Talent 4.0: 
How Employable Are New England’s College Graduates 
and What Can Higher Education Do About It?

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Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Speaker and Panelist Biographies

Julian L. Alssid

Julian L. Alssid is chief workforce strategist at College for America (CfA) at Southern New Hampshire University.

Alssid oversees CfA’s Signature Initiatives—partnerships with large intermediaries and employers that expand the scope and scale of CfA as a competency-based solution for higher education.

Prior to joining CfA, Al ssid founded and directed Workforce Strategy Center where he advised more than 20 states on workforce policy and established himself as a leader in promoting effective, practical solutions for implementing talent development strategies.

He has held senior positions in education and workforce development at the New York City Partnership and Chamber of Commerce, LaGuardia Community College and the Office of the Mayor of New York City.

He has authored major studies on workforce strategy. His views on engaging employers, online education, and addressing the skills gap have received extensive attention in national and local media. He speaks and writes regularly on the need for policy and educational reform in the field and is a regular blogger for Huffington Post.

Stephen Barkanic

Stephen Barkanic is senior vice president and chief program officer with the Business Higher Education Forum (BHEF).

Barkanic provides overall leadership for BHEF’s National Higher Education and Workforce Initiative aimed at bridging industry and higher education to increase the persistence and diversity of students who go on to earn degrees or credentials in key emerging fields, and align undergraduate education with workforce needs. He also leads BHEF’s work in Deeper Learning, or 21st century workforce skills and competencies that focuses on the business need for such skills as critical thinking, creative problem solving, and teamwork in the workforce of the future, and advocating for the importance of those skills on a national level.

Prior to joining BHEF, Barkanic was senior program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where his work encompassed an array of policy and programmatic areas focused on improving student readiness and success in college. At the Gates Foundation, his responsibilities included managing grants portfolios in STEM education, early college high schools, and initiatives linking public and private stakeholders in local and statewide education reform.
He is former director of undergraduate science education and grants management at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, where he led the design and implementation of grants programs in STEM higher education, particularly in the biological sciences. A major focus of these programs, which included the HHMI Professors, the Exceptional Research Opportunities Program, and multifaceted awards to research universities, colleges, and minority-serving institutions, was to help bring the creativity and rigor of research into undergraduate teaching and support hands-on laboratory research experiences for students. He was also program officer and director of grants management at the Charles A. Dana Foundation, which included managing a national grants program in support of liberal arts education, and served as a consultant to the Ford Foundation and other organizations, and as a teacher at the Istanbul International Community School in Turkey.

Barkanic has served as chair of Grantmakers for Education, a national philanthropic affinity group; was a member of the CBE-Life Sciences Education editorial board, and was a member of the Maryland Governor’s STEM Task Force.

He holds degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and Stanford University.

**John Beauregard**

John Beauregard is president and CEO of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), the oversight body recognized under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the coordination of workforce development services in the 41-town Eastern Connecticut region.

Beauregard has a 20-plus year record of executive-level leadership in the workforce policy arena. Under his guidance, Eastern Connecticut has become recognized as a national leader in technologically progressive workforce investment strategies.

Recently, Eastern Connecticut received a $6 million Workforce Innovation Fund grant to design, develop and implement an EWIB-led Eastern Connecticut Manufacturing Pipeline Training Initiative, a partnership with the Connecticut Department of Labor, the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics and the 56 companies in the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance.

Beauregard has been designated to lead Connecticut’s $2 million STEM Careers Partnership grant, one of only five grants awarded in the country. EWIB’s workforce strategies have also resulted in recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor for designation as a Regional Innovation Tri-State Grantee.

**Susan Brennan**

Susan Brennan is Bentley University's associate vice president of university career services. Brennan has over 20 years of experience managing career development and employer outreach programs in business higher education. She provides strategic direction to university-wide career services functions including: undergraduate, graduate, alumni, recruiting, employer relations, marketing and career education.

Under her leadership, Bentley’s placement surveys have revealed that 98% undergraduates have employment or graduate school plans within six months of graduation.

Prior to joining Bentley in 2003, Brennan served at the Arthur D. Little School of Management (now Hult International Business School), the Hay Group, Columbia University and the Children’s Museum.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a master’s of education from Harvard University and an MBA from Babson College.
Patricia Brewer

Patricia Brewer is Midwest regional liaison for the American Council on Education, focusing on credit for prior learning and degree-completion strategies for adult students and the institutions that serve them.

She has been a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission since 1999, has served as a participant-researcher with the Ohio-based Kettering Foundation, and is past-president of the Adult Higher Education Alliance.

She holds a doctorate in education from Columbia University with an emphasis on adult and continuing education.

Susan Buck

Susan Buck is a programmer, designer and educator who is currently a lab instructor in computer science at Wellesley College and teaches dynamic web applications at the Harvard Extension School.

Buck has more than 15 years of web development experience, starting with her education in digital media at New York University’s Interactive Telecommunication Program and the University of North Carolina Asheville’s Multimedia Arts and Sciences program.

Buck co-founded the Women’s Coding Collective, which aims to cultivate supportive, no-stupid-questions environments where women can learn, build and code together.

