

ELAINE W. LEIGH

leigh@rand.org | @ElaineWLeigh | www.elainewleigh.com | Philadelphia, PA

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Higher Education** [*with distinction*] 2021
University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA
- Graduate Certificate, Urban Studies
 - Graduate Certificate, College and University Teaching
 - Dissertation: *Confronting the System: How Local Cross-sector Education Collaborations Address Barriers to Postsecondary Access & Attainment*
- M.S.Ed., Urban Education & Secondary Science** 2010
University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA
- Pennsylvania General Science (Instructional Level I) Teaching Certification for grades 7-12
- B.A. Psychology**, Minor: International Studies [*magna cum laude with College Honors*] 2008
University of Washington | Seattle, WA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Postsecondary access, completion, and social mobility for minoritized students; Career preparation and workforce transitions; Cross-sector collaborations in education and workforce; Community colleges; Race, class, and equity in postsecondary education; State higher education finance and policy; Critical policy analysis; Critical quantitative and mixed methods research

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Policy Researcher** 2023–Present
RAND Corporation | Remote – Philadelphia, PA
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Research** 2021–2023
Strada Education Network | Remote – Philadelphia, PA
- Ph.D. Fellow, School District of Philadelphia Pipeline Initiatives** 2020–2021
Office of the Vice Provost for Student Engagement, University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA
- Doctoral Fellow** 2015–2021
Penn Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy (PennAHEAD) | Philadelphia, PA
- Research Intern, Community Development & Regional Outreach** Summer 2018
The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia | Philadelphia, PA
- Policy Research Intern** Summer 2016
Institute for Higher Education Policy | Washington, D.C.
- Director of Support Services (2013–2015)** 2011–2015
Director of High School Support Services (2011–2013)
Steppingstone Scholars | Philadelphia, PA
- Educational Advisor, TRIO Talent Search Program** 2010–2011
ASPIRA Inc. of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA
- Science Teacher, 6th and 7th Grades** (Teach For America Corps Member) 2008–2010
Penn Treaty School, School District of Philadelphia | Philadelphia, PA

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

AERA Division L (Educational Policy & Politics) Outstanding Dissertation Award – Honorable Mention (2022) | *American Educational Research Association (AERA)*

AERA Division J (Postsecondary Education) Emerging Scholars (2020) | *American Educational Research Association (AERA)*

NCES Data Institute Participant (2018) | *Association for Institutional Research & National Center for Education Statistics*

Education Policy Academy Fellow (2017) | *American Enterprise Institute*

Student Government President’s Community Leadership Award (2017) | *Penn Graduate School of Education*

Graduate Student Public Policy Seminar Participant (2016) | *Council on Public Policy in Higher Education, Association for the Study of Higher Education*

Graduate Student Affiliate (2015-2021) | *Penn Institute for Urban Research*

Born to Make History Award (2015) | *Influencing Action Movement*

Regional Nominee (2010) | *Teach For America Sue Lehmann Excellence in Teaching Award*

Phi Beta Kappa (2007) | *University of Washington*

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (2020–21) | *Office of the Vice Provost for Student Engagement, University of Pennsylvania*

Moorman-Simon Fellowship (2016–2019) | *Penn Graduate School of Education*

Tannenbaum Fellow (2016) | *Penn Wharton Public Policy Initiative*

Dean’s Fellowship (2015–16) | *Penn Graduate School of Education*

GAPSA Travel Grant (2016, 2017) | *University of Pennsylvania Graduate Student Assembly*

GSESG Student Travel Grant (2016, 2017) | *Penn Graduate School of Education*

University of Washington

- Mary Gates Research Scholar (2007–08)
- Mary Gates Honors Scholar (2004–2006), 2-year resident tuition and book allowance
- University of Washington Undergraduate Scholar (2004–2006)
- University of Washington Libraries Student Employee Scholarship (2005)
- Undergraduate Research Travel Award (2008)
- Undergraduate Foreign Study Scholarship (2006)

State of Washington

- Washington Scholar (merit-based) (2004–2008), 4-year resident tuition
- Washington Promise Scholar (need-based) (2004–2005)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Denotes authorship is equal and names listed in alphabetical order

Perna, L.W., Wright-Kim, J., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2021). Will college promise programs improve or reduce equity? Understanding the contextual conditions that influence program implementation. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 29(26). <https://doi.org/10.14507/epaa.29.5436>

