STATE AND 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.

RANDY GARDNER | Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education

Randy Gardner was appointed the 10th Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education in January 2019. As Chancellor, he oversees the state’s public two-year and four-year institutions and Ohio Technical Centers; provides policy guidance to the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly; and carries out state higher education policy.

Gardner comes to ODHE from the Ohio Senate, where he had served for a total of 13 years. He had recently been chosen as Senate Majority Leader for this latest term. Gardner also served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 1985 to 2000, and again from 2008 through 2012.

Gardner has been recognized as the General Assembly’s foremost policy leader in higher education. For the past eight years, he served as chairman of the Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, and held that post in both the House and the Senate.

A well-respected leader in state government, Gardner has also previously served as Senate President Pro Tempore, House Majority Leader, and House Speaker Pro Tempore. He has also been a member of the Senate Finance Committee and the panels dealing with Ohio’s workforce development and budget management. Gardner’s work ethic was exemplified by his 100% voting record over 33 years—more than 10,430 consecutive votes.
Gardner received a bachelor’s degree in education and a master’s degree in political science, both from Bowling Green State University. Prior to his career in public service, he worked both as a realtor and a high school history and government teacher.

Gardner and his wife, Sandy, reside in Bowling Green and are the parents of three children—Brooks, Christina, and Austin.

SHAWN HENDRIX  | President & COO, Nissen Chemitec American, Inc.

Shawn Hendrix is President and C.O.O. of Nissen Chemitec America, Inc. (NCA) located in London, Ohio, and on the Board of Directors of Nissen Chemitec Mexico S.A. de C.V. (NCM). NCA and NCM are both a part of the automotive division of Nissen Chemitec Corporation headquartered in Niihama, Japan. NCA supplies plastic injection molded interior and exterior trim parts to automotive OEM’s.

Prior to joining NCA in June 2008, Shawn worked at Honda of America Mfg., Inc. for 23 years. His first 4 years were spent in manufacturing and the last 19 years in procurement where he was the manager of Honda’s plastics and stamping procurement departments. Throughout his career Shawn has visited over 150 manufacturing plants from large international companies to small job shops in the U.S., Canada, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Thailand, and Indonesia. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Shawn is active member, and president of the Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership (COMP), an industry sector partnership whose mission is “To create a connected system to source manufacturers with qualified talent.”

DAVIS JENKINS  | Senior Research Scholar, Community College Research Center

Davis Jenkins is a senior research scholar at CCRC. He works with colleges and states across the country to find ways to improve educational and employment outcomes for students, particularly students of color and those from low-income families.

Together with Thomas Bailey and Shanna Smith Jaggars, he coauthored Redesigning America’s Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success (Harvard University Press, 2015), which has helped to catalyze the national “guided pathways” reform movement. Jenkins is currently leading research on the implementation of pathways reforms and their effects on student outcomes and college performance. Jenkins is also leading research on improving bachelor’s outcomes for community college students and strengthening high school dual enrollment so it functions as an on-ramp to college. Recent publications from those lines of research include a report published with The Aspen Institute and the National Student Clearinghouse on transfer outcomes by institution and state; The Transfer Playbook, co-researched and coauthored with Josh Wyner and his team at The Aspen Institute; and a report on college outcomes for students who take dual enrollment courses through community colleges while in high school. Jenkins earned a PhD in public policy analysis from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelor’s in religion from Princeton 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.

KRISTA O’NEILL | Holistic Student Supports & Advising Redesign Coach, Ohio Association of Community Colleges

Krista O’Neill currently serves as the lead for holistic support coaching for the Ohio Association of Community Colleges and as a coach for Texas’s Pathways Institute. Krista retired July of 2018 as the Coordinator of Advising and Counseling Services at Lorain County Community College, a position she held since August of 2010. In her coordination role Krista had direct supervisory and evaluation responsibilities for enrollment services, advising and support staff. Additionally, Krista has 33 years of experience in advising students at Lorain County Community College. At her core, Krista is very much an advising practitioner and has worked most recently with dismissal students returning to LCCC.

Krista was nominated in 1995 by LCCC and honored by the National Academic Advising Association as one of thirteen "Outstanding Advisors" nationally. Professional career interests for Krista include equity issues, "Appreciative Advising" theory, financial aid/literacy, and holistic supports such as emergency aid and student success strategies for underserved populations. Krista is a certified college alliance "Bridges Out of Poverty" trainer and has been an active participant in LCCC’s Completion by Design and Achieving the Dream initiatives.

Krista provided leadership for LCCC’s academic advising redesign effort where now all students are assigned to their own advisor and work in specialty advising teams. Using a case management model infused with predictive analytics and early identification of students at risk, the advising redesign has contributed to the seventy-nine percent increase in LCCC’s graduation rate since 2011.

NICHOLAS SHAY | Assistant Professor, Mathematics, Central Ohio Technical College

Nick Shay holds Bachelor’s degree in education from Ohio University and a Master’s degree in Mathematics from Miami University (Ohio). Nick works on the Ohio Open Ed Collaborative, first as a contributor for the Statistics group, and currently as team lead for the College Algebra group. Nick also serves on the Ohio Mathematics Initiative Subgroup 1 focused on Corequisite remediation. For the last seven years Nick has been focused on building successful bridges from developmental math, into student’s terminal math courses, then applying those quantitative skills in student’s specific program of study.
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.

Dr. Derrick Tillman-Kelly serves as the Director of the UIA Fellows Program and Network Engagement for the University Innovation Alliance. In this role, he works with the UIA leadership team to advance the UIA’s mission by partnering with member institutions to identify and develop emerging higher education leaders ready to support institutional transformation with the goal of eliminating race/ethnicity, first-generation status, and socioeconomic status as predictors of student success and completion.

Prior to being named director of the UIA Fellows Program, he served in multiple roles at The Ohio State University, including as the inaugural UIA Fellow and special assistant to the director of the Center for Higher Education Enterprise. He also has experience in a variety of functional areas including financial aid, fraternity and sorority life, and first-year programs, to name a few.

He earned his PhD in educational policy and leadership with a specialization in higher education and student affairs from Ohio State. He also earned a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs from Indiana University and a bachelor’s degree from Illinois Wesleyan University.