Brandon Busteed

Brandon Busteed is a partner at Gallup and executive director of education and workforce development. His work integrates Gallup’s research on talent, strengths, engagement and well-being to improve student success, teacher effectiveness and educational outcomes.

With Busteed’s leadership, Gallup Education has released groundbreaking studies, including *State of America’s Schools: The Path to Winning Again in Education*, which explores student and teacher engagement in public schools, and *Great Jobs, Great Lives: The 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index Report*, a comprehensive study of U.S. college graduates that focuses on their long-term outcomes in work and life.

In addition to his work at Gallup, Busteed has founded two companies and one nonprofit organization as a social entrepreneur. His Outside The Classroom pioneered adaptive online education in alcohol abuse prevention.


Busteed holds a bachelor’s degree in public policy from Duke University. He is a trustee emeritus of Duke and has served on the board of visitors of the Sanford School of Public Policy.
Ronald G. Cantor

Ronald G. Cantor has been president of Southern Maine Community College since 2011. With 40 degree and certificate programs, SMCC serves 6,000 students on two full-service campuses plus 10 satellite sites and online. It is Maine’s largest, oldest and most diverse community college as well as the second largest undergraduate institution in the state.

Cantor is active with numerous community organizations and initiatives committed to student success, economic and cultural development, healthcare and history.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in administration from the University of New Hampshire’s Whittemore School of Business and Economics, a master’s in educational administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a doctorate cultural foundations of education/history from Syracuse University.

Frederick Clark Jr.

Frederick Clark Jr became the 12th president of Bridgewater State University in 2015.

During the first year of his presidency, Clark has identified three critical priorities: making the university a nationally recognized leader in student success; addressing the needs of adult learners in southeastern Massachusetts; and growing the university’s endowment.

He worked for 18 years for the late U.S. Congressman Joe Moakley of Massachusetts, serving as his district director, legal counsel and Washington liaison officer. Following Moakley’s passing, Clark worked as the executive officer of the Council of Presidents of the Massachusetts State University System, where he played a leading role in securing university status for the system.

As an aide to Moakley, Clark was instrumental in securing a $10 million federal appropriation in 1991 to build what is now the Moakley Center for Technological Applications on campus. He also served as chairman of the Bridgewater State College Board of Trustees and co-chaired the university’s first major fundraising campaign. From 2011 to June 30, 2015, he was executive vice president and vice president of external affairs responsible for a range of regional, state, national and international programs and initiatives.

He also was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to serve as chair of the state Board of Higher Education.

Clark holds a bachelor’s degree from then-Bridgewater State College and a law degree from Suffolk University.

Marjorie Cohen

Marjorie Cohen is a senior policy analyst in the Education Division of the National Governors Association (NGA) Center on Best Practices, where she works on postsecondary access and success issues. Cohen serves as an advisor to senior state officials, focusing on connecting education to the workforce, competency-based education, career and technical education and high school reform.

Prior to joining NGA, Cohen was a principal associate for education at the National League of Cities (NLC), where she advised mayors and their senior staff members on K-12 and higher education policies and strategies for increasing their city’s attainment rate. Prior to her tenure at NLC, she was a research associate at Policy Studies Associates, where she conducted third-party evaluations on a number of education initiatives across the country.

Cohen holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Davis, and a master’s in public policy from Georgetown University.
Christine Yip Cruzvergara

Christine Yip Cruzvergara is associate provost and executive director for career education at Wellesley College, where her charge to build a comprehensive career model that engages the entire college ecosystem and lead the college’s effort to empower the next generation of women leaders. In this newly developed role, she has oversight of career services, internships, fellowships & scholarships and community engagement. She has a reputation of being a creative problem-solver and enjoys the challenge of leading a team to drive change.

Prior to joining Wellesley, Cruzvergara served as assistant dean and executive director at George Mason University, where she led an office of 20+ professionals to re-envision career education. She has previously worked in career services at Georgetown University and in new student orientation and student activities at the George Washington University.

Cruzvergara has been elected to serve a two-year term on the board of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). She recently concluded her service as co-chair for the NACE Career Readiness Strategic Initiative Committee and chair for the American College Personnel Association Commission for Career Services.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from James Madison University and a master’s in college student personnel from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Andrea Dine

Andrea Dine is the Executive Director of the Hiatt Career Center at Brandeis University. At Brandeis, she is leading the evolution of the career center, bringing communities of students, employers, alumni, faculty and parents together for purposeful career education and engagement.

Dine is experienced in and passionate about organizational change, strategic planning, technology integration and assessment. She has led career-focused initiatives across the higher education sector spectrum at public and private institutions that have ranged in size from under 1,000 to over 33,000 students.

Dine holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a master’s in higher education administration with a specialization in student affairs from the University of Connecticut.

Philip DiSalvio

Philip DiSalvio is dean of the College of Advancing and Professional Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

As dean, DiSalvio leads efforts in developing retention and student success strategies for learners and is a strong advocate for teaching and learning innovation, improvement of student learning outcomes and new and innovative ways for learners to advance their professional careers.

DiSalvio writes extensively on the structural changes and challenges facing higher education. His recent contributions include a series of articles on the transformations occurring in higher education in *The New England Journal of Higher Education (NEJHE)*. He continues to author a series of interviews and commentaries with key visionaries examining emerging higher education issues for *NEJHE* in the New Directions in Higher Education interview series.