Leigh, E.W., & González Canché, M.S. (2021). The College Promise in communities: Do place-based scholarships affect residential mobility patterns? *Research in Higher Education*, 62(3), 259-308. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s1162-020-09597-6>

***Leigh, E.W.**, Pak, K., & Phuong, J. (2021). Defining ourselves: Exploring our leader and activist identities as Asian

American women doctoral students. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 14(2), 174-188.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000173>

Perna, L.W., Wright-Kim, J., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2020). Are college promise programs an effective use of resources? Understanding implications of program design and resource investments for equity and efficiency. *AERA Open*, 6(4), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332858420967633>

Leigh, E.W., Irele, A.A., Bowers, K.A. (2020). Mitigating summer learning loss in Philadelphia during COVID-19: Humble attempts from the field (invited article). *Perspectives on Urban Education*, 18(1).
<https://urbanedjournal.gse.upenn.edu/archive/volume-18-issue-1-fall-2020>

Perna, L.W. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2018). Understanding the promise: A typology of state and local promise programs. *Educational Researcher*, 47(3), 155-180. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X17742653>

Perna, L.W., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Carroll, S. (2018). "Free college:" A new and improved state approach to increasing educational attainment? *American Behavioral Scientist*, 61(14), 1740-1756.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764217744821>

Leigh, E.W. (2017). An exploration of 'hyper-local' community-university engagement in the development of smart cities. *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 50(4), 421-433. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10665684.2017.1393642>

BOOK CHAPTERS

Pak, K., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Phuong, J. (2021). Reclaiming identity for critical leadership development. In K. Pak & S.M. Ravitch (Eds.), *Critical leadership praxis for educational and social change* (pp. 49-62). New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Delaney, J.A. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2020). A promising trend? An event history analysis of factors associated with establishing single-institution College Promise programs. In L.W. Perna & E.J. Smith (Eds.), *Improving research-based knowledge of college promise programs*, (pp. 269-304). Washington, D.C.: American Educational Research Association.

Ruiz, R., **Leigh, E.W.**, Napier, A., & González Canché, M.S. (2020). Community college promise programs and local impact: Aggregate effects of college attainment in three Promise communities. In L.W. Perna & E. Smith (Eds.), *Improving research-based knowledge of college promise programs*, (pp. 241-268). Washington, D.C.: American Educational Research Association.

REPORTS & BRIEFS

Leigh, E.W., Jankowski, N., & Leavitt, M. (2023). *Trends in employer partnerships with community colleges: Insights from Strada's National Grant Challenge*. Strada Education Foundation.
<https://stradaeducation.org/report/trends-in-employer-partnerships-with-community-colleges/>

Leavitt, M., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2023). *Employer and community college partnerships: Models and practices for supporting students and strengthening the workforce*. Strada Education Foundation.
<https://stradaeducation.org/report/employer-and-community-college-partnerships-models-and-practices-for-supporting-students-and-strengthening-the-workforce/>

Torpey-Saboe, N., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Clayton, D. (2022). *The power of work-based learning*. Strada Education Network.
<https://stradaeducation.org/report/pv-release-march-16-2022/>

Leigh, E.W. (2021). *Understanding undergraduates' career preparation experiences*. Strada Education Network.
<https://stradaeducation.org/report/pv-release-dec-8-2021/>

*Leavitt, M., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2021). *Listening to recent high school grads – "Be mindful of what we've gone through."* Strada Education Network. <https://cci.stradaeducation.org/recentgrads/>

Swain-Cade McCoullum, V.E., **Leigh, E.W.**, Irele, A.A., & Bowers, K.A. (2020). *University of Pennsylvania's Rising Scholar Success Academy (PennRSSA): 2020 Program Report*. Philadelphia, PA: Office of the Vice Provost for Student Engagement, University of Pennsylvania.

