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U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education

Grantee Voices From the Field

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Office of Postsecondary Education Leader Linda Byrd-Johnson Celebrates Retirement After 45 Years!



Senior executive Linda Byrd-Johnson retires after years of leadership in the Office of Postsecondary Education.

Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) celebrates long-time employee and leader Linda Byrd-Johnson as she retires from U.S. federal service. Byrd-Johnson was a senior executive in OPE's Higher Education Programs division. Among her various roles, she provided leadership for overseeing, administering, and coordinating discretionary and

formula grants and contracts in the Student Service and Institutional Service areas. In addition, she provided advice to assistant secretaries and other U.S. Department of Education (Department) leaders on the formulation of policy, the design of operating programs, legislative proposals, and controversial and sensitive issues.

Byrd-Johnson began her career at the Department in the Office of the Liaison for Minorities and Women and as a staff member of the presidentially appointed National Advisory Committee on Black Higher Education and Black Colleges and Universities.

She received her bachelor's degree in history and African studies from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and her master's and doctorate degrees in African studies and research from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Byrd-Johnson graduated from the Executive Potential Program and was honored by Howard University as a distinguished Ph.D. alumna in 1998. In 2014, she received the Lifetime Service Award from the [Council on Opportunity in Education](#), a special distinction that honors individuals whose lives have been dedicated to promoting educational opportunity and helping students overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to succeed in college.



Assistant Secretary Nasser Paydar, Linda Byrd-Johnson, and Secretary Miguel Cardona celebrate Byrd-Johnson's career at the Department.

Secretary Cardona's Raise the Bar Bus Tour Visits Grantees in Kansas and Missouri



Group Photo with Secretary Cardona and students of the McNair and TRIO programs attending Kansas.

On Sept. 5, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona launched the “Back to School Bus Tour 2023: Raise the Bar.” This week-long, multi-state road trip showcased the many ways schools, families, and communities are doubling down on accelerating student learning and raising the bar in education.



Secretary Cardona (left) listens to McNair and TRIO program students explain the benefits of OPE grant funds as they pursue higher education.

The tour featured a stop at the University of Kansas, where the Secretary met with students to learn about how they benefit from such OPE-funded programs as the [Ronald E McNair](#)

[and TRIO programs](#). The Raise the Bar initiative began with funding from the American Rescue Plan, and Secretary Cardona is encouraging local and state governments to match the federal urgency in education funding.



Secretary Cardona (left), President of Harris-Stowe State University LaTonia Collins Smith, and Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri welcome the Raise the Bar tour to Harris-Stowe.



St. Louis, Missouri, Mayor Tishaura Jones, and Harris-Stowe State University student Jordan Ross shared how HEERF funds helped students continue their education during the pandemic.

The next stop on the Raise the Bar bus tour was [Harris-Stowe State University](#) (Harris Stowe) in St. Louis, Missouri. There, Cardona met with local leaders and students who were able to maintain their enrollment due to the [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\)](#) that helps historically Black college and university students thrive.

Harris-Stowe students shared details on how OPE grants were vital to their postsecondary education programs. Grants helped students pay for Wi-Fi and tuition fees and offered them a second chance at higher education.



The Raise the Bar bus.

Watch Secretary Cardona discuss Raise the Bar at Harris-Stowe State University

Office of Postsecondary Education Releases Data on Teacher Preparation Across the United States