DiSalvio’s work also includes publications and presentations at academic professional organizations on the transformations occurring in higher education today, adaptation and strategies related to organizational sustainability and student success.
He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston, a master’s from Northeastern University, a doctorate in education from Harvard University Graduate School of Education in Administration, Planning and Social Policy and a postdoctoral Robert Wood Johnson Faculty Fellowship in Health Policy and Management from Johns Hopkins University.

**Glenn DuBois**

Glenn DuBois is the second longest-serving chancellor of Virginia’s Community Colleges System (VCCS), a system of 23 colleges and 40 campuses that serves nearly 400,000 people a year.

DuBois has been working in community college education for more than 30 years. Since being hired by the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges in 2001, he has led the VCCS through two successful strategic plans, and now into a third called Complete 2021, all while enduring a roller coaster ride of unprecedented enrollment growth periods and unprecedented cuts in state funding.

During DuBois’s tenure, Virginia’s Community Colleges have: signed groundbreaking guaranteed transfer agreements with more than 30 public and private universities; become Virginia’s leading provider of workforce development services; helped Virginia close headline-grabbing economic development deals; diversified community college funding sources, re-launching a statewide foundation and doubling foundation-led private fundraising; and maintained a tuition rate that is one-third of the comparable rate at Virginia’s universities.

Prior to going to Virginia, DuBois was commissioner and CEO of the New Hampshire Community Technical College System, as well as director of community colleges for the State University of New York—one of America’s largest networks of community colleges.

DuBois holds an associate degree in police science from the State University of New York in Farmingdale, a bachelor’s in criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University, a master’s in juvenile justice and criminology from Eastern Kentucky University and a doctorate in higher education administration, research and policy from the University of Massachusetts.

**Nick Ducoff**

Nick Ducoff is vice president of new ventures at Northeastern University, where he leads a team to incubate new business ideas, diversify revenue streams and advance a new model of higher education.

Ducoff’s team developed the Experiential Network which is being scaled by the university to expand on its classic co-op model, and is now growing Level, a data analytics bootcamp in Boston, Silicon Valley, Seattle, Charlotte and online.

Previously, Ducoff was an executive at two venture-backed companies. He served as vice president for content & operations at Boundless, which was acquired by Valore in 2015, and as founding CEO at Infochimps, which was acquired by CSC in 2013. Ducoff was a venture capital attorney at a leading international law firm, where he represented companies and investors in over 25 financings raising an aggregate of over $250 million.

Ducoff is a Techstars mentor, venture investor and startup advisor to companies including Panorama Education and Shearwater.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in business from Emory University and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.
Maureen Dumas has been vice president of experiential education & career services at Johnson & Wales University since 2009.

She is a member of the university’s senior management team and oversees internships for the university system serving more than 3,900 students annually. She is also responsible for the content and delivery of all career courses for Johnson & Wales.

Throughout her career, Dumas has served on numerous committees and task forces related to the issues of higher education. She currently serves on the board of WACE, Advancing Cooperative & Work Integrated Education and as a faculty member for their Assessment Institute. She is certified by the National Society of Experiential Education and is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Dumas holds a bachelor’s degree in English from of Saint Anselm College and a master’s in human resource management from Boston University. She is currently a doctoral student at Northeastern University.

Maria Flynn is a senior vice president at Jobs for the Future (JFF), leading JFF’s Building Economic Opportunity Group, which works to help entry-level adults advance to family-supporting careers while enabling employers to build and sustain a productive workforce.

Flynn also leads JFF’s federal policy and advocacy strategies, which are focused on advancing the educational needs of untrained Americans and developing a skilled workforce. She is a leading expert on issues like career pathways, employer engagement, sector strategies and place-based initiatives. Her team provides technical assistance, coaching, documentation, labor market analysis, and evaluation support to a wide range of projects supported by public and private funders.

Flynn has 25 years of experience in the workforce development field. Prior to joining JFF in 2007, she was a member of the federal government’s Senior Executive Service and was the administrator of the Office of Policy Development and Research in the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. In that role, she oversaw development of employment and training policies, managed the agency’s research and evaluation strategy, and supported agency budget and appropriations activities.

Flynn also coordinated the agency’s legislative, regulatory and international affairs agendas and outreach to philanthropic organizations. Within the Employment and Training Administration, Flynn previously led the Division of One-Stop Operations, where she developed the policy and technical assistance framework necessary to enable states and local communities to establish comprehensive one-stop delivery systems designed to provide quality services to jobseekers, workers and employers. She also served as team leader for the interagency policy group charged with implementing the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. In the 1990s, Flynn played key roles in the National School-to-Work initiative and in the launch of the Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills initiative.

Flynn holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations and economics from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia and a master’s in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania.
Jeff Forbes is an associate professor of the practice of computer science and an associate dean of Trinity College of Arts & Sciences at Duke University. His research interests include computer science education, social information processing and learning analytics.