- Perna, L.W., Wright-Kim, J., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2020). *Recognizing the implications of promise program design for equity and efficiency*. Washington, D.C.: College Promise Campaign. <https://www.collegepromise.org/newsandinsights/h8bsruhj9shb3blqvltim9ren7z9gm>
- Ding, L., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Harker, P. (2018). *Potential effects of automation on regional employment in the Third Federal Reserve District*. Philadelphia, PA: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. <https://www.philadelphiafed.org/community-development/workforce-and-economic-development/automation-and-regional-employment-in-the-third-federal-reserve-district>
- Finney, J., **Leigh, E.W.**, Castillo, W., Ruiz, R., Smith, E.J., & Kent, D.C. (2017). *Driven to perform: Tennessee higher education policies & outcomes*. Philadelphia, PA: Institute for Research on Higher Education. <https://irhe.gse.upenn.edu/research/tennessee>

PUBLIC USE DATABASE

- Perna, L.W., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2016, October; periodically updated). *Database of college promise programs*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania, Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy. <http://ahead-penn.org/creating-knowledge/college-promise>

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Leigh, E.W.** Confronting the system: How a local cross-sector education collaboration addresses barriers to postsecondary access and attainment.
- Leigh, E.W.** Pursuing equity-driven goals in local cross-sector education collaborations: A comparative case study.
- Leigh, E.W.** The role of social networks in implementing local cross-sector education collaborations for postsecondary access and attainment.
- Leigh, E.W.**, & Torpey-Saboe, N. Exploring geographic variations in the perceptions of postsecondary value.

OP-EDS & BLOGS

- Leigh, E.W.**, & Jankowski, N. (2022, May 26). Putting academics first: Research directions to support learning outcomes at community colleges. *LinkedIn*. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/putting-academics-first-research-directions-support-leigh-ph-d-/>
- Leigh, E.W.**, & Jankowski, N. (2022, March 29). Three research paths ahead for community-building colleges. *LinkedIn*. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/three-research-paths-ahead-community-building-elaine-w-leigh-ph-d-/>
- Perna, L.W., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Wright-Kim, J. (2021, April 5). Free college programs can enable more students to go to college, but it all depends on how the program is designed. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/free-college-programs-can-enable-more-students-to-go-to-college-but-it-all-depends-on-how-the-program-is-designed-157651>
- Perna, L.W., Wright-Kim, J., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2020, December 15). Recognizing the implications of promise program design for equity and efficiency. *College Promise*. <https://www.collegepromise.org/newsandinsights/recognizing-the-implications-of-promise-program-design-for-equity-and-efficiency>
- Perna, L.W., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Smith, E.J. (2017, December 12). Can college 'promise' programs deliver? *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/can-college-promise-programs-deliver-87850>
- Perna, L.W. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2017, February 13). College promise programs: Designing programs to achieve the promise. *Higher Ed Today – American Council on Education Blog*. <https://www.higheredtoday.org/2017/02/13/college-promise-programs-designing-programs-achieve-promise/>
- Edgerton, A.K., Jay, L., **Leigh, E.W.**, Pak, K. (2017, January 16). Radically flawed: The truth about vouchers. *Huffington Post*. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/radically-flawed-the-truth-about-vouchers_us_587cbc2de4b094e1aa9dc7ef

Leigh, E.W. (2016, July 27). College affordability in the news: What are the feds' priorities? *Penn Wharton Public Policy Initiative Blog*.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Young, L.J. (2022, May 26). Librarians help pandemic-era students stay on track for college. *School Library Journal*. <https://www.slj.com/story/librarians-help-pandemic-era-students-stay-on-track-for-college>

Johnson, E. (2021, December 8). Many students have career plans in place, but not networks. *Work Shift*. <https://workshift.opencampusmedia.org/students-have-career-plans-in-place-but-not-networks/>

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Conferences

Leigh, E.W. (2022, April 21-26). *Confronting the system: A comparative case study of how cross-sector education collaborations address postsecondary equity* [Roundtable paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association, participated virtually.

Leigh, E.W. (2022, March 27-29). *Understanding postsecondary attainment strategies in cross-sector education collaborations: A comparative case study* [Accepted poster presentation]. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Austin, TX (withdrew due to scheduling delay from November 2021 conference).

Leigh, E.W. (2021, April 17-21). *Creating local cultures of attainment: Challenges and opportunities for cross-sector education collaboration* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association, held virtually.

Leigh, E.W. (2020, November 10). Towards a conceptual model of postsecondary attainment strategies in cross-sector education collaborations. In P. Patel (Chair), *The potential of cross-sector education collaborations for promoting postsecondary attainment* [Symposium presenter & organizer]. Association for the Study of Higher Education's Council on Public Policy in Higher Education pre-conference, held virtually.

