

Exploring New Models for Strategic Alliances in Higher Education
University Executive Lunch Briefing

April 30, 2018

Speaker Biographies

Dan Bonnette



Dan Bonnette is a partner at RSM and a government, nonprofit and higher education specialist with more than 23 years of experience. He leads the Boston Not-For-Profit/Public Sector Industry team. He has managed the audits of numerous public-sector, nonprofit and higher education organizations, both locally and internationally, and has provided technical assistance on accounting and financial reporting issues to these organizations.

Prior to joining RSM, Bonnette spent 18 years at Deloitte & Touche, LLP where, in addition to his client service responsibilities, he served as the national public sector learning leader. In that role, he was responsible for developing the Yellow Book training curriculum for all Deloitte professionals serving government, nonprofit and higher education clients.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross.

Michele DiVito



Michele DiVito is senior director of assurance services at RSM. She works with nonprofit clients in the education, private school, human service provider and healthcare sectors, including those subject to the Uniform Grant Guidance. Her nearly 18 years of experience includes financial consulting, analysis and planning of strategies to improve operating efficiencies and profitability. In addition, she consults with clients concerning budgets, operations, compliance and other management issues.

DiVito has presented for the National Business Officers Association on the new nonprofit financial reporting standard and on various topics including, proper use of endowment funds, fair value measurements, internal control best practices and communication internal control matters identified in an audit, how to read nonprofit financial statements, navigating through allowable cost principles and charitable gift annuities. She is also a trainer for RSM staff.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Merrimack College.

Samantha Fisher



Samantha Fisher is a vice president in EY-Parthenon's education practice, with a focus on higher education within the U.S. She has over 15 years of experience in management and strategy consulting on projects located across more than 20 countries. Fisher has worked across the spectrum of education, from nonprofit to for-profit, private to public, small to large, and at all ranges of selectivity. She helps leaders of these organizations advance their mission outcomes with the help of improved strategies and operations.

Her areas of focus include strategic planning, market entry and growth, operating model design and transformation, performance management and stakeholder management. She has done research into the state of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in the higher education market, and has helped multiple institutions in their pursuits of M&A.

She holds a bachelor's degree in economics and international business from Brandeis University and an MBA from INSEAD.

Michael Goldstein



Mike Goldstein has been a pioneer in the development of new and more effective approaches to education in general and eLearning in particular through the creation of innovative approaches to combining the resources and interests of the various sectors of the education, technology, financial and governmental communities. He leads a group of more than 20 lawyers and professionals with decades of experience in serving a wide range of clients, including public, independent and for-profit institutions and the organizations, service providers, enablers and the financial entities that work with them to make education at all levels faster, better and cheaper.

Goldstein has served on numerous panels on a wide variety of education issues, ranging from the UNESCO Task Force on Degree Mills to the Design Team for Western Governors University and the Project on Assessing Long-Distance Learning via Telecommunications, which set the stage for the State Authorization Reciprocity Act. He has long served as general counsel to the American Association of Community Colleges as well as general counsel to other higher education organizations, including the State Higher Education Executive Officers and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. He was founding director of the New York City Urban Corps, assistant city administrator and director of university relations in the New York City mayor's office, and associate vice chancellor for urban and governmental affairs and associate professor of urban sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Goldstein holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a law degree from New York University.

Richard Hisey



Richard "Mac" Hisey is senior vice president of administration and finance and chief financial officer of Berklee College of Music. He serves as the chief business officer of the college, with overall responsibility for operations, finance and administration, including: accounting and finance; legal and compliance; human resources, diversity and inclusion; real estate and facilities; campus safety and security; procurement and vendor management; risk management; and investment management of the college's endowment and pension plan.

Hisey has more than 30 years of experience in both for-profit and nonprofit organizations, spanning banking, insurance, investment management and higher education in a number of senior business, operational, financial and administrative roles, including chief investment officer and chief financial officer. He chairs the board of the Boston Consortium for Higher Education. Hisey is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and member of the CFA Institute and the Boston Society of Security Analysts.

He holds a bachelor's degree with distinction in Soviet and East European Studies and an MBA from the University of Connecticut.

Michael Horowitz



With a 30-year career as an innovator in higher education, Michael Horowitz is a nationally recognized strategic leader. Having served numerous roles as faculty member, administrator and entrepreneur, he was inspired in 2009 to forge a new path in higher education that leads to improved student outcomes and better communities around the world. As a result, he founded TCS Education System, a nonprofit system advancing student success and community impact. The colleges and universities within TCS include The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Pacific Oaks College & Children's School, Dallas Nursing Institute, The Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law, and Saybrook University—each offering an array of national on-ground and online programs.

Under Horowitz's guidance as TCS President, the system provides operational support to these institutions, allowing them to collectively educate more than 7,000 students each year, maintain the relationships they hold with more than 27,000 collective alumni, and link to more than 20 international academic partners. Horowitz volunteers his expertise to the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) as an accreditation visiting team member.

He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Columbia University and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Northwestern University.

Margaret McKenna



Margaret A McKenna is president emeritus of Lesley University, a lawyer and expert in educational opportunity, civic engagement and philanthropy. From 1985 to 2007, McKenna, led Lesley from a small regional college to a nationally recognized university with one of the leading teacher-training programs in the country. During her tenure, Lesley acquired the Art Institute of Boston, the Audubon Expedition Program and began partnership with the Episcopal Divinity School. The Student Center and a Chair in Leadership and Social Change were named to recognize her contributions.

McKenna joined Lesley from Radcliffe College, Harvard University, where she served as director of the Bunting Institute and vice president. Prior to Radcliffe, she served as White House deputy counsel and deputy under secretary of education. She started her career as a civil rights lawyer in the United States Department of Justice. From 2007 to 2011, McKenna served as president of the Walmart Foundation, the largest corporate foundation in the U.S.

She is currently a professor of practice at Tisch College.

Eric Norman



Eric Norman is vice president of finance and chief financial officer at Saint Anselm College. He has almost three decades of experience in the field, including nearly 10 years as a CPA at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP, in Hartford, Conn. He has also held leadership positions as chief financial officer at various institutions including the Taft School in Connecticut, the University of New Hampshire School of Law and the Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music.

Norman has been a lead participant in two different merger transactions involving higher educational institutions, as well as a spinoff investment management company, consistently advocating for the benefits and efficiencies gained from effective business combinations.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Connecticut State University and an MBA from the University of Connecticut.

Michael K. Thomas



Michael K. Thomas is president and chief executive officer of the New England Board of Higher Education. He works extensively on higher education issues with governors, state legislators, K-12 commissioners, state higher education commissioners, college presidents/chancellors and other business, education and government leaders.

Thomas joined NEBHE in 2002 as director of policy and research and subsequently served as senior director and senior vice president. He has worked in corporate training and human resources and has held administrative positions at both public and independent higher education institutions, including executive assistant to the president at Lesley University.

In 2008, Thomas was selected as a Millennium Leadership Initiative Fellow by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), recognizing the next generation of America's higher education leadership. He serves as a senior fellow at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Brigham Young University and master's degrees in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University and Harvard University, as well as a master of business administration from Boston University and a doctorate in education and social policy from Harvard.