



STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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2018 SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference

State Policy Leadership: Advancing Access to the American Dream through Higher Education

Solicitation for Session Proposals

Deadline: February 16, 2018

SHEEO is once again excited to host the premier conference for higher education policy leaders and thought influencers dedicated to higher education excellence. The 2018 Conference will be held August 7-10, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center.

Many of you are engaged in work that addresses our theme for this year—***State Policy Leadership: Advancing Access to the American Dream through Higher Education***—and we invite you to submit session proposals for consideration as we develop this year’s Conference Program. The Policy Conference is an excellent opportunity for you to share your work and identify important and timely topics in higher education policy.

Conference Theme and Purposes

The SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference is held annually and highlights critical issues and policy considerations for states to consider as they contemplate policies and practices to build and sustain effective systems of higher education. The 2018 Conference theme is ***State Policy Leadership: Advancing Access to the American Dream through Higher Education***. The Conference will examine intersecting concerns—including degree attainment, equity and equality, civic engagement, and economic mobility—shared by leaders from state higher education policy agencies, national higher education policy organizations, institutions, and state and federal governments. Collectively, these issues impact access to the American Dream—the notion that all Americans deserve an equal and equitable opportunity to reach their full potential through personal resolve, persistence, and the absence of structural and institutional barriers—for too many of our families.

What is the status of the American Dream today? Are some dreams realized and others deferred? How can state higher education policy leaders confront and improve the social stratification in higher education that currently challenges the American Dream, and motivate all students toward postsecondary success? How can we create an environment in which all students can succeed? What does the evidence reveal about the status of the American Dream and how is that evidence informing state policy and practice? Conference sessions will engage diverse higher education policy and thought leaders in critical conversations—examining these and other relevant topics—that will advance access to higher education and the American Dream.

The Conference agenda will address key questions, including (these questions will serve as the organizing tracks for the Conference):

1. How is the American Dream defined in the 21st century? How has the definition of the American Dream changed over time?
2. How have concepts of the American Dream shifted the priorities of higher education? What are the major shifts in policy, practice, and resource allocation?
3. What are the roles of diverse types of institutions in advancing the American Dream? Do approaches differ across institutional types and missions, and according to the types of students they serve?
4. What leadership models, policies and practices have proven to be successful in expanding access to the American Dream? How can SHEEOs advance critical conversations across stakeholder groups?

Developing a Proposal

We invite you to participate by proposing sessions that:

- Are applicable to the theme: ***State Policy Leadership: Advancing Access to the American Dream through Higher Education***,
- Address one or more of the questions listed above,
- Will engage our higher education colleagues in thought-provoking and stimulating conversation, exposing all of us to effective strategies; and
- Focus on important and timely issues.

SHEEO encourages the submission of proposals for sessions that will utilize innovative formats, including short-form and long-form sessions, and those that will encourage interaction and audience participation.

Proposals must include:

- Name, title, agency/institution, email address, biography (100-word limit), and head shot of each member of the proposed session;
- A brief description of your proposal (1000-word limit), including:
 - Purpose and topic;
 - The type of content to be presented, such as:
 - A report on an innovative approach to policy, practice, finance, and/or data use,
 - Original research, or
 - A summary of existing knowledge;
 - How the topic relates to the overall theme, and which question(s) the presentation will address;
 - Why the topic is important to current policy discussions, and
 - The type of session, including delivery format;
- Intended audience (100-word limit); and
- Participant goals and hoped-for outcomes (400-word limit).

Submitting a proposal

Please submit your proposal by uploading all relevant documents to the proposal website:

<http://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/31c8af2f-fbee-4133-9db0-836d6eb75c16>.

Questions may be directed to Caitlin Dennis, cdennis@sheeo.org or (303) 541-1630.