Perna, L.W., Wright-Kim, J., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2020, March 19-21). *Framing benefits and costs of college promise programs: Insights from four individual "free tuition" community college programs* [Paper presentation]. Association for Education Finance and Policy, held virtually.

Perna, L.W., Wright-Kim, J., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2019, November 13-16). Contexts, design, and potential outcomes of single-community college promise programs: A cross-case analysis. In R. Hiestand (Chair), *Different promises: Emerging evidence on the origin, variability, and effects of free-college programs* [Symposium]. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Portland, OR.

Leigh, E.W., Pak, K., & Phuong, J. (2018, November 14-17). *Complicating leadership and activism: How Asian American female doctoral students learn to lead in activist contexts* [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Tampa, FL.

Leigh, E.W. (2018, April 13-17). *Colleges as "engines of upward mobility": Institutional & state-level factors predicting college mobility rates* [Roundtable paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Delaney, J. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2018, April 5-8). *An event history analysis of the introduction of single institution "promise" student financial aid programs* [Paper presentation]. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Perna, L.W., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Carroll, S. (2017, November 8-11). *"Free college:" A new and improved state approach to increasing educational attainment?* [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX.

Leigh, E.W., & González-Canché, M. (2017, November 8-11). *The College Promise in communities: Do place-based scholarships affect residential mobility patterns?* [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX.

- Delaney, J. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2017, November 8-10). *An event history analysis of the introduction of single institution “promise” student financial aid programs* [Paper presentation]. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Chicago, IL.
- Ruiz, R., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Napier, A. (2017, October 22-23). *Community college promise programs: A multi-state examination of program impacts using a difference-in-differences approach* [Paper presentation]. AERA College Promise Research Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Delaney, J. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2017, October 22-23). *An event history analysis of the introduction of single institution “promise” student financial aid programs* [Paper presentation]. AERA College Promise Research Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Perna, L.W. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2016, November 9-12). *Understanding the promise: A typology of state and local promise Programs* [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Columbus, OH.
- Finney, J., Castillo, W., Kent, D.C., **Leigh, E.W.**, Ruiz, R., & Smith, E.J. (2016, November 9-12). *The drive to college attainment: State-level policy influences on Tennessee higher education performance* [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education’s Council on Public Policy in Higher Education pre-conference, Columbus, OH.
- Leigh, E.W.** & Kaiser, C.R. (2008, May). *Cultural self-construals affect task motivation in the face of prejudice* [Poster presentation]. University of Washington Department of Psychology Undergraduate Honors Research Festival, Seattle, WA.
- Leigh, E.W.** & Kaiser, C.R. (2008, May 16). *Bicultural identity and seeing bias* [Paper presentation]. University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium, Seattle, WA.
- Leigh, E.W.**, Rieck, H., & Kaiser, C.R. (2008, May 16). *The relationship between group identity and prejudice: An objective experience account* [Poster presentation]. University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium, Seattle, WA.
- Leigh, E.W.**, Rieck, H., & Kaiser, C.R. (2008, February 7-9). *The relationship between group identity and prejudice: An objective experience account* [Poster presentation]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Group Processes and Intergroup Relations pre-conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Additional Scholarly and/or Practitioner Conferences and Convenings
- Jankowski, N., Leavitt, M., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2022, Apr. 30-May 3). *Advancing new models of community college and employer partnerships*. American Association of Community Colleges, New York, NY.
- Leigh, E.W.**, & Torpey-Saboe, N. (2021, November 16-17). *Reconnecting disrupted high school grads to postsecondary pathways*. [Panel presentation]. College Promise 2021 Careers Institute, held virtually.
- Leavitt, M., & **Leigh, E.W.** (2021, September 29). *Listening to recent high school grads – “Be mindful of what we’ve gone through.”* [Panel presentation]. Strada Education Network Public Viewpoint, held virtually.
- Leavitt, M., **Leigh, E.W.**, Torpey-Saboe, N., & Salm, J. (2021, September 10). *Listening to recent high school grads – “Be mindful of what we’ve gone through.”* [Paper presentation & facilitator]. American Association of State Colleges & Universities Millennium Leadership Initiative, held virtually.
- Leigh, E.W.** (2019, May 29). *Understanding the “free college” movement* [Panel presentation]. In T. Jones (Chair), *College promise programs and lower-income students: Design, implementation, and impact*. Symposium held by Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.
- Leigh, E.W.** (2018, September 27). *Understanding the “free college” movement* [Panel presentation]. Berks Alliance Community Forum, sponsored by Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Reading, PA.
- Perna, L.W. & **Leigh, E.W.** (2016, October 24-26). *Growth, scope, and impact of college promise programs* [Conference session]. PromiseNet, Washington, D.C.
- Perna, L.W., **Leigh, E.W.**, & Ruiz, R. (2016, June 2-3). *Growth, scope, and impact of college promise programs*

[Conference session]. Education Testing Service and Civic Nation's Designing Sustainable Funding for College Promise Initiatives Convening, Princeton, NJ.

