

The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

The Higher Education Act is a major education policy up for reauthorization. What issues dominate the policy debates? What is the role of the federal government in creating access and affordability in higher education? Join the discussion on the pressing issues facing both traditional and nontraditional students, emerging innovations in post-secondary systems, and future directions for higher education policy.

Speakers: **Wil Del Pilar**, The Education Trust; **Amanda Janice Roberson**, Institute for Higher Education Policy; **Don Yu**, The Common Application

Wil Del Pilar

Vice President, Higher Education Practice
The Education Trust



"Wil Del Pilar vice president of higher education at the Education Trust where he works to advance Ed Trust's higher education advocacy agenda by developing and implementing strategies to leverage research, policy, and practice to improve accountability, affordability and student success for low-income students and students of color. Wil has experience at both federal, state and institutional levels. Most recently, he served as deputy secretary of postsecondary and higher education for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, where he implemented the strategic vision for higher education in the commonwealth. Prior to that, he led development activities at the University of Florida and Pennsylvania State University. Del Pilar has also served in admissions roles at Chapman University in Orange, California, and the University of California Santa Cruz, as a financial aid counselor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and as a research assistant at The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Del Pilar's work in higher education has shaped his research interest which focuses on postsecondary access and success. Specifically, his interest centers upon the intersection between policy, social capital and school factors on the postsecondary enrollment of underserved student populations. Del Pilar earned a Ph.D. in higher education/higher education administration from The Pennsylvania State University, a master's degree from California State University-Dominguez Hills, and a bachelor's degree from Chapman University."

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Resource 1 : <https://edtrust.org/equity-lens-a-blog-for-higher-ed-wonks/>

Amanda Janice Roberson

Director of Policy Research

Institute for Higher Education Policy

Amanda Janice Roberson is the director of policy research at the Institute for Higher



Education Policy (IHEP), where she manages projects for the policy research team. Much of Amanda's work centers on postsecondary data, metrics and infrastructure, including contributions to the postsecondary metrics framework and designs for a federal student-level data network. Her research interests include: using data to inform policy and practice; advocacy that advances equity in higher education; college access, affordability, and success; and federal and state policy.

Prior to joining IHEP, Amanda served as the assistant director for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, managing the scholarship program, guiding students through college financial aid processes, and tracking outcomes of program participants.

This position sparked an interest in and passion for college access and success for low-income and underserved students. In graduate school, she was a research assistant for a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant, providing technical assistance to communities in Appalachian Ohio.

Amanda earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the George V. Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University, with a focus on nonprofit management and economic development. She previously graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Don Yu
COO, Reach Higher
Common Application



Don serves as Reach Higher's Chief Operating Officer and Senior Director of Access and Equity at Common App. In this role, he oversees the development of Reach Higher's budget, strategy and development. Prior to joining Reach Higher, Don served in several different roles as an appointee in the Administration of President Barack Obama, including as Chief Transformation Officer for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education and as special advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. He is a former teacher and school district attorney. Don received his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University and a J.D. from

Northwestern University.