Priorities 2020: An Education Policy View from National K-12 Membership Organizations

- Andrea Prejean, Director – Teacher Quality, National Education Association (DC EPFP 05-06)
- Noelle Ellerson Ng, Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance, AASA, The School Superintendents Association (DC EPFP 09-10)
- Leslie Finnan, Director, Policy and Advocacy, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (DC EPFP 14-15)
- Bela Shah Spooner, Program Director, Education and Expanded Learning, National League of Cities (NY EPFP 99-00)
Welcome

Emily Samose
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The Institute for Educational Leadership’s mission is to partner with under-resourced communities to equip leaders to better prepare children, youth, adults, and families for postsecondary education and training, rewarding careers, and civic and community engagement.

The Education Policy Fellowship Program's mission is to engage a diverse and collaborative community of strategic leaders to promote equitable education policy.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
<td>• Framing the Content and Agenda Review&lt;br&gt;• Panelist Introductions</td>
<td>Emily Samose, National EPFP Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 Minutes</td>
<td>Panel Presentations</td>
<td>Presentations by Each Panelist:&lt;br&gt;• Andrea Prejean, National Education Association&lt;br&gt;• Noelle Ellerson Ng, AASA, The School Superintendents Association&lt;br&gt;• Leslie Finnan, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools&lt;br&gt;• Bela Shah Spooner, National League of Cities</td>
<td>Panelists</td>
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<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>Q&amp;A and Discussion Close</td>
<td>• Ask questions of panelists&lt;br&gt;• Offer your own ideas for 2020 education policy priorities&lt;br&gt;• Learn about opportunities to join WPS</td>
<td>Emily Samose</td>
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Today’s Discussion

• Education associations can have a big influence on shaping education policy at the federal, state, and local levels.

• Candidates look to these membership organizations of teachers, administrators, elected officials and other leaders to shape their platforms and the policies they promote.

• Hear from EPFP Alumni representing four of these associations about their education priorities and how they advocate for these priority issues with elected officials and other decision-makers.
Today’s Panelists

Andrea Prejean
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DC EPFP ‘05-’06
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Bela Shah Spooner
Program Director, Education and Expanded Learning
National League of Cities
NY EPFP ‘99-’00
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Our vision is a great public school for every student. Our mission is to advocate for education professionals and to unite our members and the nation to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world.
What guides our work …

- **Priorities**
  - Racial and Social Justice
  - Supporting Early Career Educators
  - ESSA Implementation
  - Professional Excellence

- **Legislative Agenda**
  - High Quality Public Education
  - Supporting Student Success
  - A Voice in the Workplace
  - Good Public Policy

“If an educator isn’t empowered to make suggestions to make things better for their students or their school, nothing will change, nothing will improve.”

“... they also negotiate for the conditions that our children learn in.”
2020 Education Policy Priorities

- "Education Industry"
- Honoring the profession
- Student debt
- Pervasive Systemic and Structural Racism
- Committed to Public Schools
Member Involvement

• List of our Issues and Action
• Our Allies – Senate and House and Governors
• State by State
• Run for Office

• Secretary of Education
• Educator Pay
• Immigration Reform
• IDEA and Title 1
• Racial and Economic Inequality
• Charter Schools
Educators Run for Office

- Candidate
- Communicate
- Campaign Trail
- Fundraising
- Run a Field Operation
- Nuts and Bolts of Running for Office
Noelle Ellerson Ng
Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy

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• AASA Mission: AASA advocates for equitable access for all students to the highest quality public education, and develops and supports school system leaders.

• We are a full service, non-union member organization. In my work, I head up advocacy and governance.

• EPFP remains one of the most effective PD programs completed, and at different times I’ve drawn on all three pillars of the program: content, networking and leadership.
AASA Advocacy Priorities

• IDEA Full Funding
• Top issues we are working on now?
  • Vaping
  • Categorical Eligibility
  • Secure Rural Schools
  • Annual Appropriations
  • Medicaid in Schools
  • And more
AASA Advocacy in Action

• We have a coalition for Every. Single. Issue. we work.
• We provide advocacy staffing/support for AESA, ASBO, NREA/C, CCSESA and ALAS.
• Our policy priorities do not shift dramatically, both due to the pragmatism of our members and the glacial pace of federal policy.
• We do ZERO state level work.
• We do not engage directly with elections, but we do make sure our positions are widely available on Capitol Hill.
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

