

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS

2025 MAY 21 PM 4: 32

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification: In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

Private Sponsor(s):
Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Travel Dates:
04/23/2025 to 04/24/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$85.48	\$110.00	\$92.00	\$210.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization (Form RE-1)
- The final Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

21 May 2025
Date

RYAN SWEENEY
Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

21 May 2025
Date

Date


Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

Yes No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	\$85.48	The total shuttle cost was slightly less than the initial quote.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

Yes No

Explanation: There were no changes to the pre-approved itinerary.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

Yes No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

From: [Betsy Prueter](#)
To: [Fox, Patrick \(HELP Committee\)](#)
Cc: [Sweeney, Ryan \(HELP Committee\)](#)
Subject: Re: checking in
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 10:32:42 AM

not to worry! Ryan, I realize you are planning to attend! Ethics paperwork will come this week FYI :).

On Wed, Mar 12, 2025 at 10:30 AM Fox, Patrick (HELP Committee)
<Patrick_Fox@help.senate.gov> wrote:

Hi Betsy,

I will be taking that week off to study for finals and wont be able to attend.

From: Betsy Prueter <prueter@pnpi.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 10:23 AM
To: Sweeney, Ryan (HELP Committee) <Ryan_Sweeney@help.senate.gov>; Fox, Patrick (HELP Committee) <Patrick_Fox@help.senate.gov>
Subject: checking in

Hi friends!

Just checking in to say that we haven't heard from Peter, James, Karen, or Yakirah regarding their participation in the College Cost Seminar. Might you be able/willing to ping them about it? Ethics is due March 24th so we want to get paperwork sent in enough time!

Are either of you interested? You're both welcome to attend as well of course!

Betsy

--

Betsy Prueter (she/her)

Senior Director of Programming

Postsecondary National Policy Institute

prueter@pnpi.org

440-223-5844

pnpi.org

Follow us on Instagram: [@thePNPI](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

--

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RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
Ryan Sweeney

Employing Office/Committee:
HEALTH, EDUC, LAB, AND PENSIONS - REP

Private Sponsor(s):
Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Destination(s):
Warrenton, Virginia

Travel Dates:
04/23/2025 to 04/24/2025

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

I cover issues related to higher education for the HELP Committee. This trip will specifically touch on college costs and affordability, which are directly related to my work.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

18 March 2025

Date


Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Senator B. Cassidy
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Ryan Sweeney
(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

18 March 2025
Date

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Postsecondary National Policy Institute: College Cost & Affordability Seminar

RYAN SWEENEY

Title:

None

Employing Office/Committee:

HEALTH, EDUC, LAB, AND PENSIONS - REP

Duty Station:

WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):

Warrenton, Virginia

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Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

None

Organization Information

Organization Name

Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

Yes No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type

Public Charity

Address

1828 L Street NW

Address 2 (Optional)

None

City, State Zip

Washington, District Of Columbia 20036 United States

Phone Number

4402235844

Organization URL

pnpi.org

History of Congressional Travel

Since 2012, PNPI has sponsored twenty-six congressional staff seminars on postsecondary topics including federal student aid, postsecondary data, and minority-serving institutions.

Educational Activities

In addition to multi-day seminars, PNPI sponsors briefings and boot camps for larger audiences. PNPI also offers leadership training and hosts a postsecondary data tool, the PNPI Explorer.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

This trip is designed to increase participants' understanding of college cost and affordability. A detailed agenda is attached.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

PNPI provides professional development to current and prospective policymakers who work on higher education issues. This event is designed to increase congressional staff's knowledge of college cost and affordability.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

Yes No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

1. Gates Foundation
2. Strada Education Foundation
3. The Kresge Foundation

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

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Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
04/23/2025 @ 08:30 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
04/24/2025 @ 05:00 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

Yes No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$109.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$109.00

Note
shuttle bus

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$110.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
04/23/2025	04/24/2025	Airlie Conference Center	Warrenton	Virginia	United States	1	\$110.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$92.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
04/23/2025	\$0.00	\$19.00	\$28.00	\$5.00	\$52.00	Warrenton	Virginia	United States	No
04/24/2025	\$16.00	\$19.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$40.00	Warrenton	Virginia	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$210.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Conference Fees	\$210.00	meeting room rental, AV, WiFi

Additional Attachments All additional attachments are below.