Forbes is responsible for interpreting and applying the policies of the college and monitoring students' progress toward graduation. As director of the Office of Curriculum & Course Development, he monitors and promotes the ongoing process of curriculum development in arts and sciences with regard to general education, education in the major and interdisciplinary studies.

Forbes is involved with a number of efforts to improve and broaden access to computer science education. From 2011 to 2014, he served as a program director for the Education & Workforce program in the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering, managing programs that address the critical and complex issues of education and broadening participation in computing. He currently serves as chair of the Association for Computing Machinery's Education Policy Committee (EPC). The EPC works to ensure that high-quality computer science education is identified as a critical component of education policy. In addition, he serves on a number of other committees including the board of advisors for the Center for Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Computing and the CS for All Steering Committee.

He holds bachelor's degree in computer science from Stanford University a doctorate in computer science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Ross Gittell is chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire.

Gittell’s career has been in higher education administration, research and teaching with a focus on advancing economic opportunity and economic competitiveness. His areas of specialization include community and state economic development and workforce education and training.

Prior to becoming chancellor in February 2012, Gittell was the James R. Carter Professor at the University of New Hampshire’s Whittemore School of Business and Economics and taught at the New School of Social Research and Harvard University. He is the author of four books and over 200 articles.

He serves as chair of New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan’s STEM K-12 Education Task Force and is chair of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges. In addition, he is vice president of the New England Economic Partnership and serves on the boards of the NH Charitable Foundation, the New England Board of Higher Education, Exeter Hospital and Exeter Trust Company.

Gittell holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Chicago, a master’s of business administration from the University of California, Berkeley and a doctorate from Harvard University.

Larry Good is chair and co-founder and senior fellow at the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW).

Good is a leader in designing and implementing transformative workforce development change strategies that result in scalable results. He currently is co-leading Connecting Credentials, working in partnership with Lumina Foundation to conduct a national dialogue and actionable change to connect the dots among degrees, certificates, industry certifications and other credentials.

Prior to becoming CSW’s chair in 2006, he co-founded CSW in 1991 and served as its president and CEO from 1991 to 2005.
Michael Goodman

Michael Goodman is professor of public policy, executive director of the Public Policy Center, and acting chair of the Department of Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

An interdisciplinary applied public policy research and technical assistance provider, the Public Policy Center seeks to inform evidence-based policymaking at the state, regional and local level through collaborative engagements with public, private and nonprofit partners.

Goodman joined the faculty at UMass Dartmouth in 2009 after serving for eight years as the director of economic and public policy research at the UMass Donahue Institute. Between 2009 and 2014 he served as chair of the Department of Public Policy and the Graduate Program Director of the Master of Public Policy program.

A leading analyst of the Massachusetts economy, he has authored or co-authored more than 50 professional publications on a wide range of public policy issues including regional economic development and housing policy as well as demographic and other applied social science research topics. He has supported this research by generating over $5 million in external grant and contract funding from a diverse array of public and private sources.

An economic sociologist, Goodman is a three time past president of the nonprofit New England Economic Partnership. He currently serves as co-editor of MassBenchmarks, the journal of the Massachusetts economy published by the UMass Donahue Institute in cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Goodman holds a master’s degree and doctorate from Boston University.

Howard E. Horton

Howard E. Horton is president of New England College of Business (NECB).

Since beginning his tenure in 2006, Horton has guided NECB toward a highly affordable tuition model where undergraduate and graduate degree programs are delivered to employees of several-hundred corporate partners in a 100% online format.

In 2014, NECB was cited as the most affordable private college in New England by the U.S. Department of Education and was also awarded the Gold Medal for Best Practices by the United States Distance Learning Association.

Prior to his tenure at NECB, Horton served as president of Bay State College and, before that, president of New England Institute of Art (known as Massachusetts Communications College during most of his tenure). Before entering higher education, Horton was a practicing attorney with Foley Hoag and also served under former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis as executive director of the Massachusetts Cable Television Division. He began his professional career as a news producer and editor at WBUR-FM and WGBH-FM.

Horton holds a law degree from Suffolk University, a master’s from Boston University and a bachelor’s from Antioch College.
Jonathan Keller

Jonathan E. Keller is Senior Associate Commissioner for Research, Planning and Information Systems for the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. He oversees data analysis and reporting activities with special emphasis on performance measurement and accountability. He also serves as the Chief Information Officer. In his capacity at the DHE, Jonathan has sought to expand and enhance the data resources and analytic capabilities of the Department. Jonathan takes pride in his successes in the development of a unique data-sharing agreement between K-12 and higher education and the establishment of a new innovative indicator for community college student success. Jonathan was part of the School-to-College Database Leadership Team, which won the 2007 Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance for the DHE. Jonathan also keeps engaged in the activities of national higher education research associations and has served on several advisory committees to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Jonathan has worked for more than 16 years in higher education administration. Prior to joining the DHE staff in 2004, Jonathan designed and coordinated accountability systems for both the University of Wisconsin System and the Arizona Board of Regents. He also worked with the Arizona Postsecondary Commission.

Marcus Kolb

Marcus Kolb is assistant vice president for assessment and academic policy at Ivy Tech Community College in Indiana.

He recently co-authored The Urgency of Now, discussing the future of the community college as the center for higher education innovation.

