

Mary Alice McCarthy

Mary Alice McCarthy. Mary Alice McCarthy is the Director of the Center on Education and Labor at New America where she leads a team examining the intersection between higher education, workforce development, and job training policies. The Center is dedicated to building learning-based pathways to economic opportunity that can begin inside or outside of formal higher education. Dr. McCarthy's writing has been featured in a diverse set of media outlets including the *Washington Monthly*, *The Atlantic*, *Forbes*, and the *Journal on Community College Research and Practice*. In addition to her research, she participates in a wide variety of public engagement, technical assistance, and coalition-building efforts aimed at improving postsecondary education policy and practice.

Prior to joining New America, Dr. McCarthy worked at both the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor. She led a variety of technical assistance initiatives in the areas career pathways, credentialing, and competency-based education. She co-founded the career pathways interagency working group with staff from the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor that continues to meet and coordinate federal investments in relation to career pathways. She also wrote policy guidance on credentialing and career pathways and supported the Trade Act Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) and Workforce Innovation Fund grant programs, helping design the solicitations and technical assistance activities. Dr. McCarthy also has extensive international experience. She has worked with the OECD's Directorate on Education and Skills on their "Skills Beyond School" series of country studies and authored publications on Peru and Costa Rica. She has a PhD in political science from the University of North Carolina.