

## AEFP Fall 2021

The AEFPP newsletter is sent to members and helps the Board of Directors conduct the business of the organization. The newsletter also provides opportunities to share information on a wide range of organizations, publications and activities.

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## AEFP 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

*Assessing the Responses of Education Finance and Policy to the Dual Pandemic of COVID-19 and Racial Injustice*

Hilton Denver City Center - Denver,  
Colorado  
March 17-19, 2022

## President's Welcome

To the AEFPP community,

There is no other way to start this letter than to acknowledge how difficult this last year and a half has been. We have gone through a worldwide pandemic, felt the hope of emergence, and then realized that— especially for those of us with small children, who are immunocompromised, or who live in areas that have been disproportionately impacted—the pandemic is not yet close to over. We have seen progress toward racial justice and then watched as efforts and advances are thwarted. We have experienced an ever-growing polarization in our country that greatly impacts exactly the groups of human beings that are the focus of AEFPP: students and educators. And we continue to witness devastation across the world in ways that feel both preventable and inevitable.

Amid this challenging time, the AEFPP community has helped me to be optimistic about the future. When asked this summer what makes AEFPP unique, the Board of Directors converged on two themes: our welcoming and friendly membership and our commitment to using rigorous research to impact and assist policy and practice. Our members are dedicated to bettering both our own small education finance and policy community by being respectful and caring for each other and the larger world by producing research that improves outcomes for students and communities and that is useful to and used by our policymaker and practitioner partners.

As an extension of these two defining characteristics, this year AEFPP has taken steps towards furthering justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion within our own organization and in the kinds of research we welcome to the conference. In the 2021 conference we, for the first time, offered a specific topical track devoted to the causes and consequences of

inequity. We are working to expand our membership to include more diverse perspectives and methodologies, including those outside how many of us were trained and that challenge our own assumptions and beliefs. Through our pre-doctoral diversity fellowship and our new early career mentoring program, we are continuing and growing our efforts to expand the pipeline of education finance and policy scholars of color as well as scholars who are first-generation college graduates and/or who identify as LGBTQ+. In addition, this year we have established a standing Board committee devoted to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this committee and its difficult work, and indeed, to adopt the goal of truly working toward justice as a core tenet of the organization itself. This means committing to both making immediate changes to the organization as well as embarking on long-term planning to institutionalize justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion within AEFPP. This commitment is reflected in this year's conference theme: [Assessing the Responses of Education Finance and Policy to the Dual Pandemic of COVID-19 and Racial Injustice](#).

As we have taken on these important commitments, AEFPP continues to be devoted to developing and deepening partnerships with policymakers and practitioners. We continue to welcome P&P members by subsidizing conference travel and attendance and offering specific programming to help ensure the conference and research is useful to the people on the ground doing the work of implementing programs and policies in early child care centers, schools, and institutions of higher education. This year, we have added a new award to recognize a policymaker or practitioner who is devoted to the use of evidence in education policymaking and implementation. (Please nominate folks who are doing this [here!](#))

Of course, we hope to share more about these initiatives with you all in person in Denver in March of 2022. Under President-elect Jason Grissom's careful stewardship, we are planning for a fully in-person conference with selected sessions live-streamed. At the same time, the last 18 months have taught us the importance of flexibility and patience, and we recognize that even the best-laid plans are susceptible to change. Our members' safety and health continue to drive our decisions, and we will do our best to center our members' needs as we make—and perhaps change—plans. Through it all, though, I am ever grateful for the AEFPP community and all that you do to provide hope and optimism through your work and actions. I look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible, and to growing our AEFPP family in new and exciting ways.

-- Katharine Strunk, AEFPP President

## AEFP's New Look!

New school year, new look. We are excited to launch our new website! It looks a little different but has all the same content as before with an updated platform to connect with all things AEFPP.

To access your account:

1. Go to: <https://aefpweb.org/my-account>
2. Enter the same username & password credentials you used before!

If you have any difficulties or questions, please reach out to [info@aefpweb.org](mailto:info@aefpweb.org).

## #AEFP2022 Updates

### Call for Proposals

The Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) is pleased to announce its call for proposals for the 47th Annual Conference, which will be held March 17–19, 2022, at the Hilton Denver City Center in Denver, Colorado. Submissions will be accepted for individual papers, posters, and policy talks from Monday, September 20, through Monday, November 1, 2021, at 11:59 pm EST.

The 47th conference theme is *Assessing the Responses of Education Finance and Policy to the Dual Pandemic of COVID-19 and Racial Injustice*. COVID-19 and the struggle for racial justice have defined our collective recent history and may well prove to be the phenomena that define this decade. Both have had—and continue to have—profound implications for PK-12 schools, institutions of higher education, and their communities. As the dual pandemic has shaped the work of practitioners and policymakers, education finance and policy researchers have responded with timely data collection and analysis that have aided that work. This emerging research is shaping our understanding of education’s shifting landscape and providing new direction for how education systems can respond.