Prior to his current position, he served as a strategy officer at Lumina Foundation.

His portfolio focused on student learning outcomes and quality in higher education. In this role, he provided leadership for the development and testing of Lumina’s Degree Qualifications Profile and Tuning USA. Kolb also has served as assistant dean in the Drexel University School of Public Health.

David Leaser

David Leaser is the senior manager of strategic initiatives for IBM’s Training & Skills program. Leaser developed IBM’s first cloud-based learning solution and is the program developer for IBM’s Open Badge program, a leading-edge program to attract, engage and progress talent.

Leaser is the author of a number of thought leadership white papers on talent development, including “Migrating Minds” and “The Social Imperative in Workforce Development.” He has trained more than 4,000 clients and developed more than 30 training manuals and video tutorials.

Leaser serves on the IMS Global Consortium Board to provide an industry perspective on credentials and the bridge from colleges to careers.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Pepperdine University and a master's from the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communications and.
Pamela G. Luckett

Pamela Luckett is associate dean of operations at Barry University School of Professional and Career Education (PACE) in Miami. She also serves as assistant professor of information technology.

Luckett oversees all off-site campuses, data management and enrollment management units for PACE.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a master’s in computer science from Western Michigan University and a doctorate in computer science education from Florida Institute of Technology.

Stephen Lynch

Stephen Lynch is director of workforce & economic development services for Burning Glass International.

Lynch’s career spans law, workforce development, finance, education and public service. Prior to joining Burning Glass, Lynch was a program director at Jobs for the Future, where he coordinated technical assistance across multiple projects nationally. He also helped to lead a number of initiatives focused on promoting career pathways and skills training for America’s low- and mid-skilled workers—and preparing these workers to succeed in traditional and emerging sectors of the U.S. economy.

Lynch has served as a workforce programs specialist for the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, an educator and union president in secondary education, and as contracts/grants manager, for a local workforce investment area in Washington state.

Lynch holds bachelor’s degree in political science from College of the Holy Cross and a law degree from Lewis & Clark College Law School in Oregon.

Kathy Mannes

Kathy Mannes is vice president of Building Economic Opportunity Group at Jobs for the Future (JFF).

Mannes leads the organization’s body of work dedicated to increasing opportunities for low-income, low-skilled adults to obtain the education and skills necessary to attain productive jobs and careers. Mannes manages a range of existing national workforce and education initiatives focused on developing richer opportunities for adults in learning, skill development, credentialing, and career advancement.

Mannes joins JFF as a national expert in workforce development and public-private partnerships that produce labor and talent solutions. Her projects encourage collaboration, leverage resources, link public and private partners and build sustainable alliances among a wide range of clients. Her consulting work supports UpSkill America and Skills for America’s Future at the Aspen Institute and with other public- and private-sector clients.

In 2014, Mannes was appointed to the U.S. Department of Labor to help launch a new Center for Workforce and Industry Partnerships.

Previously, she served as the senior vice president for Workforce and Economic Development at the American Association of Community Colleges to expand the capacity of community colleges and promote access and completion in the workforce and economic development arena. Mannes helped develop and manage over a dozen philanthropic and government-funded projects and the annual Workforce Development Institute.

As managing director of Workforce Development for the National Retail Federation’s Foundation for over 15
years, Mannes oversaw the development of more than 25 Skills Centers across the country to help over 50,000 people advance in retail and customer service careers.

Prior to 1995, Mannes was employed by Dusco Community Services Inc., representing an international shopping center developer and entrepreneur and projects promoting education and work reform. Mannes also served as executive director of the Council for Adult Education and Learning’s East Coast Center. She also directed continuing education and contract training at the American University in Washington, D.C. for 10 years. In addition, Mannes served for 12 years on the Workforce Investment Board of Montgomery County, MD, and has been on the boards for the Center for Employment Opportunities, the National Center for Children and Families, and SkillsUSA.

Mannes holds a bachelor’s degree from Brown University and a master’s in education and reading from Tufts University.

**Holiday Hart McKiernan**

Holiday Hart McKiernan is chief operating office, executive vice president and general counsel for Lumina Foundation.

McKiernan directs the foundation’s legal affairs and also leads Lumina’s exploration of the Bologna Process and the implications of that reform effort on American higher education. She speaks frequently on legal, governance and policy issues concerning nonprofit organizations and higher education institutions.

McKiernan began her career practicing law concentrating on nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations. Prior to joining Lumina in 2003, she was executive director and counsel for Alpha Chi Omega and advised universities on approaches to high-risk student behavior.


She serves on the board of directors of ADI Inc., a corporation that holds the charters for two Indianapolis charter schools, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Higher Education Resource Services, Inc., Antioch University Board of Governors, and the International Advisory Board for the Stetson University College of Law Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy.

McKiernan holds a bachelor’s degree from DePauw University and a law degree from Indiana University.

**Jacqueline Moloney**

Jacquie Moloney is the first woman to serve as chancellor of UMass Lowell in the institution’s 121-year history. Her October 2015 inauguration raised $1.5 million for student scholarships.

Moloney has provided more than 30 years of service to the university, most recently as executive vice chancellor before being named chancellor in August 2015. Her predecessor, Marty Meehan, selected her as the first member of his executive team in 2007, beginning a period of unprecedented growth and transformation at the university that continues today under Moloney’s leadership.

