

COSUAA 2019 Speaker Bios

Nicole Commissiong

Nicole Commissiong began her duties as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in the University of Oregon School of Law during the summer of 2009. Assistant Dean Commissiong is a "Double Duck," having received her undergraduate degree cum laude in 1997 from the University of Oregon, and her J.D. in 2001 from Oregon Law. In addition to an outstanding academic career, Commissiong was a standout 400- and 800-meter specialist on the UO Track & Field team.

Prior to joining Oregon Law, Commissiong clerked for Lane County Circuit Judge Gregory Foote, and worked for Bullivant Houser Bailey P.C. in Portland before returning to Eugene to work for Harrang Long Gary Rudnick P.C.

Assistant Dean Commissiong also serves as a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. In this role she serves an integral function supporting the work of the Title IX Office among various constituencies and across campuses. Deputy Title IX Coordinators assist with training on Title IX reporting obligations, can serve as a resource for questions and concerns related to Title IX policies and processes procedures, and can connect individuals with accommodations and resources both on and off campus.

Megan Coval

Megan Coval is the Vice President of Policy and Federal Relations at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) where she oversees the Association's policy and advocacy efforts. Prior to joining NASFAA in the fall of 2010, she served as the Director of Government Relations for the federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, where she contributed to several congressionally mandated reports on the postsecondary access and persistence of low- and moderate- income students. Megan began her career in higher education as an admissions counselor at Penn State University.

Ernest Ezeugo

Ernest Ezeugo is the Director of Policy at the [National Campus Leadership Council](#), a non-profit policy advocacy organization dedicated to elevating student voice in higher education policy. Prior to joining the National Campus Leadership Council, Ernest was a program associate with the Education Policy program at New America, where works with the higher education initiative. He conducts research and analysis on topics including predictive analytics and economic mobility. He also supports the initiative's public opinion work including Varying Degrees, its signature annual survey. Ezeugo has also worked in the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education, where he supported the office's efforts around promoting the use of openly-licensed educational resources in K-12 education.

Erin Jones

Erin Jones was born in the United States but raised in the Netherlands, where her parents worked as teachers at the American School of The Hague. Erin speaks four languages and returned to the United States in 1989 to attend Bryn Mawr College, where she earned a BA in Comparative Literature with a focus on literatures of the African Diaspora. Erin later earned her teaching certificate at Pacific Lutheran University with endorsements in English, French and ELL. She was named Most Innovative Foreign Language Teacher in 2007 and in 2008 she was selected as the Washington State Milken Educator of the Year. Erin served three years as Assistant State Superintendent for Student Achievement in Washington State, where she was responsible for working with educators and policy makers to create policies and practices that would better serve students of color and students otherwise disenfranchised. Based on a desire to be closer to students and teachers, Erin recently took a position as the Director of Equity and Achievement for the Federal Way School District, a large, very diverse district south of Seattle. She is a locally and nationally-recognized educator, consultant, and public speaker. As she says, I love to help individuals recognize their purpose and develop their strengths. I love to help organizations identify gaps in service and determine ways to better meet the needs of those they serve.

Mark Milliron

Dr. Mark David Milliron is Co-Founder and Chief Learning Officer of Civitas Learning, an organization committed to helping education bring together the best of emerging technology, data science, and design thinking to help students learn well and finish strong on education pathways. An award-winning leader, author, speaker, and consultant, he has worked with universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, foundations, corporations, associations, and government agencies across the country and around the world. In previous roles, Mark served as the Deputy Director for Postsecondary Improvement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; founding Chancellor of WGU Texas; Endowed Fellow and Director of the National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development at The University of Texas at Austin; Vice President for Education and Medical Practice with SAS; and President and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College.

He is a member of numerous boards and advisory groups, including the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), the Global Online Academy, and the Texas Student Success Council. Past board service includes the American Council on Education (ACE), the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and Western Governors University.

In 1999, The University of Texas at Austin's College of Education named Mark a Distinguished Graduate for his service to the education field. In 2007, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) presented him with its National Leadership Award; In 2011, the National University Technology Network (NUTN) named Mark the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award; and in 2013 he was inducted into the United States Distance Learning Association's (USDLA) Hall of Fame.

Tom Mortensen

Thomas G. Mortenson is a Senior Scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington, D.C. and an independent higher education policy analyst.

Tom's policy research focuses on opportunity for postsecondary education and training and the ways public policy fosters or impedes access to that opportunity. He has special concern for populations that are under-represented in higher education. His studies have addressed academic and financial preparation for college, access, choice, persistence, attainment, and labor force entry of college graduates. He is particularly interested in public and private finance of higher education opportunity and the enrollment consequences of the cost-shift from taxpayers to students that has been underway since 1980. He has been employed in policy research and budget analysis roles for the University of Minnesota, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois State Scholarship Commission, and the American College Testing Program.

Currently, Tom is editor and publisher of Postsecondary Education Opportunity (PEO), a monthly research newsletter devoted to analysis and reporting on the demographics, sociology, history, politics and economics of educational opportunity after high school. He provides consulting services on higher educational opportunity policy to state and national organizations, and makes presentations on opportunity throughout the country.

Craig Munier

Craig Munier has worked in student financial aid on college campuses since 1982 and in higher education administration since 1976. Mr. Munier is a past National Chair of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), past National Chair of the Coalition of State University Aid Administrators (COSUAA), and served as chair of the National Direct Student Loan Coalition (NDSLCL). He joined the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid in Washington, D.C. as an Assistant Director of Policy Liaison and Implementation in 2015.