Document Name

Revised Itinerary

Revised Itinerary

DocuSign Envelope ID: B76B7A03-0D97-440D-A83E-5CBCEABD9160

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: College Cost & Affordability Seminar
Travel Date(s): April 23-24, 2025
Travel Destination(s): Warrenton, VA
Sponsor: Postsecondary National Policy Institute

MaryEllen McGuire
(printed name of sponsor representative)

President
(title)

DocuSigned by:

4E6B30068EBF41E
(signature of sponsor representative)

3/12/2025
(date)

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

Instructions: If a sponsor receives funds from a grantmaking organization, the sponsor must disclose this on the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and the grantmaking organization must complete the *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form*. The completed *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form* must be submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics by the trip sponsor at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date.

Grantmaking Organization: Gates Foundation

Private Sponsor: The Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Trip Name: PNPI's College Cost & Affordability Seminar

Travel Date(s): April 23-24, 2025

Destination(s): Warrenton, VA

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- ☒ The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization is not a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or foreign agent, nor an entity that retains or employs a lobbyist or foreign agent.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization provides funds under an established grant program, or in a manner that is otherwise consistent with the mission and practices of the organization.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization is not involved, directly or indirectly, in organizing and conducting the trip. This includes selecting participants for a trip.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Kathryn Young

(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)

Senior Program Officer

(Title)

DocuSigned by:

Kathryn Young

724D86038FA044D...

(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)

3/13/2025

(Date)

DocuSign Envelope ID: 413F1A82-E7DE-496D-B986-7BC249901D53

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Grantmaking Organization: Strada Education Foundation

Private Sponsor: The Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Trip Name: PNPI's College Cost & Affordability Seminar

Travel Date(s): April 23-24, 2025

Destination(s): warrenton, VA

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- ☒ The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
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- ☒ The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Gabriela Gomez

(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)

EVP, Policy, Advocacy, and Communications

(Title)

Signed by:

Gabriela Gomez

2EC1ED3C867CACA...

(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)

3/13/2025

(Date)

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

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Grantmaking Organization: Kresge Foundation

Private Sponsor: The Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Trip Name: PNPI's College Cost & Affordability Seminar

Travel Date(s): April 23-24, 2025

Destination(s): warrenton, VA

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

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Reuben Kapp

(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)

Program Officer

(Title)

DocuSigned by:

Reuben Kapp

CE947876F16746E

(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)

3/13/2025

(Date)

List of Senate Invitees

Joe Herrbach
Senator Murray

Alicia Porile
Senator Blunt-Rochester

Rachel Ricard
Senator Hassan

Ben Thomas
Senator Baldwin

Peter Mills
Senator Murphy

Peter Barrett
Senator Mullin

Yakirah Rosen
Senator Moody

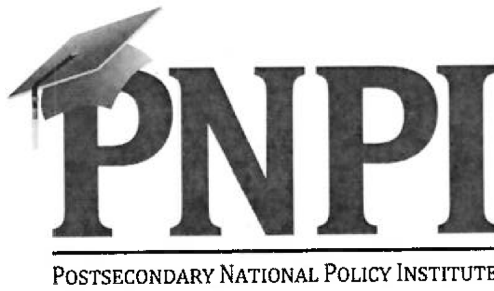
Allison Feikes
Senator Collins

James Buckley
Senator Marshall

Ryan Sweeney
Senator Cassidy

Gray Rixey
Senator Tillis

Kathleen Bochow
Senator Boozman



College Cost & Affordability Seminar
April 23-24, 2025

Location: Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, VA

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

8:30-9:45am **Meet at Peace Circle, Washington, D.C. and travel to Warrenton, VA**

9:45am **Arrive in Warrenton, VA**

9:45-10:00am **Check In & Registration
Airlie Conference Center**

10:00-11:15am **Welcome & Overview of College Cost & Price**
Speakers: MaryEllen McGuire, Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI);
Betsy Prueter, Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI); & Jennifer Ma,
College Board

Questions for Discussion:

- What is sticker price? What is net price? What is the difference?
- What are recent trends in sticker and net price?
- How is price different from cost?
- What are the trends in college costs?
- How do the state, institutional, and student shares of college cost compare?
What trends have we seen over time?
- What is the cost of college relative to family income? How has this changed
over time?
- How does the price of college compare to the price of other goods and
services?

11:15-11:30am **Break**

11:30am-12:30pm **Net Price Overview & Simulation**

Speaker: Jeremy Wright-Kim, University of Michigan

Questions for Discussion:

- What are net price calculators (NPC)?
- Do NPCs provide realistic estimates of financial aid and out-of-pocket costs, or are there discrepancies between estimated and actual aid awards?
- How do NPCs influence college choice, enrollment rates, and student debt levels?
- How could NPCs be improved to better reflect actual financial aid package numbers?