UMass Lowell has realized astonishing gains as a result of the strategic-planning process led by Moloney that engaged more than 200 faculty, staff and students in creating “UMass Lowell 2020: A Strategic Plan for the Next Decade.” The bold strategy to enhance nearly every aspect of the campus, from business practices and the physical plant to student life and alumni relations, has been a resounding success.
Guided by the plan, the university has achieved record gains in student enrollment, retention, selectivity and diversity. Faculty hiring, research expenditures, fundraising and economic development activities have all grown to unprecedented levels. The addition of 12 new buildings has transformed the campus.

Moloney holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology, a master’s degree in social psychology from Goddard College and a doctorate in education from UMass Lowell.

Adam Newman

Adam Newman is a founding partner of Tyton Partners, a strategy consulting and investment banking platform serving the global knowledge sector.

Newman guides companies, nonprofits and investors through critical organizational inflection points to enable them to achieve their objectives. He has extensive experience working across all segments of the P-12, postsecondary and enterprise and professional education markets.

Prior to founding Tyton Partners, Newman was a director at Berkery Noyes, a mergers and acquisitions firm serving the information industry. Newman originated the firm’s strategic advisory practice for education companies and investors. Previously, he served as managing vice president at Eduventures, a market research and consulting firm supporting the education industry.

Prior to Eduventures, Newman served as a senior manager at the Corporate Executive Board in the company’s corporate strategy board practice, working closely with senior strategy executives at Global 2000 companies. Newman began his professional career as a P-12 educator and athletic coach at schools in Boston and New Orleans.

Newman holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Duke University.

Tom Ogletree

Tom Ogletree is director of social impact at General Assembly, whose mission is to empower a global community to pursue work they love.

At General Assembly, Ogletree leads social-impact programs that enable affordable and accessible education, contribute to a diverse tech talent pipeline and promote social mobility through careers in tech.

Prior to joining General Assembly, he served as director of operations at the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, where he led organizational development and employee engagement programs. He currently serves on the board of the Ali Forney Center, the largest agency dedicated to serving LGBTQ homeless youth.

He holds a bachelor’s degree from Yale University and master’s in public administration from New York University.

Felix Ortiz III

Felix Ortiz III is founder, chair and CEO of Viridis Learning, an educational technology company aimed at building the middle-skill workforce.

A serial entrepreneur, Ortiz has started several companies, including Visionary Trade & Export, a venture he founded at age 20. He was recently appointed to the board of directors for the New York City Technology Development Corporation. Ortiz also serves on the board of the Osborne Foundation. In 2013, he served on the technology subcommittee of then-Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio in New York City.

During the 2012 presidential campaign, Ortiz was national co-chair of Gen44, applying his entrepreneurial experience and energy to encouraging civic involvement among the younger generation.
Previously, he was a member of the Obama-Biden transition team’s advisory group for international trade and economics and served on the campaign’s national finance committee council. Ortiz was a member of the U.S. Army 18th Airborne Corps and JAG Corps. He attended St. John's University.

Lynn Pasquerella

Lynn Pasquerella became president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities in July 2016. Throughout her career, Pasquerella has demonstrated a deep commitment to access to excellence in liberal education regardless of socioeconomic background. A philosopher, whose career has combined teaching and scholarship with local and global engagement, Pasquerella’s presidency of Mount Holyoke College was marked by a robust strategic planning process, outreach to local, regional and international constituencies and a commitment to a vibrant campus community.

A graduate of Quinebaug Valley Community College, Mount Holyoke College and Brown University, Pasquerella joined the Department of Philosophy at the University of Rhode Island in 1985, rising rapidly through the ranks to the positions of vice provost for research, vice provost for academic affairs and dean of the graduate school. In 2008, she was named provost at the University of Hartford. In 2010, she was appointed the 18th president of Mount Holyoke College, her alma mater.

Pasquerella has written extensively on medical ethics, metaphysics, public policy and the philosophy of law. At the core of her career is a strong commitment to liberal education and inclusive excellence, manifested in service as senator and vice president of Phi Beta Kappa; her role as host of Northeast Public Radio’s The Academic Minute; and her public advocacy for access and affordability in higher education.

Richard Porter

Richard Porter is professor and former vice president of cooperative education at Northeastern University.

In his role as vice president for cooperative education, Porter oversaw the departments of Cooperative Education, International Cooperative Education, and Career Services. During his time in this role, Northeastern's Department of Career Services was top ranked by Kaplan/Newsweek's "Unofficial, Insider’s Guide to the 320 Most Interesting Colleges and Universities" and U.S. News & World Report ranked Northeastern number one in the country for programs that combine classroom learning with real-world experience.

Porter has given talks and workshops on experiential education at meetings of the National Commission for Cooperative Education, the World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE), the Cooperative Education and Internship Association and the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

He has given lectures on his mathematics research throughout the country and Europe. He has been visiting professor at the Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, France and at the University of Sussex, England and has served as chair of the Mathematics Department at Northeastern.

