



IPPSR PUBLIC POLICY FORUM SERIES WINTER 2021 – APRIL 7, 2021

K-12 SCHOOLS: MOVING PAST PANDEMIC RECOVERY

MODERATOR



BRYAN BEVERLY, PH.D., DIRECTOR, K-12 OUTREACH, OFFICE OF K-12 EDUCATION, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Byran Beverly is currently the Director of the Office of K-12 Outreach in the College of Education – where his work is centered on school turnaround efforts and instructional leadership. He holds a Ph. D. in Educational Policy from Michigan State University, is an alum and co-coordinator of Michigan's Educational Policy Fellowship Program, and is a former member of the Lansing Board of Education.

Prior to returning to MSU for his PhD, Dr. Beverly worked as an education consultant for the KRA Corporation and the Lansing School District.

His other professional experiences include work with the President's Council of State Universities, Michigan; the State of Michigan, Office of the Governor; GEAR-UP, MSU; and the Michigan Association of Counties. He holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Anthropology from Olivet College and a master's degree in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education Administration from Michigan State University.

SPECIAL GUEST



DOUGLAS N. HARRIS, PH.D., DIRECTOR, EDUCATION RESEARCH ALLIANCE FOR NEW ORLEANS, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, TULANE UNIVERSITY

Douglas N. Harris is founding Director, Tulane Professor of Economics, and Schlieder Foundation Chair in Public Education. His research has helped inform and influence national debates over a range of education policies, especially in charter-based school reform, teacher evaluation, accountability, and college access.

He is author of the recent book, *Charter School City: What the End of Traditional Public Schools Means for American Education* (University of Chicago Press, 2020). His first book, *Value-Added Measures in Education*, was nominated for the national Grawemeyer Prize in education and published by Harvard Education Press in 2011.

His more than 50 academic articles have been cited more than 3,000 times by other researchers. He has advised the White House, the U.S. Senate, and several governors on education policy. He contributed to the Obama Administration's transition team on the measurement of school performance, advised the White House on college performance measures, and testified in the U.S. Senate about college access programs.

Harris is also widely cited in the national media, including CNN, MSNBC, NPR, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, National Journal, and others. He has recently been named as one of the most influential economists studying education.

In addition to his role as Director and professor, he is the University Endowed Chair in Public Education at Tulane and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Previously, he was tenured Associate Professor of Education and Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He obtained his doctorate in economics from Michigan State University in 2000.

PANELISTS



ANDRAÉ TOWNSEL, PH.D., SUPERINTENDENT, BENTON HARBOR AREA SCHOOLS

Dr. Andraé Townsel is a graduate of Cass Tech High School. He attended Howard University as a student athlete with a football scholarship 2002. Townsel earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree from Howard.

He began his work in public education in the District of Columbia in 2008. In 2016, he was named to turn around one of the lowest performing high schools in Massachusetts. He became the first African-American high school principal in the history of the community. He has been cited for reducing arrests, suspensions and discipline while increasing the school's academic performance.

In 2018, he returned to his home state of Michigan and served as the Assistant Superintendent of Wayne-Westland Community Schools. He oversaw and supported more than 10,000 students in 20 schools across the district.

In 2020, Dr. Townsel became Superintendent of Benton Harbor Area Schools, a district founded in 1872 now with approximately 2,000 students in six schools.



PAULA HERBART, PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Paula Herbart took office as president of the 125,000-member Michigan Education Association in 2017. A K-12 music teacher in Macomb County's Fraser Public Schools, Herbart served in numerous leadership roles within her local, including local president.

In 2012, she was elected president of MEA/NEA Local 1, serving 16 districts in Macomb and Wayne counties. She has served on the MEA and NEA Board of Directors, as chair of the 6-E Coordinating Council, and vice-chair of both the MEA's Local Option Coalition and the Instructional and Professional Development Committee.

She continues to be active at the national level, serving as Vice-President/Mid-West Region on the National Council of State Education Associations (NCSEA). Statewide, Herbart serves a chairperson for Launch Michigan, a coalition of businesses, philanthropic organizations, local community groups and statewide education organizations. Most recently, she was named to the Governor's Return to School and Student Recovery Advisory Council. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan-School of Music.



NICHOLAS PARADISO, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PARTNER SERVICES, NATIONAL HERITAGE ACADEMY

Nick Paradiso serves as the chief business development officer for National Heritage Academies. In this role, Nick works with the partner services and government relations teams to lead and execute the company's business development strategy.

He also manages partner charter school board relations, the charter renewal process, and external affairs. Nick has been with NHA since November 2000, and he has previously served in roles of regional director of business development, director of partner services, and senior director of government relations.

Prior to joining NHA, Paradiso helped create the New York Charter School Resource Center, where he also served as vice president. In this role, he worked with community leaders and organizations to develop successful charter school applications.

Paradiso serves on the board for the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Michigan Governor Whitmer's Return to School Advisory Council, and the Center for Education Reform.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Syracuse University, and a Master of Public Administration from the Nelson Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany.

SPONSORS



MATT GROSSMANN, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

A nationally known political scientist, Dr. Matt Grossmann is an expert on American politics and government whose research spans national and state policymaking, election campaigns, interest groups, and political parties.

Dr. Grossmann has authored numerous journal articles on policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. His latest book, *Red State Blues*, was recently made available through Cambridge University Press.

His accomplishments in the realm of scholarship, education and research are many. As IPPSR Director, Grossmann added more than 60 affiliated faculty members from 25 different departments and nine colleges to IPPSR. Bringing the first student cohort to IPPSR, Grossmann has built a Policy Fellows Program with 20 graduate and undergraduate students per year. He expanded the Institute's outreach capabilities, doubling the number of Public Policy Forums at the state Capitol and launching the State of the State Podcast and the Michigan Policy Wonk blog.

Dr. Grossmann also created a policy-relevant research search engine and the Correlates of State Policy online database (1,000 variables measured for all 50 states each year), designed a new online survey panel of political insiders, established a new training program for legislative staff, transformed an internship award into a leadership certification for legislative interns, and created an event series for training faculty to engage policymakers.



ARNOLD WEINFELD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH (IPPSR), ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Arnold Weinfeld is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University as well as Director for Workforce and Economic Development Partnerships for the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship within University Outreach and Engagement.

Prior to joining MSU, Weinfeld served as CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, a community and economic development non-profit organization. He also has worked for the Michigan Municipal League where he served in a number of roles and co-founded the Michigan Sense of Place Council. Arnold began his career with the Michigan House of Representatives where he worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst and policy director.

He has served his own community as an elected member of the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education and is currently on his local planning commission. He is also on the boards of local and statewide organizations such as the Michigan Sense of Place Council, Rural Partners of Michigan, Capital Area College Access Network. He is a graduate of Michigan State University's College of Social Science Multi-Disciplinary Program.

CO-SPONSOR



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[Office of K-12 Outreach - College of Education – Michigan State University \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/office-of-k-12-outreach)

MSU’s Office of K-12 Outreach team of highly trained outreach specialists, provides direct support to educators in Michigan and nationally. Our team assists to effectively build capacity for sustained change and is committed to helping Michigan schools become exemplary. The Office of K-12 Outreach offers practical and policy advice to educators, legislative bodies agencies, associations and foundations.

Presentations and additional resources can be found at ippsr.msu.edu
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