12:30-1:15pm **Working Lunch**

This session will give participants a chance to ask additional questions of the morning's presenters.

1:15-3:15pm **Overview of Cost of Attendance (COA)**

Speakers: Rachel Fishman, New America & Phil Asbury, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Questions for Discussion:

- What is COA and how is it different from tuition? What portion of a student's total COA comes from tuition alone?
- How do institutions calculate COA? How accurate are their calculations? How do the calculations vary among institutions?
- How does an institution's COA affect federal financial aid allocation? Why is it so important?
- What are direct and indirect costs, and what are examples of each?

3:15-3:30pm **Break**

3:30-4:45pm **Overview of Financial Aid Letters & Simulation**

Speaker: Rachel Fishman, New America

Questions for Discussion:

- How accurate are net cost estimates in financial aid offer letters?
- Why do financial aid offers vary widely in format and clarity across different colleges?
- How does the wide variety in financial aid letters affect students' ability to compare offers?

4:45-6:00pm**Break****6:00-7:00pm****Dinner**

Dinner will provide an opportunity for PNPI to review the agenda for Thursday and to answer any remaining questions about the topics covered earlier in the day.

Thursday, April 24, 2025

8:15-9:00am**Breakfast****9:00-10:05am****Welcome & Student Perspectives**

Moderators: Betsy Prueter, PNPI; MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI; Ryan Arsenault, Northern Virginia Community College; Kelsey Brown, University of Maryland; Alessandra Elarae, Minneapolis College; & Stephanie Lewis, Minnesota State College Southeast

Questions for Discussion:

- When you first received your financial aid offer letter, did you understand how much you would actually have to pay out-of-pocket?
- Were you able to easily distinguish between grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study in your financial aid package?
- Did you receive consistent and clear cost estimates from different colleges when comparing offers?
- Did you use a Net Price Calculator (NPC) before applying? If so, was it accurate in estimating your costs?
- How easy was it to find clear, reliable information about tuition, fees, and living expenses before you enrolled?
- Have financial concerns ever made you consider dropping out or taking time off from school?
- Do you feel prepared for loan repayment after graduation?
- If you could change one thing about how college costs are presented or managed, what would it be?

10:05-10:15am**Break****10:15-11:30am****Drivers of College Cost**

Speaker: Robert Kelchen, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Questions for Discussion:

- What drives college tuition and the overall price of college?
- How is tuition money spent by institutions? What percent is spent on direct services?

- What role do state appropriations play in college costs?
- What role do states play in setting tuition?
- What is the Bennett Hypothesis and is there any evidence to support it?

11:30-11:45am **Break**

11:45am-12:45pm **Federal Levers for College Affordability**

Speakers: Julie Peller, Peller Strategies & MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI

Questions for Discussion:

- What provisions related to college cost exist in current law?

12:45-1:45pm **Working Lunch**

This session will give participants a chance to talk further with the day's speakers.

1:45-2:45pm **Roundtable: Increasing College Affordability**

Speakers: Katie Berger, Lumina Foundation; Preston Cooper, American Enterprise Institute (AEI); & Laura Keane, Independent Consultant

Questions for Discussion:

- When you are asked how best to increase college affordability, what's the first thing that comes to mind?
- What are the pros and cons of proposed ideas to make college more affordable?
- What more could be done to ensure college affordability and should it be done at the institution, state, or federal level?

2:45-3:00pm **Break**

3:00-3:30pm **Wrap Up & Close**

Speakers: Betsy Prueter, PNPI & MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI

This session will provide an opportunity for staff to formally debrief on all sessions, share their final takeaways, and ask any remaining questions they have about college affordability.

3:30-4:45pm **Travel from Warrenton, VA to Washington D.C.**

4:45pm **Arrive at Peace Circle, Washington, D.C.**



POSTSECONDARY NATIONAL POLICY INSTITUTE

College Cost & Affordability Seminar
April 23-24, 2025**Location:** Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, VA**AGENDA*****Wednesday, April 23, 2025***

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2:45-3:00pm **Break**

3:00-3:30pm **Wrap Up & Close**

Speakers: Betsy Prueter, PNPI & MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI

This session will provide an opportunity for staff to formally debrief on all sessions, share their final takeaways, and ask any remaining questions they have about college affordability.

