokesperson. He has held senior positions overseeing government relations, communications, and policy work. Justin is frequently quoted in the press and has appeared on *The Today Show* on NBC, National Public Radio, APM's Marketplace, Fox Business News, CNBC, and C-SPAN, and is often quoted in national news outlets.

Justin currently serves on the boards of directors of several organizations that promote health and education. He earned his undergraduate from Brigham Young University and his MBA from Baker College. Justin resides in Fairfax, VA with his wife and three children.

***Mark D. Rosenbaum, ACLU of Los Angeles and University of Michigan***

Mark D. Rosenbaum, the Henry J. Gunderson Professor from Practice, is chief counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union in Los Angeles, where he has worked since 1974. His areas of expertise include race, gender, poverty and homelessness, education, voting rights, workers' rights, immigrants' rights, the First Amendment, and criminal trials. He has argued on three occasions before the U.S. Supreme Court, and has frequently appeared before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the California Supreme Court, and the Court of Military Appeals.

Professor Rosenbaum began teaching at Michigan Law in 1993. In February 2010, he began teaching constitutional law at the Peking University of Transnational Law in Shenzhen, China. Prof. Rosenbaum also has litigated cases in Michigan, including the constitutional challenge to Proposal 2. He has taught at UCLA Law School, the University of Southern California Law Center, and Loyola Law School, and has lectured at Harvard and Duke universities. He has served as an advisor on several movies and television shows.

The recipient of numerous awards and commendations, he is regularly selected as one of the most influential lawyers in California, and recently was named California Attorney of the Year for a second time in the area of civil rights. Prof. Rosenbaum received his BA from the University of Michigan and his JD from Harvard Law School, where he was vice president of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau.

***Piyush Tantia, Ideas 42***

Piyush Tantia is Executive Director of ideas42, where also directs projects on the Consumer Finance team as it develops practical and scalable consumer product and process solutions. His goal is to leverage his industry experience to design solutions that have social impact, but also achieve scalability because they make business sense.

Before joining ideas42, Piyush was a Partner in Oliver Wyman's financial services practice, one of the world's leading management consulting firms. In his 13 years at Oliver Wyman, he led projects for senior executives at large financial institutions spanning a vast array of retail financial services businesses including microfinance, unbanked and under-banked, prime and subprime credit card, home equity, prime and subprime mortgage, deposits, and retail distribution. He has tackled a wide range of issues including strategy, customer and product value management, credit process, distribution and risk management. Piyush also led Oliver Wyman's partnership with Experian, the leading global credit bureau, to publish industry reports based on analysis of Experian vast databases.

He holds a BS in Economics from the Wharton School and a BS in Engineering, with a concentration in Computer Science from the University of Pennsylvania.

***Thomas Weko, American Institutes for Research***

Thomas Weko is Research Manager, Higher Education, at American Institutes for Research (AIR). He has worked in higher education at the institutional, state, federal, and international level. Prior to April 1st he served at the US Department of Education, where he was Associate Commissioner for Postsecondary, Adult, and Career Education at the National Center for Education Statistics, and subsequently Director of the Policy and Program Studies Service for the Department.