Porter holds a doctorate in Mathematics from Yale University.
Stefan Pryor

Stefan Pryor is Rhode Island's first secretary of commerce. He oversees and coordinates the state agencies and offices responsible for economic development, business regulation, housing, workforce development and tourism.

Pryor helped craft a substantial package of initiatives and incentives that are aimed at promoting economic growth in Rhode Island.

From 2011-2014, he served as the commissioner of education for the State of Connecticut. During his tenure, Connecticut passed landmark education reform legislation. Graduation rates increased each year and Connecticut achieved the highest score in reading among participating states on the Grade 12 National Assessment of Educational Progress, which also showed significant narrowing of the black-white gap in reading achievement.

Before his work in Connecticut, Pryor served from 2006 to 2011 as deputy mayor and director of economic and housing development in the City of Newark, N.J. Before that, he was president of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, which was created in the aftermath of September 11th by the State and City of New York to plan and help coordinate the physical rebuilding and economic revitalization of Lower Manhattan. From 2002 to 2006, he was vice president at the Partnership for New York City, the city's leading business organization.

Pryor holds undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University.

Patrick Reuss

Patrick Reuss is director of staffing at General Dynamics Electric Boat (EB) in Groton, CT, where he oversees the talent acquisition.

EB designs, constructs and provides lifecycle support of nuclear submarines for the U.S. Navy. In his current role at EB, Patrick leads a team that consists of exempt and non-exempt staffing, university relations, diversity and veterans affairs.

Prior to joining EB in November 2015, Patrick worked at SABIC (Saudi Basic Industries Corp.), a multibillion-dollar petrochemical company that was previously based in Pittsfield, MA. Patrick was responsible staffing for SABIC's North and South American operations as part of a Global Talent Management Center of Excellence team.

Patrick holds a bachelor's degree in human resources management from Cornell University and a master's in business administration from the State University of New York at Albany.

James Rianhard

James Rianhard is both an investor and operating executive at Full Measure Education where he leads strategy, revenue generation and partnerships.

Influenced early on in his career by futurists Ray Kurzweil and Alvin Toffler, Rianhard is a relentless advocate for the belief that everyone has equal opportunity to participate in the future, and that the future is here.

Beginning in the late 1990s with his role as the head of product marketing at Blackboard Inc., he has worked primarily with community colleges and other open-access postsecondary institutions.

Rianhard co-founded Presidium Inc. in 2003 and developed innovations in strategic enrollment management that dramatically increased access and participation in postsecondary education. He is recognized as a big-picture thinker who is grounded in defining and delivering short-term results, fostering continuous innovation and ensuring long-term transformations.
Jeffrey Rose

Jeffrey Rose has been commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) for almost three years. In this role, he is responsible for the Division of Forests and Lands, the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Division of Travel and Tourism and the Division of Economic Development.

Prior to his role at DRED, Rose worked for BAE Systems for nine years in a variety of government relations and public affairs roles. He combines this experience with eight years in the public sector, where he served in leadership roles for several members of New Hampshire’s congressional delegation.

The commissioner embodies public service, serving the state by day, and continuing to serve his community after hours, having served on a variety of boards and advisory councils.

Jeffrey J. Selingo

Jeffrey J. Selingo is a best-selling author and award-winning columnist who helps parents and higher education leaders imagine the college and university of the future and how to succeed in a fast-changing economy.

His newest book, *There Is Life After College*, explores how today’s young adults need to navigate school for the job market of tomorrow.


A regular contributor to the *Washington Post*, Selingo is a special advisor and professor of practice at Arizona State University and a visiting scholar at Georgia Tech’s Center for 21st Century Universities. He is the former top editor of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, where he worked for 16 years in a variety of reporting and editing roles. His writing has also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Slate*, and he is a contributor to LinkedIn, where he posts on higher education.

Selingo holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Ithaca College and a master’s in government from the Johns Hopkins University.

Peter Stokes

Peter Stokes helps college and university leaders in setting strategy to support institutional differentiation, conducting market research to aid growth and engaging in operational assessments to improve performance.

Stokes has worked with hundreds of institutions across the U.S. and globally to support their efforts to reach new audiences and achieve compelling student outcomes by focusing on work readiness and employability, designing new delivery models, expanding geographic reach and presence, selecting technology solutions, demonstrating institutional effectiveness and conducting campaign feasibility analyses.

Prior to joining Huron Education, Stokes taught literature, writing and communications at institutions, including Stony Brook University, the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Tufts University. He has also held positions as a technology industry analyst and management consultant, and served for more than a decade as the executive vice president and chief research officer at Eduventures, a leading higher education research firm and consultancy. Stokes also held the position of executive director in the higher education practice at Russell Reynolds Associates, a global executive search and assessment firm. He is the author of *Higher Education and Employability: New Models for Integrating Study and Work*. 
Paul J. Stonely

Paul J. Stonely has been CEO of WACE, The World Association for Cooperative & Work-Integrated Education, for 21 years.

As CEO, Stonely works with over 1,100 colleges and universities throughout the world and has offices in the U.S., Thailand, Sweden and Japan. Previously, Stonely was the provost at Cambridge College from 1985 to 1995 and taught organizational theory and behavior and interpersonal communications. Prior to his appointment at Cambridge College, he was director of executive management education in the Graduate College of Business at the University of Denver from 1975 to 1985.