Leslie Finnan,
Director, Policy & Advocacy
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools


Mission:
- Educate Congress and the Administration on Impact Aid
- Provide technical assistance to school districts & Congress
- Coordinate with the House & Senate Impact Aid Coalitions
- Serve as an umbrella organization for four subgroups
NAFIS Membership

- Federally impacted school districts
  - 400+ members
- Our contacts within the districts
  - Superintendents
  - School Business Officials
  - School Board Members
- What are federally impacted school districts
  - Mostly military installations, native American reservations
  - Also federal lands – national parks, grasslands, dams, reservoirs, etc.
Important Facts on Impact Aid

- Paid directly to the district
- Not forward funded
- Meant to supplant – not supplement
- No strings attached (except for two sections)
- May be used for any lawful purpose – used as general operating funds
- May use these funds where they benefit ALL students the most, not just federally impacted children
NAFIS Policy Issues for 2020

- **Strengthen and support Impact Aid**
  - Appropriations
    - Extremely underfunded – would take over $800 million to fully fund
  - Infrastructure
    - Federally impacted schools have unique challenges
    - We have bills in the House and (soon) Senate to provide infusions of funds through an infrastructure package
- **Protect the program**
  - Every recent president has zeroed out one piece of the program
NAFIS and the Education Community

- Work with many coalitions to support broad education funding
- Rely on other organizations to help protect the program when necessary
- Remain issue-focused, but work to support public education
Impact Aid Advocacy

- Enthusiastic NAFIS membership
  - For many, Impact Aid funding is the only way they keep their doors open
- Two conferences a year in DC
- Calls to action – rely on our members to tell their stories
- We are the experts on Impact Aid
  - Congressional staff rely on us to inform their policy making
Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) webinar
Priorities 2020: An Education Policy View from National K-12 Membership Organizations
January 23, 2020
Bela Shah Spooner, Program Director, Education and Expanded Learning
Mission

To strengthen and promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance

Working in partnership with 49 state municipal leagues and serves as resource to and advocate for >19,000 cities, villages and towns
Helping city leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth and families in their communities
The Ten C’s of Mayoral Leadership

- Catalyst
- Champion
- Commander in Chief
- Convener/Community Organizer
- Coordinator
- Common ground setter
- Collaborator
- Conviner
- Commits resources
- Creates visibility
- Carrots – offers incentives
Current Education Priorities

- Creating coordinated citywide systems of afterschool and summer learning
- Educating city officials about federal legislations on education issues
- Building mayoral champions for afterschool, summer learning, and community schools
- Addressing Basic Needs to Support College Completion
- Postsecondary and Workforce Alignment

Partners: Afterschool Alliance, National Summer Learning Association, Coalition for Community Schools, National Afterschool Association, American Federation of Teachers, Excelencia in Education, Achieving the Dream, Policy Link, LinkedIn, foundations, etc.
Economic Development has been the #1 priority for mayors six years in a row.

Education dropped several levels.

NLC State of the Cities 2019 Report
Messaging is Key

Issues may remain consistent over time, but how you message them matters.

Quality Afterschool = Increased Academic achievement + Public Safety

Quality Afterschool and Summer Learning Experiences = Increased SEL and Workforce skills + preparedness for Workforce = Stronger Talent Pipeline = Stronger economy
NLC’s Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda

**Shared Values:** RESPECT, PARTNERSHIP, INCLUSION, ACCOUNTABILITY

**Shared Commitment to:**

- Building Sustainable Infrastructure
- Creating a Skilled Workforce
- End Housing Instability and Homelessness
- Reducing Gun Violence
Bela Shah Spooner
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Questions & Discussion
Join Us at WPS 2020!

Promoting Civil Discourse in An Era of Political Polarization

Objectives:
• Build capacity of Fellows to take action
• Provide an insider’s view of Washington
• Develop a toolbox of skills on how to navigate policy changes, political polarization and understand political theater

• March 22-25, Washington, DC
• Limited # of Alumni Registrations available
• Expect to receive an email with info very soon!

IEL Institute for Educational Leadership
EPFP Policy Leadership Networking
Thank you!