

Featured 2012 NASFAA Conference Speakers

July 22 to 25, 2012



Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Monday, July 23 from 8:00 am to 8:45 am in the Grand Ballroom

Sen. Durbin is the 47th U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, the state's senior senator, and the convener of Illinois' bipartisan congressional delegation. Durbin also serves as the Assistant Majority Leader, the second highest ranking position in the Senate, also known as the Majority Whip. Durbin sits on the Senate Judiciary, Appropriations, Foreign Relations and Rules Committees. He is the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights and the Appropriations Committee's Financial Services and General Government subcommittee.

Scott Fleming

Sunday, July 22 from 12:45 pm to 2:15 pm in the Grand Ballroom

Fleming serves as an education policy advisor for Romney for President and is president and vice chairman of Madison Education Group, a private management consulting firm working exclusively in the education space. His experience includes work with some of the nation's largest education companies, higher education finance, and international projects. Mr. Fleming previously served as a senior executive with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Scantron, two of the world's leading publishing and assessment services providers. He also worked for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions as a Senior Education Policy Advisor to Chairman Michael B. Enzi.

James Kvaal

Sunday, July 22 from 12:45 pm to 2:15 pm in the Grand Ballroom

Kvaal is the Policy Director at Obama for America, where he helps articulate the president's accomplishments and agenda across a range of issues. Before joining the campaign, he served as Deputy Under Secretary at the Department of Education, where he focused on student aid and higher education policy, and as a special assistant to the president for economic policy at the White House. Mr. Kvaal has also been a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a higher education policy adviser in the Clinton Administration and for the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Education Under Secretary Martha J. Kanter

Tuesday, July 24 from 12:00 pm to 2:10 pm in the Grand Ballroom

Kanter was nominated by President Barack Obama on April 29, 2009 to be the under secretary of education and was confirmed by the Senate on June 19, 2009. Kanter reports to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and oversees policies, programs, and activities related to postsecondary education, adult and career-technical education, federal student aid, and five White House Initiatives on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Educational Excellence for Hispanics, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. To spur education, economic growth and social prosperity, Kanter is charged with planning and policy responsibilities to implement President Obama's goal for the U.S. to have "the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world by 2020" as measured by the proportion of college graduates over the next decade. Under Secretary Kanter and her team are keenly focused on improving college access, affordability, quality, and completion to implement President Obama's American Graduation Initiative.

