

National Financial Aid Experts

Sandy Baum

Sandy Baum is an independent higher education policy analyst and consultant. Senior Fellow at the George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development and Professor Emerita of Economics at Skidmore College, Dr. Baum earned her B.A. in sociology at Bryn Mawr College, where she is currently a member of the Board of Trustees. She earned her Ph.D. in economics at Columbia University. She has written and spoken extensively on issues relating to college access, college pricing, student aid policy, student debt, affordability, and other aspects of higher education finance.

Dr. Baum is a Senior Associate at the Institute for Higher Education Policy, Affiliated Consultant for HCM Strategists, and consultant to the College Board. She has managed and co-authored the annual publications Trends in Student Aid and Trends in College Pricing for the College Board since 2002. She also developed and co-authors Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society for the College Board. Under the auspices of the College Board and with funding from multiple foundations she co-chaired the Rethinking Student Aid study group, which issued comprehensive proposals for reform of the federal student aid system in 2008 and is leading a project to Reimagine Pell Grants. She chaired a Brookings Institution study group that issued its report, Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs in May 2012.

Nate Johnson, Senior Consultant

Nate serves as a consultant to HCM Strategists on higher education policy, funding, and student success issues. He has worked in education policy, planning and institutional research at the national, state, and institutional levels.



Nate served for five years as executive director of planning and analysis for the State University System of Florida in the office of the chancellor. He facilitated the first statewide strategic plan for the Board of Governors after it was created in the Florida Constitution in 2003. He also served as associate director of institutional research at the University of Florida and as a policy analyst in Florida's nationally-recognized Office of Articulation, where he helped develop policies related to inter-sector transfer, high school graduation standards, and college admissions.

Nate serves as the Lumina Foundation's external higher education productivity adviser to the state of Tennessee, and is the leader of a Lumina-sponsored "strategy lab" on student incentives to complete courses and programs. He has also served on a National Academy of Sciences panel on measuring higher education productivity.

Nate grew up in Oregon. He earned his bachelor's degree from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington and his Ph.D. in English literature from Cornell University.

Nate lives in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife, Aimée Boutin, who is an associate professor in the modern languages department at Florida State University, and his two elementary-aged children, Alex and Zita.

State Financial Aid Experts

James Broscheit, representing Tier 1 Public institutions

James has been working in financial aid for 25+ years now. The majority of that time has been spent working at both proprietary and 4-year public institutions. Currently, he is the Director of Financial Aid Office at University of Colorado Denver / Anschutz Medical Campus. Before moving to the University of Colorado Denver, he spent years at Colorado State University, University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Northern Colorado. Outside of the time he has worked at institutions, he served as a compliance and training officer for CSLP (now College Assist). He has served in various positions for both the Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators (CAFAA) and the Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA). He has served as trainer at both conferences as well as the week long Summer Institute.

Ellie Miller, representing Non-Profit Private institutions

Ellie has over 40 years of experience in financial aid administration in Colorado. She has enjoyed helping students and parents in both the public sector and now in the private, non-profit sector as Director of Financial Aid at Regis University. She has served as CAFAA President, RMASFAA Vice President, and is currently the Treasurer for Colorado College Goal Sunday and the CAFAA Historian.

Curt Martin, representing Four-Year Public institutions

Curt currently serves as the Director of Financial Aid at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. He has been employed by the college since 1995. Prior to that, he worked for a proprietary school, Barnes Business College, for eleven years. Curt has held a number of offices in the CAFAA, RMASFAA, and the National Association of Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). He has served on a number of committees for the financial aid profession, the college and the community in various capacities. Curt is a graduate of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Colorado Mesa University, formerly Mesa State College.

Karla Nash, representing Two-Year Public institutions

Karla is a Colorado native who has been in financial aid for over 18 years. She began working as a financial aid peer advisor at Metropolitan State College of Denver under the Colorado

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Work-study Program and can personally give testament as to the impact state financial aid has on the future of students. As a non-traditional mother of 4, Karla began her education at Front Range Community College and obtained her Associates degree and then transferred to Metro State to complete her bachelor's degree. While working at Metro State, Karla completed her Master's program at the University of Colorado at Denver. Karla served as the Associate Director of Financial at Metro State for 13 years prior to beginning her work with community college students as the Director of Financial Aid at the Community College of Denver. Currently, Karla is the Director of Financial Aid for the Colorado Community College System Office.