

**COSUAA Virtual Conference Series  
September 2020**

**Our Professional Resolve: Facilitating Access AND Success**

**Thursday ----- September 17, 2020, 3:00-4:30 EST**

3:00 – 4:30 EST

**Creating Equitable Admissions and Aid Policies**

Akil Bello, Senior Director of Advocacy and Advancement at Fair Test

**Tuesday ----- September 22, 2020, 11:00-12:30 EST**

11:00 – 12:30 EST

**College Affordability, College Promise, and the Free College Movement**

Dr. Martha Kanter, Executive Director, College Promise Campaign & Senior Fellow, New York University, Former U.S. Under Secretary of Education

Dr. F. King Alexander, President of Oregon State University, former president of Louisiana State University, California State University, Long Beach and Murray State University.

**Thursday ----- September 24, 2020, 11:00-12:30 EST**

11:00 – 11:45 EST

**Linking Research to Practice: The SSTAR Lab Model**

Dr. Nicholas Hillman, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, University of Wisconsin Madison

11:45 – 12:30 EST

**Leveraging Behavioral Insights to Improve College Access and Success**

Alice Choe, Applied Behavioral Scientist, Nudge4 Solutions Lab, University of Virginia

**Friday ----- September 25, 2020, 11:00-12:30 EST**

11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

**A Conversation on Higher Education Accountability**

Dr. Robert Kelchen, Associate Professor of Higher Education, Seton Hall University

**Wednesday ----- September 30, 2020, 11:00-12:30 EST**

11:00 – 12:30 EST

**COSUAA Member Open Forum  
COSUAA Virtual Conference Series  
Speaker Profiles**



**Akil Bello** is a testing policy, test-preparation and educational access expert with three decades of experience. Beginning as a proctor in 1990, Akil has worked in every level of test preparation from proctor to CEO, he has launched two companies, developed dozens of preparation programs for more than ten different high-stakes tests, trained hundreds of instructors, and helped thousands of students achieve success.

Akil was founding partner and CEO for Bell Curves, a test preparation company where he worked extensively to improve outcomes for low-income and under-represented students. Akil shares his research and knowledge in published papers, at conferences, and through consulting with universities about educational access and standardized testing policy. After successfully selling Bell Curves, Akil returned to The Princeton Review from 2014 to 2018, first serving as Director

of Strategic Initiatives and then as Director of Equity and Access, where his focus was on helping public schools, non-profit organizations, and community based organizations understand standardized tests and develop affordable solutions for their students.

Currently, Akil serves Senior Director of Advocacy and Advancement at FairTest, where he works to build resources and tools to ensure that large scale assessment tests are used responsibly and transparently to benefit students. Akil resides in New York City with his beautiful wife and two amazing sons.



**Martha Kanter** leads the College Promise Campaign, a national nonpartisan initiative to increase college access, affordability, quality, and completion. To increase the social, economic, and civic mobility of Americans, the Washington, DC-based Center launched on September 9, 2015. The Campaign supports College Promise programs in more than 300 communities in 47 states and throughout 29 entire states for all eligible residents. Dr. Kanter specializes in policy efforts to identify and apply evidence-based education interventions, financing models, and behavioral incentives to raise America's high school and college graduation rates that yield successful college and career graduates to drive the future prosperity, health, and well-being of the U.S. Dr. Kanter also serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at NYU's Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy.

From 2009-2013, Dr. Kanter served President Obama and Secretary Duncan as the U.S. Under Secretary of Education, overseeing all federal postsecondary statutory, regulatory, and administrative policies and programs for the U.S. Department of Education. She led the successful implementation of the Direct Student Loan program, resulting in a 50-percent

increase in college enrollment for low-income Pell grant recipients, growing from 6 to more than 9 million students.

