

**1:15-2:00 pm**

## **PLENARY: FEDERAL FUNDING AND BUDGET**

Education funding is only two percent of the federal budget, yet it has a big impact on states, districts, and other education institutions, PK-16. Understand the federal budget process, influences on federal budget decisions, and the budgetary implications for education policy.

**Speaker:** [Danica Petroshius](#), *Principal*, PennHill Group

**Danica Petroshius**  
**Principal**  
**PennHill Group**



"Danica Petroshius brings more than 20 years of experience in public policy, advocacy, management, strategic consulting and communications to Penn Hill Group. She works with national, State and local organizations to develop, refine and implement policy and advocacy strategies. She also consults with foundations and other leading national organizations to plan meetings, leveraging her skills in facilitation, design thinking, strategic planning and advocacy training. Her keen strategic abilities help organizations prioritize efforts and maximize results. She focuses on a wide range of policy issues including early education, K-12 education, higher education, workforce and other related issues.

Before helping to build Penn Hill Group, Petroshius was founder of Policy Strategies and Solutions, where she worked with clients to achieve their policy and advocacy goals. Prior to that, Petroshius served in the office of the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy for 10 years, including two years as Kennedy's chief of staff. As deputy staff director on the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Petroshius coordinated policy, hearings and markups; managed budget and appropriations strategies; and supported the committee's overall strategic agenda. As chief education adviser, she played key roles in the reauthorizations of major Federal education laws, including reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Petroshius' experience in the legislative branch is complemented by her work in the executive branch. At the U.S. Department of Education, she supported the 1994 reauthorization and implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including working on issues relating to English learners and the development of state content and performance standards.

Petroshius also served as senior vice president at Collaborative Communications Group, where she focused on education reform and worked on behalf of diverse clients to reach decision makers and affect change in public policy. She launched her government service career as a VISTA volunteer in Austin, Texas.

Petroshius holds a master's degree in education policy from Stanford University and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from the University of Notre Dame. Petroshius has two certificates in design thinking from IDEO U."

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