

2019 WINTER ANNUAL JOINT OFFICERS MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

NATIONAL PRESENTERS

SCOTT BOELSCHER | Senior Associate, HCM Strategists



Scott Boelscher is a senior associate with HCM’s postsecondary policy team, providing clients with high-level strategic advice in the areas of state policy, strategic finance planning, funding formula development and implementation and financial aid. He works with several of HCM’s clients, including Lumina Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Prior to joining HCM, Scott served as a senior associate of budget and finance for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, advising the Commission on matters of strategic planning, budget development, policy setting, legislative affairs and communications. Scott produced analyses of fiscal policy issues, including outcomes-based funding, tuition, financial aid, enrollment trends and state support, as well as managing Kentucky’s “Bucks for Brains” endowment match program. Scott also served as a liaison to the legislature, managing legislative requests and briefing legislators on various postsecondary policy issues.

Scott previously served as director of fiscal analysis and facilities planning with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, where he helped design the Tennessee Higher Education Outcomes-Based Funding Formula, provided related management of the formula and advised multiple states on the development and implementation of outcomes-based funding models.

Scott earned his bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Kentucky. He received his master’s degree in Public Policy from Vanderbilt University.

HANA LAHR | Senior Research Associate, Community College Research Center



Hana Lahr’s current research includes several projects related to the implementation and evaluation of guided pathways practices, including the AACC Pathways Project; the California Guided Pathways Project; and state-based projects working with the community colleges in Ohio, Tennessee, and Washington. Her previous research at CCRC examined the implementation of state-level performance funding programs in Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee and the unintended impacts the programs have on colleges and universities within their systems.

Lahr earned a PhD in education policy from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 2018. She holds a BA in music performance from the University of Florida, an MS in counseling from Shippensburg University (PA), and an EdM in higher and postsecondary education from Teachers College. Her dissertation examined how foundations developed their higher education agendas. Prior to joining CCRC in 2011, Lahr worked in student affairs at HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College and at the Metropolitan College of New York, and was the outreach program coordinator at the Pennsylvania Academy of Music in Lancaster, PA.

MARY RITTLING | Senior Fellow, The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and President Emerita, Davidson County Community College (NC)



Mary E. Rittling retired in late 2018 from her role as president of Davidson County Community College, Lexington, NC. She was appointed to the role in August 2003, and led a full-time faculty and staff of 300, and approximately 400 adjunct instructors and part-time staff members. DCCC serves over 13,000 students each year at its two campuses and three satellite education centers in Davidson and Davie counties. Prior to her DCCC presidency, Rittling served four years as Regional Vice President of West Virginia University where she also was President of Potomac State College of West Virginia University. Potomac State is a residential, two-year college while West Virginia University is a doctoral and research university. Rittling, originally from Buffalo, New York, spent seven years as a senior administrator at the State University of New York at Delhi where she served as Interim President of the College of Technology, Vice President for Academic Programs and Services, Director for Business, Industry and Lifelong Learning, Director of the Academic Success Center and Nursing Director for the Student Health Center. Her teaching experience includes eight years as a Professor and Associate Professor of Nursing at the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi, where she was a tenured faculty member in the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Rittling completed the Harvard University Institute for New Presidents, earned a Doctor of Education degree in Higher and Adult Education from Columbia University in New York City where she also completed a Master of Arts degree. She earned a Master of Science degree in Nursing from Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York. She was named North Carolina Community College (NCCC) President of the Year in 2012. She and her husband Jim live in Thomasville and have three grown daughters and four grandchildren.

MARTHA SNYDER | Senior Director, HCM Strategists



Martha Snyder is an education policy specialist with high-level experience supporting federal and state policymakers. At HCM Strategists, she provides policy expertise and strategic counsel on a wide range of areas from finance to accountability to college readiness and affordability. Martha is a primary lead for Lumina Foundation's Strategy Labs, where she provides non-partisan expertise and facilitation on affordability, outcomes-based funding and other finance policies to improve higher education attainment. She also serves as the key strategist on state postsecondary policy work for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In addition to this work, Martha contributes to the postsecondary team on issues of aligning postsecondary financing to advance improved outcomes for underserved populations, transitioning between k-12 and postsecondary education and evaluating policies that support k-12 and postsecondary student transitions.

A believer in the link between higher education and economic success, Martha has worked both personally and professionally to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged students. While at Villanova University earning her bachelor's degree, Martha tutored inner-city students and witnessed the education system challenges that allowed many students to fall through the cracks. Martha later graduated from Syracuse University with a master's degree in public administration and, inspired by a graduate professor, pursued a career in education policy to help expand educational opportunities for students.

Before her tenure at HCM, Martha worked as a senior policy advisor at the United States Department of Education, focusing on K-12 accountability, high school reform and special education. She also served as an associate director for The White House Domestic Policy Council, developing budget priorities and providing analysis and counsel on all federal education issues. Her legislative branch experience includes a stint as a legislative assistant to Rep. Jim Gerlach of Pennsylvania.

Living in a state capital, Martha has a strong understanding of the role state-level leadership plays in advancing strong policies that lead to growth and innovation. This perspective has been an important foundation to Martha's work with state policymakers. Across the U.S., Martha has worked with state leaders, including state legislators and higher education policy officials, to facilitate the development, grounded in research-based expertise, of outcomes-based funding recommendations and related strategic higher education policies.

Martha lives with her husband and four children in Albany, New York, where she has put her passion for creative educational approaches to work on the board of directors for two local charter schools. A 13-time marathon finisher, Martha is an enthusiastic runner and dedicated fan of the Buffalo Bills.

KEITH WITHAM | Managing Director, College Excellence Program, The Aspen Institute



Keith Witham is managing director of the College Excellence Program, where he oversees the program's work to advance practices and leadership strategies that significantly improve community college student outcomes. Prior to joining the Aspen Institute, he was on the faculty of the College of Education at Temple University in Philadelphia, where he taught graduate courses in higher education law, policy, administration, and issues of access and equity. Keith also previously worked as senior research analyst at Complete College America and at the USC Center for Urban Education. He has co-authored numerous book chapters and

articles about strategies for achieving equity in postsecondary education outcomes. Keith received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in social service administration, both from the University of Chicago. He received a Ph.D. in Urban Education Policy from the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education.