Plenary Session IV
Higher Education: Public Good and/or Private Benefit –
The Disconnect Between Separate and Unequal and What the Economy Will Require

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
10:30 am – noon
Anasazi Ballroom
Plenary Session IV:
Higher Education: Public Good and/or Private Benefit – The Disconnect Between Separate and Unequal and What the Economy Will Require

This fourth and final session on whether American higher education is a public good, a private benefit, or both, will present the findings of a recently released monograph, Separate and Unequal, coauthored by Anthony Carnevale and Jeffrey Strohl, both of the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce. This work provides exceptionally strong evidence that America’s current higher educational “system” creates inequality in educational outcomes, rather than creating the equality of opportunity reflected in our rhetorical intentions. Jeff Strohl will present these findings, including the finding that America cannot achieve its goal of improved global competitiveness in educational achievement unless we can reduce the equity gaps that our current system appears to exacerbate.

Speaker: Jeff Strohl, director of research, Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University

Facilitated Discussion on Higher Education: Public Good and/or Private Benefit – The Disconnect Between Separate and Unequal and What the Economy Will Require

Facilitator: Leah Bornstein, immediate past WICHE chair and president, Coconino Community College

Biographical Information on the Speaker & Facilitator

Jeff Strohl is the director of research at the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce where he continues his long involvement in the analysis of education and labor market outcomes and policy. He leads the Center’s research investigating the supply and demand of education and how education enhances career opportunities for today’s workforce. Strohl also focuses on how to quantify skills and how to better understand competencies given the evolving nature of the U.S. workplace. Before moving to the Center, Strohl was a senior analyst and project director at Westat, Inc., where he was primarily involved in program evaluation and analysis of education outcomes. Strohl helped design and direct several projects that investigated socioeconomic diversity in American education and sought to affect postsecondary admissions policies. He also helped design a model that predicts occupational risks to offshoring as a function of workplace competencies. At Westat, Strohl used economic modeling to evaluate the Federal GEAR UP program, the Federal Youth Opportunity Grant Initiative, the Pre-Elementary Education Longitudinal Study, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance programs, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s National and Local Emphasis programs. Strohl received his B.A. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and his M.A. and Ph.D.
in economics from American University. His dissertation was a cross-country study of how education can enhance overall economic flexibility in times of economic crisis and structural shift.

Leah Bornstein has dedicated more than 25 years to higher education in a variety of leadership and management roles. Throughout her career she has advocated for student success, quality instruction, increased access to education, and strong enrollment and completion rates. Appointed in 2007, Bornstein serves as president of Coconino Community College in Flagstaff, Arizona. Established in 1991, the college’s boundaries span 18,000 square miles of northern Arizona with three campuses in Flagstaff and Page, and outreach centers in Williams, Grand Canyon, Fredonia, and Tuba City. CCC reaches some of the most remote stretches of Arizona with a variety of distance services. The college, with more than 500 full-time and part-time employees, offers more than 70 degrees and certificates and serves nearly 10,000 students each year. Prior to joining CCC as president, Bornstein served as CEO for Colorado Mountain College - Summit County Campus. She led the campus and community through site determination, land acquisition, design and development of a new 35,000-square-foot campus acting as the gateway into Breckenridge, an internationally known ski resort community. She also served as chief academic officer at Lamar Community College in Colorado. Bornstein was vice president of instruction at the Higher Colleges of Technology-Center for Education Research and Training in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and, the vice president for Academic Affairs at University College, University of Denver, Colorado. A native New Englander, Bornstein’s lifelong commitment to higher education began with her Associate and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Bradford College in Bradford, MA; Master of Education from the University of Vermont; and doctorate degree from the University of Denver.