Stonely holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a master’s in counselor education from the Pennsylvania State University and a doctorate in higher education and speech communication from the University of Denver.

Michael K. Thomas

Michael K. Thomas is president and chief executive officer of the New England Board of Higher Education.

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

He has been a faculty member, adjunct professor and lecturer at several universities and served as trustee and vice chair of the board of Worcester State University.

Thomas 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. He holds a master’s of business administration from Boston University and a doctorate in education and social policy from Harvard University.

Nan Travers

Nan Travers is director of the Office of Collegewide Academic Review at the State University of New York Empire State College. She focuses on self-designed student degree programs, assessment of prior college-level learning and ePortfolios.

Travers serves on the board for the Prior Learning International Research Centre and the startup board for LearningCounts.org at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. She is the founding co-editor of PLA Inside Out: An International Journal on the Theory, Research, and Practice in Prior Learning Assessment.
Robert K. Triest

Robert K. Triest is a vice president and economist in the research department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where he leads the macroeconomic applications and policy studies section.

Prior to joining the Boston Fed in 1995, Triest was a member of the economics faculties at the University of California, Davis and at the Johns Hopkins University. He has also been a visiting scholar at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College and has taught in the economics department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Northeastern University and at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He currently serves on the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Advisory Committee convened by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh to make recommendations for a strategic framework and action plan to expand pre-kindergarten programs in Boston.

Triest's research has been mainly on topics in labor economics and public sector economics, with recent work focusing on the interaction of economic circumstances and educational outcomes.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Vassar College and a master’s and doctorate in economics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Kelli-Marie Vallieres is director of the PBL Resource Center at the New England Board of Higher Education. Vallieres is also president and CEO of Sound Manufacturing Inc., a precision sheet-metal manufacturing company, and of Monster Power Equipment, a commercial and municipal landscape equipment manufacturer.

With her experience in industry and doctorate in Educational Leadership and Adult Learning from the University of Connecticut, Vallieres is able to develop secondary through postsecondary educational programs and industry training to improve problem-solving and critical thinking skills that benefit STEM students and the workforce pipeline.

Carol Vallone

Carol Vallone is the CEO of Meteor Learning, a company focused on enabling top-ranked higher education institutions to close workforce skill gaps by delivering high-quality, workforce-aligned competency-based education degrees for working professionals.

Prior to Meteor Learning, Vallone served as board chair, president and CEO of Wimba Corp., the global leader in virtual collaboration software for higher education. Vallone led the company through to acquisition in 2010. Vallone also launched WebCT in 1999, the company that defined and delivered the premier e-learning solution for education. As board chair, president and CEO, Vallone built a global higher education customer base in 70 countries until she sold the company in 2006.

Vallone currently serves on the board of trustees at McLean Hospital, and chairs its Ventures Committee. For more than 10 years, she served on the board of the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council. And as Education Foundation chair, she spearheaded an effort to re-write the Massachusetts Department of Education’s Instructional Technology Standards with a focus on integrating technology into the curriculum.
Vallone also served as a member of the National School-to-Work Advisory Council during the Clinton administration where she worked with the U.S. secretaries of labor and education to integrate school and career activities.

Ronald L. Walker, II

Ronald L. Walker, II is secretary of labor and workforce development in Massachusetts. Walker is responsible for directing and executing Gov. Charles D. Baker’s agenda on workforce development and unemployment assistance, job creation, business services and labor. He oversees five labor and workforce development regulatory agencies: the departments of Unemployment Assistance, Career Services, Labor Standards, Industrial Accidents and Labor Relations.

In addition, Walker manages Commonwealth Corporation, the quasi-public state agency charged with administering over $22 million in workforce-training funds. He also oversees the Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy and Employee Misclassification, which coordinates the efforts of multiple state agencies to eliminate fraudulent employment activities and level the playing field for all employers.

The governor appointed Walker to lead two initiatives that will advise him on meeting the needs of employers and targeted populations of unemployed residents. As chair of the Workforce Skills Cabinet, Walker joins his counterparts in education and economic development in examining the state’s workforce development system and aligning economic and educational resources to the labor needs of employers. He has also led a task force charged with improving access to jobs and training for populations that experience chronic rates of high unemployment.

Prior to his appointment, Walker was managing partner and president of Next Street, the merchant bank he co-founded. He has also served in senior executive positions at Sovereign Bank, Fleet Financial Group and Bank of New England.

Walker holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing and finance from Prairie View A&M University of Texas and completed the Finance for Senior Executive Program at Harvard Business School.

Pat Yongpradit

Pat Yongpradit is the chief academic officer for Code.org, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting computer science education.

Yongpradit is a national voice on K-12 computer science education. As a high school computer science teacher, he inspired students to create mobile games and apps for social causes, and implemented initiatives to broaden participation in computer science among underrepresented groups, including tripling the number of girls.

He has been recognized as a Microsoft Worldwide Innovative Educator, has been featured in the book, American Teacher: Heroes in the Classroom and is certified in biology, physics, math, health and technology education.

Yongpradit holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from McGill University and a master’s from the University of Maryland.