A goal of this year’s conference is to highlight research on COVID-19 and racial injustice and its connections to the work of practitioners and policymakers. As usual, we encourage submission of high-quality research on other topics (see topic areas below), but we are especially interested in paper and poster submissions that connect to the conference theme. We also invite submission of policy talk proposals that engage practitioners and policymakers around COVID-19- and racial injustice-related issues and challenges, though

again, policy talk proposals on other topics are welcome.

AEFP is engaged in an ongoing effort to make the organization a more inclusive space for education policy research, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. We welcome and encourage research that examines education finance and/or policy topics from varied substantive and methodological perspectives. We are especially interested in work that foregrounds issues of structural inequity, race, gender, sexuality, class, and ability. We are interested in any research addressing critical education finance and/or policy questions, recognizing that rigorous research can take many methodological forms.

Read the full call for proposals [here](#).

### COVID-19 and the Annual Conference

AEFP anticipates an in-person conference in 2022, with online streaming of select sessions. For in-person participants, we will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to ensure a safe conference. We plan to adhere to all CDC, state, and federal guidelines regarding COVID-19 protocols for the conference. As the situation continues to be fluid, we will continually assess our conference policies regarding vaccination status, masking, and social distancing practices. Given that these guidelines are shifting over time, we will communicate specifics to our membership closer to the conference.

Of course, although we are planning for an in-person gathering—our first in three years—we all recognize the uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic and the challenges it brings. Rest assured that we will have a backup plan in place should those plans get derailed. Look for further communications as we work through that uncertainty as spring approaches. We will keep

members updated on our plans for an in-person conference, including virtual attendance options. Until then, we look forward to receiving your great proposals for this year's conference.

## Membership & Conference Registration Rates

### Membership Rates

Due to an expansion of programming and operational costs, we have nominally increased our membership rates by \$10. View full membership benefits [here](#).

Student membership fee: \$70  
Regular membership fee: \$110

Combined Conference Registration and Membership Fees:

	Student attendees	Other attendees
<b>In-Person Conference Attendance*</b>		
Early Bird (Sign up before 1/30/2022)	\$270	\$460
Regular (1/31/2022 – 2/26/2022)	\$320	\$510
Late (Sign up after 2/27/2022)	\$405	\$595
<b>Other Attendance Options</b>		
Virtual attendee**	\$120	\$190
Single day in-person***	n/a	\$210***

\*includes annual membership fee

\*\*available for attendees only, there is currently no virtual presentation option

\*\*\*this does not include annual membership

## Sponsorship Opportunities for #AEFP2022

Sponsorship during #AEFP2022 will bring high-level visibility to your organization. We are pleased to offer the following ways for your organization to get involved in #AEFP2022:  
Event sponsorship • Charitable giving • Institutional membership

Learn more about sponsorship opportunities [here](#).

## Other Updates

### Virtual Networking Series

Last year, we introduced a new virtual networking series comprising 10 sessions attended by over 120 individuals. We will offer another virtual networking series this year. Look for an email announcement soon with more details including topics, dates, and how to RSVP.

### Community Groups

To help foster more supportive spaces within AEF, we are creating member community groups. We hope these groups will help to build community, create networks, and share professional resources. Each group will also work to design their own goals for the year. For the inaugural year, we will have the following community groups:

#### First-generation Scholars

Co-chairs: Sue Dynarksi & Emileigh Harrison  
Kickoff meeting: October 6, 2 pm EST

#### LGBTQ+ Scholars

Co-chairs: Michael Gottfried, Adam Kho, & Beth Schueler  
Kickoff meeting: October 12, 1 pm EST

#### Scholars of Color

Co-chairs: Kalena Cortes & Ayesha Hashim  
Kickoff meeting: September 24, 2 pm EST

### **Policymakers/Practitioners**

Co-chairs: Carrie Conaway & Krystofer Redden  
Kickoff meeting: October 5, 2:30 pm EST

### **Scholars of Education in Developing Countries**

Co-chairs: Alex Eble & Alejandro Ganimian  
Kickoff meeting: October 8, 12 pm EST

### **Doctoral Students**

Co-chairs: Mark Chin, Amy Cummings, & Valerie Michelman  
Kickoff meeting: October 1, 12 pm EST

Opt-in to community group email lists [here](#). See the schedule for affinity group meetings and RSVP [here](#)!

### **JEDI Committee Fellowships**

As AEFP continues to examine its own practices and policies focused on justice and equity, we invite applications from members for fellow positions on AEFP's new Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. Learn more about the fellowship position and submit your application [here](#).

### **Workshops**

Historically, we have offered pre-conference workshops the morning of the first day of our annual conference. Last year, we offered pre-conference workshops virtually in the month leading up to the conference. This virtual format allowed for more attendees to participate, and at a lower cost. Therefore, we will continue to offer virtual pre-conference workshops for the 2022 conference. Workshops will begin in early 2022. Look for an email announcement with more details soon.

### **Pre-Doctoral Fellows Diversity Program**

The AEFP Pre-Doctoral Fellows Diversity Program provides opportunities for individuals who have not yet applied to doctoral programs to learn more about education finance and policy research and to help them navigate the process of applying to doctoral programs.