July 2023

PREPARING AND CREDENTIALING THE NATION'S TEACHERS

The Secretary's 13th Report on the Teacher Workforce



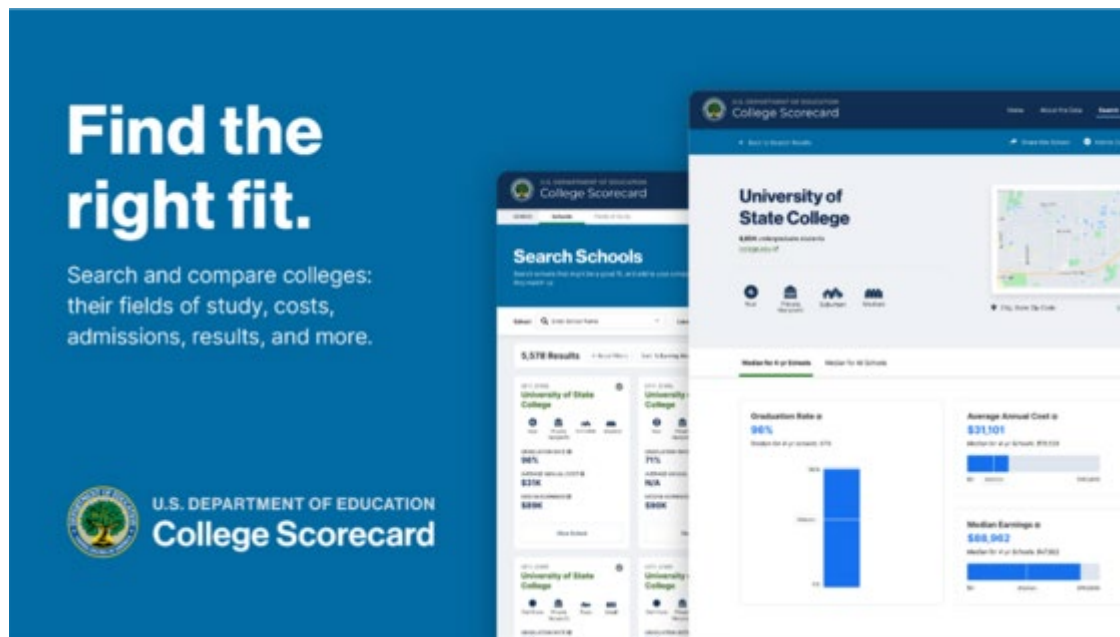
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

OPE released the 2023 [Preparing and Credentialing the Nation's Teachers](#) report on the Teacher Workforce.

The number of students enrolled in and completing teacher preparation programs in the United States has declined overall since 2013, according to the recently released report from OPE, titled *Preparing and Credentialing the Nation's Teachers*. This report presents data about teacher preparation programs' enrollment and completion counts, numbers and types of programs, program entry and exit requirements, state assessment of program performance, initial teaching credentials provided by states, and more, from 2012 to 2020.

Learn more in the report: [2023 *Preparing and Credentialing the Nation's Teachers*](#).

Compare Schools With the College Scorecard



Visit the College Scorecard website to learn more.

Submission by Brian Fu, U.S. Department of Education

[College Scorecard](#) | [College Scorecard \(ed.gov\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Education's [College Scorecard](#) is a free and easy-to-use online tool that provides students, families, educators, counselors, and other college-access professionals with the information they need to make data-driven choices and find the right college fit. College Scorecard provides information on nearly all colleges in the United States, including career and technical colleges, community colleges, four-year schools, and many of those offering graduate and professional programs.

College Scorecard users can search for and filter schools by name, location, program offerings, and other key school characteristics and view data about costs, student loan debt, graduation rates, post-enrollment earnings, campus diversity, admissions test scores, acceptance rates, and more. Users may select multiple schools to compare their data on a single page and quickly identify the school that best fits their needs.

The College Scorecard supports students on their pathway to college and future careers by increasing the transparency of information that will help them understand the benefits of a higher education program. While data is available directly through the website, the

College Scorecard also makes data available for download and through an application programming interface (API) that is open to developers.

Last year alone, over 1.5 million customers logged over two million visits to the College Scorecard website to help find the best postsecondary fit. For more information, email the help desk at scorecarddata@rti.org.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions Webinar: Storytelling with Annual Performance Report Data



OPE analyst Margarita Melendez (top right), leads discussions about using annual performance reports to tell compelling stories about grantee accomplishments.

The Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Division held a webinar in October 2023 to empower the grantee community to turn their annual performance reports (APRs) into a compelling story. OPE hosted the webinar, along with academics from the University of Puerto Rico - Aguadilla and Mercy College in New York. Presenters provided examples of ways to make grantee stories as accessible as possible and present the data in an organized and visually appealing format. For more information, please email Margarita Melendez at Margerita.Melendez@ed.gov.

[Watch the Storytelling with Data Learning Series on YouTube](#)

Fulbright-Hays Graduate Programs Abroad Term Curricula Development Project



Yuva Hindi Sansthan Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad Program participants arrive at Delhi Airport in India.

Submission By Ashok Ojha, Program Director, Yuva Hindi Sansthan

The [Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad \(GPA\)](#) Program Curriculum Development Project, led by Yuva Hindi Sansthan (YHS), a nonprofit educational group based in Edison, New Jersey, recruited 12 United States-based teachers and student teachers for a month-long study abroad tour to India over the last year. The tour and project theme focused on sustainable practices in India by examining the impact of the changing environment on local culture, lifestyle, and community response.



Yuva Hindi Sansthan Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad Program participant explores natural materials and daily life in India.

The project was developed in collaboration with New York University professor Gabriela Nik Ilieva. Ilieva and program director Ashok Ojha led the India tour, which focused on familiarizing U.S.-based teachers and student teachers with the on-the-ground ecological realities created by global warming and climate change at various locations in India.