From 1993-2009, Dr. Kanter served as President of De Anza College and then Chancellor of the Foothill-De

Anza Community College District in Silicon Valley, California. Dr. Kanter holds a B.A. in Sociology from Brandeis University, an M.Ed. from Harvard University, and an Ed.D. from the University of San Francisco. Her education career began in high school, teaching reading to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at the South End House in Boston, MA followed by teaching economically disadvantaged high school students in a church basement in Lexington, MA. At the community college and university levels, she taught special education, psychology, counseling, and higher education policy. She apprenticed to Dr. Abraham Maslow and Dr. Rosabeth Moss Kanter while an undergraduate at Brandeis University and owes her policy and management career to Dr. Calvin, Father Duffy, and Dr. Evans at the University of San Francisco where she wrote an award winning dissertation based on psychometric theory, tracing the evolution of postsecondary assessments and their equity and achievement impacts on community college students.



**F King Alexander** is president of Oregon State University. Dr. Alexander earlier served as President and Chancellor of Louisiana State University (LSU), President of California State University, Long Beach and President of Murray State University. In his previous capacity at LSU, Dr. Alexander oversaw over 50,000 students on seven campuses, as well as two medical schools.

Dr. Alexander holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Master of Science degree from the University of Oxford and a Bachelor of Arts degree for St. Lawrence University, New York. He has also served on the faculty of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and as Director of Development at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

He served as Faculty Affiliate in the Institute of Higher Education Cornell University, and as a Faculty Affiliate in the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Among his honors of which he is most proud, he was voted California State University President of the Year in both 2010 and 2012 by California State Universities Students' Association (CSSA), representing 450,000 students in 23 state universities of California.

Concerning his attachments to Oxford, Dr. Alexander is a Foundation Fellow at Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford, has served on the Rhodes Scholar Selection Committee for Illinois, and during his days as a student at Oxford, he rowed for his college, St Peter's and was awarded an "Oxford Blue" in men's basketball.

Dr. Alexander recently served as an advisor to the Bipartisan Policy Center providing a report, January 30, 2020, to the House of Representatives of Congress for the renewal of funding of the Higher Education Act of the United States.



**Nicholas Hillman** is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he teaches higher education finance, policy, and introductory statistics for educational researchers. His research focuses on federal student aid, state funding models, and educational opportunity.

In addition to teaching and research, he directs the Student Success Through Applied Research (SSTAR) Lab, a research-practice partnership with UW-Madison's Division of Enrollment Management. He is also a faculty affiliate in the La Follette School of Public Affairs, Center for Financial Security, and Institute for Research on Poverty.

Dr. Hillman is a proud McNair Scholar and alum of Indiana University-Bloomington, where he earned his BS and MPA from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and PhD from the School of Education.



**Alice Choe** is an Applied Behavioral Scientist with the Nudge4 Solutions Lab. Her work is centered around designing and implementing behaviorally informed interventions to improve postsecondary outcomes for individuals. Prior to joining the Nudge4 team, she worked as an educational consultant at a Beijing-based startup. She was responsible for supporting high school seniors both navigate the US college admissions process and develop the cognitive and non-cognitive skills necessary to succeed as an international student. Alice was also previously a Thomas J. Watson Fellow with the IBM Watson Foundation. She explored the intersection of legal systems, religion, and social norms to better understand how domestic violence interventions take shape and evolve in different countries including Jordan, South Africa, and India



**Robert Kelchen** is an associate professor of higher education in the Department of Education Leadership, Management and Policy at Seton Hall University. His research interests include higher education finance, accountability policies, and student financial aid. Kelchen is the author of *Higher Education Accountability* (Johns Hopkins University Press) and regularly publishes in top education journals. He received the Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award for excellence in financial aid research from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in 2019 and has been recognized as one of the 50 most influential faculty members in education by *Education Week*. He is also the data editor for *Washington Monthly* magazine's annual

college guide and rankings. Kelchen holds a bachelor's degree in economics and finance from Truman State University, a master's degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a PhD in educational policy studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.