



PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Marcia Ballinger
President, Lorain County Community College (Elyria, OH)
 @lorainccc @presballinger



Dr. Marcia Ballinger has more than 25 years in community college leadership roles that have advanced student success, workforce and economic development, strategic planning, and institutional advancement. On July 1, 2016, Dr. Ballinger was named as the 5th and first female President of Lorain County Community College (LCCC). In the spring of 2016, she was also awarded the prestigious Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence. Over her 25 year career with LCCC, Dr. Ballinger has developed a culture of innovation, risk-taking and entrepreneurship. In the role of Vice President for Strategic and Institutional Development, Dr. Ballinger led the vision and implementation of LCCC's economic development initiatives, which focused primarily on the needs and potential of entrepreneurs. This culture of innovation led Lorain County

Community College to earn over 11 NorthCoast 99 awards, recognizing the college as one of the top employers in the region. She also served as co-campus lead for the Completion by Design project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has recognized LCCC as a National Innovator in Increasing College Completion. Additionally, she provided leadership for LCCC's Achieving the Dream initiative, and was selected to the Jobs for the Future Policy Leadership Trust for Student Success charged with identifying high-priority policy solutions to the barriers that block community college students from graduating and earning credentials. Dr. Ballinger co-chairs the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight Board, as well as the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Statewide Steering Committee. Regionally, Dr. Ballinger serves on the Boards of MAGNET, Northeast Ohio Council of Higher Education, the Fund for Our Economic Future, University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center, Northwest Bank Advisory Board, Workforce Institute of Lorain County, Lorain County Chamber of Commerce and the Lorain County Workforce Development Board. Dr. Ballinger is the national co-chair of Jobs for the Future's National Policy Trust for Student Success. She is also President of the Lorain County Community College Foundation and while serving as Vice President of the LCCC Foundation grew the organization from \$12 million in assets in 2004 to over \$50 million today.

Betsy Brand
Executive Director, American Youth Policy Forum
 @AYPF_Tweets



Betsy Brand has served as the Executive Director of AYPF since 2004, and she served as Co-Director of the organization since 1998. Betsy has spent her career working on education, workforce, and youth policy and specializes in comprehensive approaches to helping young people be prepared for today's careers, lifelong learning, and civic engagement. Betsy's education policy career started when she served as a Legislative Associate for the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor from 1977 to 1983. She subsequently served with Senator Dan Quayle as a Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee from 1983 to 1989, where she handled all federal education and training legislation. In 1989, Betsy was appointed Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education, under President George H.W. Bush, where she worked for four years. From 1993 to 1998, Betsy operated her own consulting firm, Workforce Futures, Inc., focusing on policy and best practices for education and workforce preparation.

Michael Collins

Vice President, Building Educational Pathways, Jobs for the Future

 @jfftweets @mikejff



Michael Collins is a vice president at Jobs for the Future. He leads the Postsecondary State Policy team, developing and advocating for state policies on behalf of national initiatives, such as Achieving the Dream, Completion by Design, and the Student Success Center Network. A policy researcher, analyst, writer, and strategy consultant, Mr. Collins helps states to develop and implement public policies designed to increase the number of low-income and minority students who successfully transition from high school into college, persist, and earn credentials and degrees. Mr. Collins leads JFF's Postsecondary State Policy Network, which provides access to the state lawmakers, faculty, and college leaders in almost 50 percent of the community colleges in the nation, educating over 50 percent of the nation's students in public two-year colleges. Before joining JFF, Mr. Collins served

as assistant commissioner for participation and success at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. In that capacity, he worked with K-12, higher education, the business community, the Texas Legislature, and community-based organizations to increase college access and success.

Dr. Nathaniel Easley

Executive Director, Denver Scholarship Foundation (Denver, CO)

 @DenvScholarFdn @NateEasleyDSF



Dr. Nathaniel Easley is Chief Executive Officer of the Denver Scholarship Foundation. Denver Scholarship is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to inspire and empower Denver Public School students to achieve their postsecondary education goals by providing the tools, knowledge and financial resources essential for success. Previously, Dr. Easley served as President and Secretary of the Denver Public Schools Board of Education. He also worked as Vice President for National and International Programs for the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, DC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the expansion of educational opportunities in postsecondary education for low-income and disabled youth and adults. He is a current member of Denver Mayor Michael Hancock's Education Compact, the Community College of Denver

Advisory Council, the National College Access Network Board, the Colorado School of Public Health Advisory Council, the Denver School of Science and Technology Charter School Board, the Denver Public Schools Roots Charter School Board, and Colorado Latinos for Education Reform. He is a past member of Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper's Education Leadership Council and the National Advisory Council for Texas Guaranteed Inc. **He is a proud graduate of Denver's Montbello High School.**



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