YHS Fulbright-Hays GPA 2022 participants practicing folk dancing with Warli villagers.

Participants were required to study the impact of climate change within the cultural contexts of India and to become aware of the sustainable lifestyles of local communities. They were also required to collect authentic materials in the native culture of India, such as resources related to climate change and sustainable living.



YHS Fulbright-Hays GPA 2022 participants learning about World Readiness Standards.

The tour played an important role in ensuring that the teachers integrated the World Readiness Standards into the teaching materials, the American Council on the Teaching Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines, and best practices for teaching and learning heritage languages. Yuva Hindi Sansthan received a second Fulbright-Hays GPA award in fiscal year 2023.

[Watch Professor Ilieva discuss the Fulbright Hays program on YouTube](#)

Office of Postsecondary Education Employee Spotlight: Garrett Schiche, International Foreign Language and Education



Garrett Schiche, IFLE

Garrett Schiche is an education research analyst in the Department's [International Foreign Language and Education](#) division. He enjoys his work because it offers an opportunity to combine his passion for strategic performance data conversations with IT project management.

Schiche's work directly impacts OPE's values of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness by examining areas of sex, gender, and identity in data collection. He engages with his colleagues to create newer and innovative ways to understand OPE's work while strongly impacting its programs for educators and students.

Grantee Feedback: Grantee Satisfaction Survey Results Coming Soon!

Thank you to the 900 grantees who responded to the annual [2023 Grantee Satisfaction Survey](#). OPE values the grantee project directors' feedback and suggestions for improvements when interacting with the Department. Our programs use the feedback you provide to improve the delivery of services to our grantee community. Contact your OPE program specialist to learn more about the survey.

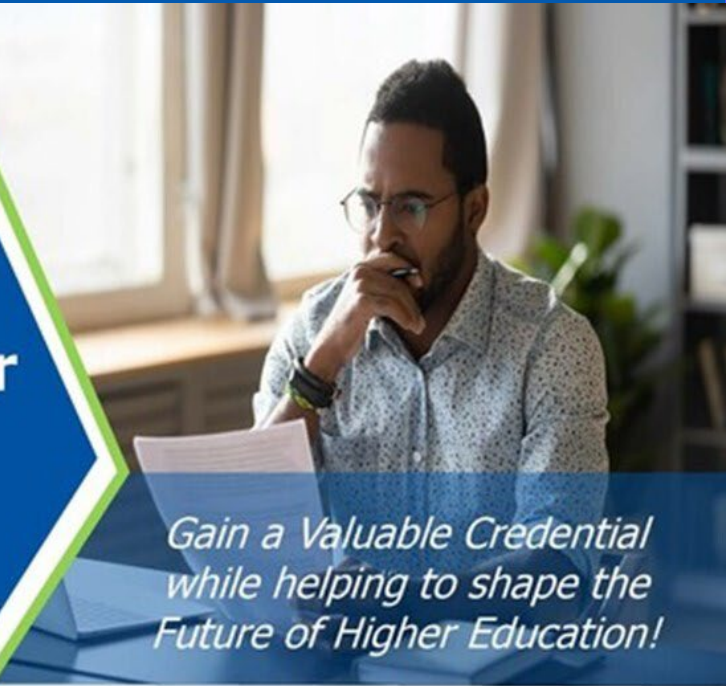
OPE Peer Review Opportunities

The Department provides opportunities for individuals to participate in its peer review process, reviewing applications for competitive grant funding. Learn how to become a peer reviewer by reading the [Department's peer review guidelines](#).



Become a Peer Reviewer with the U.S. Department of Education

Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)



Gain a Valuable Credential while helping to shape the Future of Higher Education!

Each year, OPE convenes panels of external education professionals and practitioners to serve as peer reviewers. Peer reviewers evaluate and score submitted applications against competition-specific criteria and announced priorities. Application scores are then used to inform the Secretary's funding decisions.

Benefits of being a Peer Reviewer



Development

Network with and learn from other noted higher education colleagues



Service

Serve the higher education community by providing your unique expertise



Innovation

Be exposed to new & innovative ideas to expand and enhance higher education



Influence

Make recommendations to the Department on which projects to fund



[List of OPE Grant Competitions](#)

If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer for OPE, please review the current competitions (linked above).

For qualification requirements and more information, please visit our website, [here](#) or call the G5 hotline at 888-336-8930.

Share your good news, announcements, and updates with 13,000 OPE newsletter subscribers. Email photos, stories, updates, and other news to OPECOMS@ed.gov.



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