

Seizing Growth Opportunities and Avoiding Operating Risks in Higher Education

University Executive Lunch Briefing

April 29, 2019

Speaker Biographies

Dan Bonnette



Dan Bonnette is a partner at RSM and a government, nonprofit and higher education specialist with more than 24 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 19 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 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 16 years of experience in management and strategy consulting on projects located across more than 20 countries. Fisher has worked across the spectrum of education organizations, 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 improved strategies and operations.

Fisher's 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 pursuit of M&A.

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

Lisa Larson

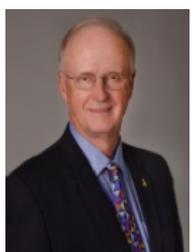


Lisa Larson was named president of Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC) in April 2016.

Larson brings more than 20 years of community and technical college experience to EMCC. From 2013 to 2015, she served as interim president of North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Her experience also includes serving as dean of the Division of Construction, Manufacturing and Transportation at Hennepin Technical College as well as dean of the Division of Business and Industry at Lake Superior College in Minnesota.

She began her career in higher education as a faculty member in the Department of Communication at Hennepin Tech. She holds a bachelor's degree from Northern State University, a master's from Mankato State University and a doctorate in education from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

Jack Maguire



As an academic trained in the scientific method, Jack Maguire introduced market research to the field of admissions when he became the dean of admissions at Boston College in the early 1970s. Soon after he began his groundbreaking work in admissions marketing, he created the first enrollment management model for the recruitment and retention of students.

Since his founding of Maguire Associates in 1983, he has served hundreds of clients and contributed to the evolution of marketing in higher education. He has authored numerous papers and served as a faculty member at institutes such as the Harvard Summer Institute and has been featured in *Money* magazine, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and NPR's "Talk of the Nation" and "Morning Edition." He has been featured in *The New England Journal of Higher Education* on inequality and other issues.

Maguire chaired the Lexington (Mass.) School Committee and has served as a trustee of United Cerebral Palsy Associations, The College Board and four institutions of higher education in the U.S. and abroad.

He holds a doctorate in theoretical physics from Boston College and received a postdoctoral fellowship from Rice University.

Alain Marcuse



Alain Marcuse is director of security, privacy and risk at RSM.

Marcuse is a versatile cybersecurity leader with extensive industry and consulting experience. His specialties include: cybersecurity governance, risk assessments, architecture, infrastructure/SaaS hosting, customer support, information technology, data security and privacy.

He is accomplished at building highly regarded, cost-effective organizations and infrastructures in support of customer cybersecurity needs. He is experienced with P&L and budget responsibilities as well as managing multilayer teams.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from Brandeis University.

Alex Parnia



Alex Parnia is the executive chair of Global Education Access (GEA), a consulting firm he established to help small to mid-size universities take advantage of international recruitment opportunities.

Before that, Parnia was the president of EC Higher Education, where he formed international pathway partnerships with U.S. universities that are ranked in the top 200 by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Previously, as president of Pacific Oaks College & Children's School, he closed a deficit gap of \$4 million, increased revenue from \$8 million to \$22 million, and grew the enrollment from 480 to 1,300 students in three years.

Parnia has also served as provost of Nichols College, executive vice president of Cambridge College and as a tenured faculty member. He has taught management and international business courses at the University of Hartford, Quinnipiac College (now University), the University of New Haven, Sacred Heart University, Cambridge College and Nichols College, as well as online courses. He wrote recently for *The New England Journal of Higher Education* on "International Affairs: Survival Kit for Small and Medium-Sized Universities and Colleges."

He is a graduate of Claremont Graduate University.

Mounil Patel



Mounil Patel has been field chief technology officer at Mimecast for more than nine years.

Patel has also held positions as director of sales engineering, and vice president of strategic field engagement. Previously, he was global practice director managing pre-sales and services for EMC's Telco, Media and Entertainment division for archiving and backup products as well as director of data restoration and e-Discovery services at Iron Mountain.

Patel has also held CIO positions at Endeca Technologies and Phase Forward Inc.

He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Boston University.

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, he 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 is the publisher of *The New England Journal of Higher Education*.

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.