3:30-4:45pm **Travel from Warrenton, VA to Washington D.C.**

4:45pm **Arrive at Peace Circle, Washington, D.C.**



POSTSECONDARY NATIONAL POLICY INSTITUTE

College Cost & Affordability Seminar***April 23-24, 2025*****Location:** Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, VA**AGENDA*****Wednesday, April 23, 2025***

8:30-9:45am **Meet at Peace Circle, Washington, D.C. and travel to Warrenton, VA**

9:45am **Arrive in Warrenton, VA**

9:45-10:00am **Check In & Registration
Airlie Conference Center**

10:00-11:15am **Welcome & Overview of College Cost & Price**
Speakers: MaryEllen McGuire, Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI);
Betsy Prueter, Postsecondary National Policy Institute (PNPI); & Jennifer Ma,
College Board

Questions for Discussion:

- What is sticker price? What is net price? What is the difference?
- What are recent trends in sticker and net price?
- How is price different from cost?
- What are the trends in college costs?
- How do the state, institutional, and student shares of college cost compare? What trends have we seen over time?
- What is the cost of college relative to family income? How has this changed over time?
- How does the price of college compare to the price of other goods and services?

11:15-11:30am Break

11:30am-12:30pm Net Price Overview & Simulation

Speaker: Jeremy Wright-Kim, University of Michigan

Questions for Discussion:

- What are net price calculators (NPC)?
- Do NPCs provide realistic estimates of financial aid and out-of-pocket costs, or are there discrepancies between estimated and actual aid awards?
- How do NPCs influence college choice, enrollment rates, and student debt levels?
- How could NPCs be improved to better reflect actual financial aid package numbers?

12:30-1:15pm Working Lunch

This session will give participants a chance to ask additional questions of the morning's presenters.

1:15-3:15pm Overview of Cost of Attendance (COA)

Speakers: Rachel Fishman, New America & Phil Asbury, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Questions for Discussion:

- What is COA and how is it different from tuition? What portion of a student's total COA comes from tuition alone?
- How do institutions calculate COA? How accurate are their calculations? How do the calculations vary among institutions?
- How does an institution's COA affect federal financial aid allocation? Why is it so important?
- What are direct and indirect costs, and what are examples of each?

3:15-3:30pm Break

3:30-4:45pm Overview of Financial Aid Letters & Simulation

Speaker: Rachel Fishman, New America

Questions for Discussion:

- How accurate are net cost estimates in financial aid offer letters?
- Why do financial aid offers vary widely in format and clarity across different colleges?
- How does the wide variety in financial aid letters affect students' ability to compare offers?

4:45-6:00pm **Break**

6:00-7:00pm **Dinner**

Dinner will provide an opportunity for PNPI to review the agenda for Thursday and to answer any remaining questions about the topics covered earlier in the day.

Thursday, April 24, 2025

8:15-9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00-10:05am **Welcome & Student Perspectives**

Moderators: Betsy Prueter, PNPI; MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI; Ryan Arsenault, Northern Virginia Community College; Kelsey Brown, University of Maryland; Alessandra Elarae, Minneapolis College; & Stephanie Lewis, Minnesota State College Southeast

Questions for Discussion:

- When you first received your financial aid offer letter, did you understand how much you would actually have to pay out-of-pocket?
- Were you able to easily distinguish between grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study in your financial aid package?
- Did you receive consistent and clear cost estimates from different colleges when comparing offers?
- Did you use a Net Price Calculator (NPC) before applying? If so, was it accurate in estimating your costs?
- How easy was it to find clear, reliable information about tuition, fees, and living expenses before you enrolled?
- Have financial concerns ever made you consider dropping out or taking time off from school?
- Do you feel prepared for loan repayment after graduation?
- If you could change one thing about how college costs are presented or managed, what would it be?

10:05-10:15am **Break**

10:15-11:30am **Drivers of College Cost**

Speaker: Robert Kelchen, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Questions for Discussion:

- What drives college tuition and the overall price of college?
- How is tuition money spent by institutions? What percent is spent on direct services?

- What role do state appropriations play in college costs?
- What role do states play in setting tuition?
- What is the Bennett Hypothesis and is there any evidence to support it?

11:30-11:45am **Break**

11:45am-12:45pm **Federal Levers for College Affordability**

Speakers: Julie Peller, Peller Strategies & MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI

Questions for Discussion:

- What provisions related to college cost exist in current law?

12:45-1:45pm **Working Lunch**

This session will give participants a chance to talk further with the day's speakers.

1:45-2:45pm **Roundtable: Increasing College Affordability**

Speakers: Katie Berger, Lumina Foundation; Preston Cooper, American Enterprise Institute (AEI); & Laura Keane, Independent Consultant

Questions for Discussion:

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