

HIGHER
EDUCATION
— S E M I N A R —

FALL 2021



ewa

EDUCATION WRITERS ASSOCIATION

THIS
CRITICAL
MOMENT

OCT 18-22, 2021

WELCOME

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the Education Writers Association annual fall Higher Education Seminar. We're so pleased that you're joining us!


Higher education journalists face a torrent of news this fall, as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is confronting colleges with unprecedented academic, health, and enrollment challenges. At the same time, the country's racial reckoning and intense political polarization are roiling campuses as they weigh decisions on campus police, faculty diversity, and the teaching of sensitive subjects, among many controversial and consequential issues.

Throughout the week, EWA is offering a series of interactive sessions – centered on the theme of “This Critical Moment” – to help you separate the higher education news from the noise. In addition to providing context and background knowledge, these on-the-record sessions will help build up your data skills and inspire you with fresh story ideas.

In the hope of helping you to attend as many live sessions as possible, we are offering just two sessions per day and spreading them out over a full work week. We want to make sure you have the chance to meet and ask questions of policymakers, researchers and leaders in postsecondary education, as well as to gather in small groups with your peers and colleagues from around the country.

We look forward to making the most of our opportunity to be together, even though we can't yet gather in person. As always, I can't wait to see how you use what you learn!

Warm regards,



Caroline Hendrie
Executive Director

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EVERYONE DESERVES REAL OPPORTUNITY



Unfortunately, opportunity isn't equal.

At Lumina Foundation, we're committed to removing the barriers that keep today's Black, Hispanic, and Native American students from the education and lives they seek.

Learn more about Lumina's commitment to equity:
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SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCT. 18

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

12 – 1 p.m.

A panel of experts and policymakers discuss the 2021-22 outlook for higher education students, staff and institutions in light of a new presidential administration, worsening political divides over the purpose of college, and continuing economic uncertainties plaguing state budgets.

- ▶ **Terry Hartle**, American Council on Education
- ▶ **Andrew Kelly**, University of North Carolina System Office
- ▶ **Kim Hunter Reed**, Louisiana Board of Regents
- ▶ **Delece Smith-Barrow**, Politico (moderator)

THE TOP 10 HIGHER EDUCATION STORIES YOU'LL BE COVERING THIS YEAR

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Inside Higher Ed editor Scott Jaschik outlines the trends that he believes will make the biggest headlines this academic year.

- ▶ **Scott Jaschik**, Inside Higher Ed
- ▶ **Christina Samuels**, The Hechinger Report (moderator)

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

MASK AND VACCINE MINEFIELDS ON CAMPUS

12 – 1 p.m.

How can colleges operate while keeping students, staff and instructors safe and healthy? Educational leaders and researchers discuss how they are attempting to navigate through often conflicting expert opinions, as well as differing federal, state and local masking, vaccination and operations orders.

- ▶ **Wayne A.I. Frederick**, Howard University
- ▶ **James Hodge**, Arizona State University
- ▶ **Sarah Van Orman**, University of Southern California
- ▶ **Francie Diep**, The Chronicle of Higher Education (moderator)

SCHEDULE

COVERING CAMPUS POLICE

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Get story ideas and investigation tips from reporters who have covered data around campus police. Learn how to dig out police surveillance data and how to examine a university police force's demographics.

- ▶ **Dave Maass**, Electronic Frontier Foundation
- ▶ **Felicia Mello**, CalMatters
- ▶ **Omar Rashad**, CalMatters and California Polytechnic State University
- ▶ **Hailey Rodis**, Electronic Frontier Foundation and University of Nevada Reno
- ▶ **Sara Hebel**, Open Campus (moderator)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

HBCUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

12 – 1 p.m.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities have long been underfunded by state governments – and often ignored by the mainstream media – even though they produce disproportionate shares of professionals of color in almost every industry. Two veteran education journalists who have shined spotlights on these important institutions share story ideas and reporting advice.

- ▶ **Brittany Britto**, Houston Chronicle
- ▶ **Adam Harris**, The Atlantic

DATA TRAINING ON FACULTY DIVERSITY

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Concern is mounting that college instructors and professors generally don't look like – or share much cultural background with – their students. Reporters and editors who have crunched the numbers share data and tips on how you can analyze faculty diversity in your community.

- ▶ **Jason Gonzales**, Chalkbeat
- ▶ **Naomi Harris**, Public Source
- ▶ **Scott Smallwood**, Open Campus

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 21

REDEFINING REMEDIATION: NEW APPROACHES FOR STUDENTS WHO START COLLEGE BEHIND

12 - 1 p.m.

The last 18 months have been a disaster for many high school students. How has that impacted their college readiness? What does that mean for postsecondary institutions? Researchers and education leaders explain what extra support COVID-impacted freshmen need, and the reality facing colleges that are themselves recovering from shutdowns and budget cuts.

- ▶ **Marisol Cuellar Mejia**, Public Policy Institute of California
- ▶ **Nikki Edgecombe**, Columbia University
- ▶ **Emily House**, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- ▶ **Mikhail Zinshteyn**, CalMatters (moderator)

HOW I DID THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM STORY

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

A growing number of state legislators are trying to control what instructors teach about race and racism in America. Meanwhile, professors struggle with encouraging students to engage in robust yet respectful exploration of controversial subjects amid fear of social media attacks. Reporters who've covered challenges to academic freedom will share advice and tips on navigating these divisive issues.

- ▶ **Colleen Flaherty**, Inside Higher Ed
- ▶ **Divya Kumar**, The Tampa Bay Times
- ▶ **Anya Kamenetz**, NPR (moderator)

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCT. 22

THE GREAT STUDENT REALLOCATION: WHERE IS ENROLLMENT RISING AND WHY?

12 – 1 p.m.

Hundreds of thousands of students dropped out of college during the pandemic. But some colleges have seen demand and enrollment rise. Hear from researchers and educational leaders about colleges bucking the downward trend and what that means for the future of higher education.

- ▶ **Mitch Daniels**, Purdue University
- ▶ **Melissa Marx**, Johns Hopkins University
- ▶ **Shouan Pan**, Seattle Colleges
- ▶ **Doug Shapiro**, National Student Clearinghouse
- ▶ **Betty Vandebosch**, Coursera
- ▶ **Kim Clark**, EWA (moderator)

HOW I DID THE STUDENT LOAN STORY

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

The federal government is preparing to start demanding payments on student loans again, a topic that is igniting political controversy. Three journalists who have done groundbreaking work on student loans share ideas and advice to help localize stories and find data and sources to investigate this timely topic.

- ▶ **Danielle Douglas-Gabriel**, The Washington Post
- ▶ **Meredith Kolodner**, The Hechinger Report
- ▶ **Josh Mitchell**, The Wall Street Journal