

Researcher-Policymaker Collaboration in COVID-19: Lessons Learned from Boston's Summer Jobs Program

Panelist Biographies



Vivian Tseng
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Vivian leads the Foundation's grantmaking programs and its initiatives to connect research, policy, and practice to improve child and youth outcomes. In 2009, she launched the Foundation's initiative on the use of research evidence in policy and practice. That program has generated over 50 funded studies and informed the grantmaking programs of private and public funders across the country. She has been instrumental in the growing field of research-practice partnerships, including supporting the creation of field-defining resources and the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships.

Vivian has longstanding interests in racial equity in higher education and philanthropy. Under her leadership, the Foundation has strengthened its internal diversity, equity, and inclusion work, increased its grantmaking and capacity support to underrepresented researchers, and developed a program to support stronger mentoring relationships for graduate students of color.

Vivian regularly writes and speaks to international and domestic audiences on evidence-informed policy and practice. Her studies of racial, cultural, and immigration influences on child development have been published in *Child Development* and her research on improving social settings and promoting social change have appeared in the *American Journal of Community Psychology*. She received her Ph.D. from NYU and her B.A. from UCLA. She serves on the Boards of the Forum for Youth Investment, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, and Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. She was previously on the faculty in Psychology and Asian American studies at CSUN.



Alicia Sasser Modestino
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Alicia Sasser Modestino is an Associate Professor with appointments in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and the Department of Economics at Northeastern University. Since 2015, Dr. Modestino has also served as the Research Director of the

Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy. She is also a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program and an affiliated faculty of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT. Previously, Modestino was a Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston where she led numerous research projects on regional economic and policy issues.

Modestino's current research focuses on labor market dynamics including skills mismatch, youth labor market attachment, and career pathways. She currently leads a multi-year program evaluation of the Boston Summer Youth Employment Program funded by the William T. Grant Foundation. She has published in peer-reviewed publications including *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Labour Economics*, *Health Affairs*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, and *Regional Science and Urban Economics*. Dr. Modestino's research has been covered extensively in the [media](#) including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Bloomberg*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Boston Globe*, *Politico*, and *Vox*. She has appeared on NPR's On Point, WBUR's Radio Boston, WCVB's CityLine, NBC News and Fox25 News.

Modestino holds both a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, where she also served as a doctoral fellow in the Inequality and Social Policy Program at the Kennedy School of Government.



Midori Morikawa
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Midori Morikawa currently serves as the Director of Business Strategy for the Mayor's Office of Economic Development at the City of Boston. As the Director of Business Strategy, Midori focuses on attracting new businesses, retaining and growing existing businesses, and engaging the Boston business community to strengthen Boston's workforce for growth as a place to do business in the national and international markets. She also leads strategies to enhance emerging industries, including exploring workforce development opportunities for talent pipeline development and retention in response to business community needs.

Prior to this, Midori served as the Deputy Director of Workforce and Policy Development at the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development. Midori led key initiatives for Mayor Walsh's Administration including the development and implementation of the Mayor's Tuition-Free Community College; City Academy, a training pipeline for Boston residents to access entry-level City jobs; and BostonHires, a city-wide campaign for employers to hire 20,000 Bostonians in quality jobs by 2022. Midori has promoted a number of key partnerships including the Boston Bridge, a collaboration between the city and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education to create tuition-free four-year degree pathways for Boston residents. In addition, she oversaw a [multi-year evaluation](#) of Summer Youth Employment program in partnership with Northeastern University. In her role Midori managed over \$7 million in federal, state, and local funds to over 30 nonprofits to implement apprenticeship, occupational skills training, summer youth employment, and adult basic education programs.

Before joining the City of Boston, Midori served as the Director of Planning at Action for Boston Community Development, and Program Performance and Evaluation Manager at YWCA Boston. Midori received her Master of Arts degree from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clark University. A native of Japan, Midori spent her childhood in Malaysia and Indonesia before coming to the United States to attend college.