

Ben Miller

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY EXPERIENCE

Senior Director, Postsecondary Education, Center for American Progress

May 2015 – Present

- Publish research and commentary on student debt, college accountability, Pell Grants, and accreditation, among other issues
- Manage the postsecondary policy team, set strategic goals, and oversee the work of a three-person staff
- Issued reports on student outcomes by national accreditation agency; new data from the College Scorecard data; and the effect of budget caps on Pell Grants
- Work cited or featured in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *ProPublica*, *U.S. News*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and the *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, among others

Higher Education Research Director, Education Policy Program, New America

May 2013 – May 2015

(Senior Policy Analyst from May 2013 to December 2014)

- Conducted research and analysis on a variety of higher education issues, including accreditation, college ratings, quality, gainful employment, student debt, and the earnings of postsecondary programs
- Published papers on improving the gainful employment regulation, the current state of student borrowing, and improving federal grant aid for non-traditional students
- Contributed posts on measuring student learning, college pricing, student loan servicing, and several other issues at EdCentral.org

Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development

Feb. 2011 – May 2013

- Helped develop policy and budget proposals related to higher education completion, student debt and affordability, college accountability and accreditation
- Framed strategic work, drafted Congressional testimony, and provided other forms of research and policy support for the Secretary and senior leadership on college affordability, student debt, and other postsecondary issues
- Guided policy development and competition design for a broad portfolio that covered college completion, STEM, education technology, community colleges, and higher education programs (such as Upward Bound)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Recent Op-Eds

- “Perkins Loan Expiration a Great Chance to Reform Student Aid,” *U.S. News & World Report* (Sept. 2015)
- “The Decision Threatening the Future of For-Profit Colleges,” *Talking Points Memo* (July 2015)
- “How Ending the Two-Tiered Loan System Would Help Struggling Borrowers,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* (May 2015)
- “Corinthian Colleges: The High Cost of Regulatory Neglect,” *Los Angeles Times* (April 2015)
- “Don’t Be Fooled: Red Tape Isn’t to Blame for Runaway College Costs,” *Talking Points Memo* (Feb. 2015)

Up to the Job? Center for American Progress (Sept. 2015)

- Examined student outcomes by national accreditation agency
- Featured in the *Washington Post* and later cited in *ProPublica* and *Inside Higher Ed*

Beyond Access New America (June 2015)

- Analyzed California and Texas data to chart success rates of Hispanic and Latino students following recent increases in enrollment

Myths and Misunderstandings New America (Jan. 2015)

- Co-authored a report that investigated why year-round Pell Grants ended up having such a high expense and what’s wrong with common narratives about the program

Breaking with Tradition New America (July 2014)

- Examined the effectiveness of federal grant programs in serving non-traditional students, including recommendations for rethinking dependency categorization, experimenting with aid delivery, and creating affordability requirements for states and colleges

The Student Debt Review New America (Feb. 2014)

- Analyzed recent U.S. Department of Education survey data to show how the rate of undergraduate borrowing and the amount of money taken out has changed over from 2003 to 2012.

Rethinking the Middleman, New America (July 2009)

- Discussed the history and structure of federal student loan guaranty agencies and why they are flawed
- Published in conjunction with a series about guaranty agencies that raised questions about practices by the guarantor in South Carolina

EDUCATION

Brown University – Providence, RI

B.A., Concentrations in Economics and History

2007