Eligible participants include current undergraduates, master's students, and other college graduates (i.e., the program is not limited to current students) who are considering applying to a doctoral program (but have not yet applied) and who identify with a group underrepresented in AEFP's membership: e.g., Black and Latinx scholars, first-generation students, and LGBTQ+. Learn more about the program [here](#).

### **Early Career Mentor Program**

After a successful pilot year, we are excited to offer our early career mentorship program again. The goal of the program is to support early-career professionals from backgrounds historically marginalized or underrepresented in fields that center on education finance and policy. The program aims to reach scholars for whom this opportunity would substantially strengthen and expand their professional networks, as well as provide additional opportunities for feedback. Mentees will be organized into groups and assigned to pairs of mentors. This small group structure is intended to facilitate peer-to-peer network growth as well as informal senior-junior mentorship. As far as practicable, mentees will be grouped with mentors according to research interests. Learn more about the program [here](#).

### **Awards & Travel Subsidies**

We are pleased to continue our tradition of honoring exceptional work advancing our understanding of educational finance and policy through the following awards:

[Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award](#) is presented annually in recognition of exemplary dissertation research in education finance and policy.

[Early Career Award](#) recognizes junior scholars with exemplary early career trajectories (typically between 4 and 7 years post-doctorate) whose research substantially

contributes to the field of education finance and policy.

[Center for University Excellence Award at American University Applied Higher Education Finance & Policy Award](#) celebrates scholars who are engaged in exemplary applied research in higher education and in broad dissemination of results and policy implications. This award is designed to highlight applied education finance and/or policy research with substantial implications for public policy and practice in higher education.

[NEW! Policymaker & Practitioner Award](#) is intended to recognize a policymaker or practitioner who has fostered or engaged with evidence to make meaningful improvements to education policy or practice. These efforts can take multiple forms such as leading a formal research partnership, facilitating the use of evidence on a day-to-day basis in their organization, or implementing an important new policy or program to benefit educational outcomes.

### Update on the New Scholar Award

The New Scholar Award was originally intended to foster research using NCES data but eventually transitioned into an award to acknowledge very early career scholars who are pursuing interesting lines of education finance and policy research. As the organization has added both an Early Career Award and a Dissertation Award, the New Scholar award has become somewhat redundant.

After much consideration, the AEFPP Board of Directors has decided to discontinue the New Scholar Award. We are pleased to have provided support and recognition through the New Scholar award to an illustrious group of scholars who have gone on to do important research on topics related to education policy and finance.

### Nominate Colleagues or Submit an Application

[Nominate](#) a colleague for an award, learn more about our awards and submit your application for an award on our [website](#).

### Travel Grants

#### [Roe L. Johns Travel Grants](#)

Roe L. Johns Travel Grants are need-based conference grants awarded to graduate students in education finance and policy who present papers at AEFPP's Annual Conference to help subsidize their conference costs.

#### [Policymaker & Practitioner Conference Subsidies](#)

We are pleased to offer policymaker and practitioner conference subsidies, in partnership with generous support from the Walton Family Foundation. Subsidies will help cover the conference and membership fees of policymakers and practitioners wishing to attend #AEFP2022.

### Candidates for Board of Directors

We will be announcing the slate of candidates for the 2022 conference soon. Stay tuned for more details in an email announcement later this fall!

### Survey

We would like to hear from you regarding your plans for the upcoming year. Look for a survey from us next week so you can share your plans and feedback with us. Of all people, our members should understand the value of high response rates, so please make sure to submit your feedback!

## Current Board of Directors and Staff

### Officers

Katharine Strunk, President  
Patrice Iatarola, Past President  
Jason Grissom, President-Elect  
Richard Bowman, Financial Officer  
Lydia Ross, Executive Director

### Terms Expiring after the 2022 Conference

Brooks Bowden, Cassandra Hart, Steven Hemelt, Katherine Kurjakovic, Dara Zeehandelaar Shaw

### Terms Expiring after the 2023 Conference

Dominique Baker, Lisa Barrow, Brian Jacob, Andrew McEachin, Christina Weiland

### Terms Expiring after the 2024 Conference

Anjali Adukia, Li Feng, Jane Friesen, Constance Lindsay, Shanna Ricketts

### Designees of Sustaining Members

Tina Collins, Kyle Arnone

### Education Finance & Policy

**Executive Editors:** Stephanie Cellini, Randall Reback

**Associate Editors:** Sean Corcoran, Rajeev Darolia, Jason Grissom, Cassandra Hart, Steve Hemelt, Stephen L. Ross

**Managing Editor:** Lisa Jelks

**Editorial Assistant:** Christine Dickason

### AEFP Staff

Lydia Ross, Executive Director  
Hiep Ho, Webmaster

Kathy Deneen, Event Manager  
Andrea Ortega, Communications Manager

**Executive Director Emeritus:** Angela Hull, Ed Steinbrecher, George R. Babigian

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Complete lists of our [institutional and sustaining members](#) are available online.