



**NCHER Annual Conference  
June 7-9, 2021  
Remo Conference Platform**

**Program Agenda**

*(Draft program as of May 13, 2021)*

**Monday, June 7, 2021**

**(All times Eastern)**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Meeting of the NCHER Board of Directors**

The NCHER Board will meet to receive reports from the Chair, Treasurer, and President on the organization’s advocacy, communications, and research strategies. The meeting is open to all members of NCHER. To access the meeting using the Zoom platform, click the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85857551530?pwd=MzdMSmtscDFVbldXam1pRkVCC3JiUT09>.

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

**(All times Eastern)**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Conference Opens and Networking – Link Active**

**11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**Conference Welcome**

The NCHER leadership will welcome members to the conference and briefly discuss the conference program for the day.

**Speaker**

**Scott D. Giles, Chair**

National Council of Higher Education Resources  
Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer  
Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority

**11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Federal Developments Impacting the Higher Education Finance Industry**

2021 is shaping up to be one of the most consequential years in higher education finance policy in recent memory. Congress is expected to

consider a second budget reconciliation package in July 2021 that is expected to be largely based on the White House’s American Families Plan that is expected to include free community college and additional support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions. The package may also include other changes to higher education policy that have been discussed during previous reauthorizations of the Higher Education Act such as simplifying federal repayment plans or automatically enrolling delinquent borrowers in income-driven repayment. Both chambers have also begun the budget and appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2022 and have focused on doubling the maximum award for the Pell Grant program. The White House continues to explore options around student loan forgiveness and the U.S. Department of Education continues to discuss how it intends to reform the federal student loan servicing and collections systems as part of the Next Generation Financial Services Environment. In this session, a panel of experts will discuss federal developments impacting the higher education finance industry in the past, present, and future.

**Moderator**

**Scott A. Giles**, Immediate Past Chair  
National Council of Higher Education Resources  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

**Speakers**

**Vic Klatt**, Principal  
Penn Hill Group

**Lauren Maddox**, Senior Policy Advisor  
Holland & Knight LLP

**Christopher Murray**, Partner  
Thompson Coburn LLP

**12:15 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.**

**Research-Driven Data to Improve Student Lending**

Over the last year, there have been a number of reports released by federal agencies such as the Federal Reserve, think-tanks, research organizations, and consumer groups geared toward improving student loan repayment, especially as the monthly payment suspension put in place to address the economic fallout associated with the COVID-19 pandemic may be coming to an end. In this session, a panel of experts will discuss these research findings and share their recommendations for improvements in federal student loan policy.

**Moderator**

**Bryan Ashton**, Vice President – Community Investment and Government Affairs  
Trellis Company

**Speakers**

**Jon Remedios**, Associate  
Pew Charitable Trusts

**Sarah Sattelmeyer**, Project Director for Education, Opportunity, and  
Mobility  
New America

**Michele Streeter**, Senior Policy Analyst  
The Institute for College Access & Success

**1:10 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.**

**Break**

**1:25 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.**

**An Update on Prospects of Federal Student Loan Forgiveness**

Throughout last year’s campaign, President Joe Biden discussed his support for Congress providing up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt forgiveness to those borrowers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since taking office, progressive groups have pressured the Biden Administration to use executive authority to provide up to \$50,000 in student loan forgiveness to all borrowers. Supporters believe that student loan cancellation is a long-overdue idea that will address racial inequities while opponents say that it is not an effective use of limited federal resources and would create a moral hazard from borrowers who will take out student loan debt knowing that they will not have to pay it back. In this session, a panel of experts will review the latest federal developments impacting student loan forgiveness, and the likelihood that the Biden Administration will move forward in cancelling student loan debt.

**2:20 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**Reviewing State Student Loan Servicing Licensing Laws**

Since 2015, a growing number of states have passed new laws establishing Student Loan Ombudsman Offices to represent the interests of borrowers on student loan-related matters and requiring student loan servicers to obtain a license to service federal and private student loans in their states. In this session, a panel of experts will provide an update on state student loan servicing licensing laws, highlight the differences between the various statutes, discuss how NCHER members are currently complying with current statutes, and talk about the push for moving from a patchwork of state laws to uniform, nationwide, and federally mandated consumer protections.

**Speakers**

**Adam Ragan**, Partner  
Fox Rothschild

**3:30 p.m.**

**Conference Adjourns**

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

(All times Eastern)

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Conference Opens and Networking – Link Active**

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Conference Welcome**

The NCHER leadership will welcome members to the conference and briefly discuss the conference program for the day.

**Speaker**

**James P. Bergeron**, President

National Council of Higher Education Resources

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**Higher Education Priorities of the Biden Administration**

Since taking office, President Joe Biden has moved forward on many of the higher education priorities outlined in last year's campaign. His American Families Plan would create a federal-state partnership centered on free community college. The U.S. Department of Education is expected to release a legal opinion soon on whether it has the authority to forgive federal student loan debt. The Biden Administration's budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 provides additional resources to begin doubling the maximum award of the Pell Grant program and dramatically increasing funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Later this year, the Department is expected to begin a regulatory rulemaking to reinstitute the borrower defense to repayment and gainful employment regulations originally put in place by the Obama Administration. This session will examine the policies and priorities of the Biden Administration and the outlook for higher education in 2021 and 2022.

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Break**

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Current and Emerging Trends in Private Education Loans**

According to MeasureOne, the total outstanding private education loan portfolio stands at \$123.14 billion, 7.71 percent of total student loan debt. During this session, participants will provide an update on the capital markets, and examine and discuss the current and expected trends in the private education loan market such as the impact of rising interest rates (following historic low rates following the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic), new entrants into the marketplace, and federal and state regulatory activities. The panel will also discuss new potential market opportunities to assist students and families, including in-school, refinancing, and loan consolidation; highlight recent securitizations and profile various aspects of the current private loan portfolios (demographics, delinquency, charge-offs, etc.); and discuss and share best practices on member programs.

**Speakers**

**Robert Lavet**, General Counsel  
SoFi

**1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**The Role and Priorities of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Higher Education Financing**

Since its inception in 2010, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has used its regulatory and supervision authority to oversee private student loan origination and servicing. Since taking office, the Biden Administration has expanded the work of the Bureau to include federal student loan servicers and reaffirmed that it will use the full force of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street and Consumer Protection Act to seek relief for student loan borrowers. In this session, an expert panel will provide an update on their regulatory activities impacting the student loan industry.

**Speakers**

**Robert Cameron**, Private Education Loan Ombudsman  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

**Austin Hinkle**, Attorney-Advisor for Supervision Policy, Division of Supervision, Fair Lending, and Enforcement  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

**2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

**Break**

**2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**Current and Emerging Trends in Federal Student Loan Financing and LIBOR Transition**

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) portfolio currently stands at \$159.8 billion, which includes \$133.7 billion held by lenders and holders. During this session, a panel of experts will provide an update on the capital markets, examine current and expected trends in the FFELP loan market, and highlight recent securitizations and profile various aspects of the current federal loan portfolios. In addition, the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is slated to be phased out by the end of 2021. LIBOR is a benchmark rate that represents the interest rate at which banks offer to lend funds to one another in the international market for short-term loans and is used as an index to calculate interest rates on various loan products around the world such as student loans. In this session, financial industry experts will provide an update on the move away from LIBOR to the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), including the development of federal legislation to address legacy contracts, and discuss other efforts to ensure successful implementation away from LIBOR for federal and private student loans.

**3:30 p.m.**

**Conference Adjourns**