

Rural Education, A National View

The ninth edition of *Why Rural Matters* shows that one out of every five public school students across the US is enrolled in rural schools. The report also uses five gauges to describe the condition of rural education in each state. Rural communities across our states have unique strengths and challenges. Whether local, state, and national policies recognize those strengths and challenges is inconsistent. Learn about rural education policy from experts who will speak to the particular needs of rural schools and students and what federal and state policies are emerging in support of rural education.

Speakers: **Michael Chamberlain**, U.S. Department of Education; **Rache**, College Access Strategies/Public School Initiative; **Bryan Padilla**, Undergraduate Association at MIT; **Christian Rogers**, *Policy Analyst*, AASA; **Devon Brenner**, Mississippi State University (moderator)

Devon Brenner (MS EPFP Coordinator)

Sp. Assist to the Vice President of Education Initiatives Office of Research and Economic Development

Mississippi State University



Devon Brenner is co-coordinator of the Mississippi EPFP program and serves as coordinator of education and research initiatives in the Office of Research and Economic Development at Mississippi State University. She has served as head of the teacher education department and served one year as an education fellow in the office of U.S. Senator Thad Cochran. Her research explores rural education policy and rural teacher recruitment and retention.

Email: ms.epfp@gmail.com

Twitter: @MSEFPF

- Resource 1 : <https://www.jhseonline.com/index.php/ruraled/article/view/271>
- Resource 2 : ruraleducator.info
- Resource 3 : <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1225860.pdf>

Michael Chamberlain

Special Assistant for Rural Outreach

U.S. Department of Education



"Michael Chamberlain is Special Assistant for Rural Outreach in the U.S. Department of Education. Chamberlain coordinates outreach efforts across the Department that focus on serving rural communities. He disseminates information about the Department, its initiatives, policies and programs with these stakeholders and also collects information from these stakeholders to keep the Department abreast of rural education issues.

In addition, Chamberlain coordinates interactions between rural stakeholders and offices within the Department who can address issues and concerns involving rural education. He spearheaded the work on the Department's Rural Report, published in the fall of 2018, was the lead of the Department's working group efforts on the Administration's Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Task Force, heads the Department's Intra-agency Rural Work Group and represents the Department on the Rural Opioid Interagency Working Group. He also oversees the Department's monthly rural education newsletter, the Education Almanac."

Email: michael.chamberlain@ed.gov

Twitter: @usedgov

Resource 1 : <https://www.ed.gov/>

Resource 2 : <https://www.ed.gov/rural-education>

Resource 3: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/rural/rural-education-report.pdf>

Rachel Fried
IEL Board Director
Partner
College Access Strategies/Public School Initiative



Rachel Fried is a social justice educator whose work has taken her from rural Appalachian and Native American communities to urban areas on both coasts. Since graduating from Columbia University, the majority of her career has been devoted to creating comprehensive college and career readiness strategies focused on access and attainment for underserved students. Rachel's work has included multiple positions in K-12 senior administration, direct service college access counseling in a number of states, and development of culturally relevant k-12 curricula. Rachel also has extensive experience in undergraduate admissions for Ivy League, large public, and selective liberal arts colleges/universities. As a board member for several prominent national education organizations, she advises on topics ranging from strategic diversity plans to rural outreach initiatives and school counselor engagement. Rachel believes firmly that true educational equity exists when all students get to choose for themselves from all postsecondary options.

Email: rachelhaud@gmail.com

Bryan Padilla
Student and Committee Member
Undergraduate Association at MIT



Bryan Padilla is a sophomore at MIT where he is pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Public Policy. His passions lie in the defense industry, public service, public policy, education, and ensuring the welfare of children and adults from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. He aims to work every day to address and unite these passions for the betterment of the United States and the world as a whole, giving back to the people, communities, and organizations that have uplifted him from humble beginnings as a Latino in Northern Kentucky.

Christian Rogers (EPFP '19-20 Fellow)
Policy Analyst
AASA



Christian Rogers began working at AASA in March as a policy analyst, a wide-ranging job that supports the association's policy and advocacy efforts, oversees member surveys, serves as liaison to the state lobbying network and supports the AASA Executive Committee and Governing Board.

A recent graduate of George Washington University with a master's in public policy, he earned his bachelor's degree in 2017 in educational assessment, evaluation and re-search at the University of Virginia.