Leigh, E.W. & Royster, S. (2014, April 24-25). *Meeting needs and establishing partnerships: Re-building and re-branding long-term access programs* [Conference session]. National Partnership in Educational Access Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Invited Presentations/Panels

June 2021. *Intergenerational mobility and education* [Panelist]. New York City Department of Education's Office of Superintendent Michael Prayor (Brooklyn South), held virtually.

November 2018. *Woke scholarship and self-care: Strategies for graduate student community and Endurance* [Panelist]. Graduate Student Committee of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Tampa, FL.

April 2017. *Donors and named scholars reception* [Invited speech]. University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, PA.

November 2016. Postsecondary data and its limits. Penn GSE Higher Education Division Doctoral Group Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

May 2016. *University-community partnerships: Food for thought* [Panel presentation]. Penn AHEAD and Netter Center for Community Partnerships Faculty Seminar series, Philadelphia, PA.

October 2015. *So, you want to be a doctor? Applying to doctoral programs* [Panelist]. University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, PA.

June 2014. *Greater Philadelphia Teach For America Alumni Induction* [Invited keynote]. Teach For America, Philadelphia, PA.

April 2014. *Introduction to nonprofit boards* [Panelist]. Board Prep Program-Young Involved Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

November 2013. *Critical conversations: Increasing gap program sensitivity* [Panelist]. Multicultural Resource Center of the Philadelphia Independent Schools, Wynnewood, PA.

May 2013. *Introduction to nonprofit boards* [Panelist]. Board Prep Program-Young Involved Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

February 2013. *Continuing your impact in nonprofit careers* [Panelist]. Teach For America, Philadelphia, PA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

University of Pennsylvania

EDUC 716: Public Policy Issues in Higher Education (online, co-taught)

Summer 2021

EDUC 545: Access & Choice

Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant

University of Pennsylvania

EDUC 545: Access & Choice

Fall 2016, Spring 2018

Teach For America Summer Bridge - Multicultural Education

Summer 2009

Curriculum Developer

2016–2017

Penn Online Learning Initiative

Coursera's How to Apply to College MOOC (serving 27,000+ learners since inception)

Guest Lecturer

University of Pennsylvania

EDUC 728: Advanced Public Policy in Higher Education

Fall 2016

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial Board

- *Journal of Postsecondary Student Success* (2021–Present)

Conference Proposal Reviewer & Session Chair

- Association for the Study of Higher Education (2016–Present)
- American Educational Research Association (2017–Present)

Conference Planning

- Planning Committee Member, ASHE Council on Public Policy in Higher Education Graduate Student Policy Seminar (2021)

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

- *AERA Open*
- *Education Policy Analysis Archives*
- *Community College Review*

Graduate Student Service

- Committee Member, Black Lives Matter Week of Action (2019) | *Penn Graduate School of Education*
- Founder, Doctoral Student Advisory Board (Feb. 2016–Sept. 2017) | *Penn GSE Student Government*
- Mentoring Program Consultant (Aug. 2015–May 2016) | *Penn Netter Center for Community Partnerships*

ADDITIONAL CIVIC LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Executive Board Member (2012–2018) | *Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition (SEAMAAC)*

President (2013–2014); **Secretary & Founding Member** (2012–2013) | *PhilaSoup*

Board Member & Education Program Officer (2011–2013) | *The Spruce Foundation*

Member (2012–2015) | *PhillyCORE (Coalition for Rising Education) Leaders*

Member, Grantmaking Committee (2012–2015) | *Asian Mosaic Fund Giving Circle*

New Leader (2012–2013) | *Center for Progressive Leadership*

Board Prep Fellow (Spring 2012) | *Young Involved Philadelphia Board Prep Program*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association, 2015–Present

Association for the Study of Higher Education, 2015–Present

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, 2017–Present