

IPPSR Public Policy Forum Series 2016

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

*Cosponsored by Michigan State University's
Institute for Public and Policy and Social Research
Office of K-12 Outreach*

Speakers and Panelists

Dan Varner, Chief Executive Officer, Excellent Schools Detroit

Excellent Schools Detroit named Daniel Varner, former program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and co-founder of the former Think Detroit Inc., as its new executive director in Fall 2011. At Kellogg, Varner worked with the education and learning team to develop programming priorities, identifying and nurturing opportunities to bring about positive change within communities to support vulnerable children and families.



Before joining Kellogg, Varner was CEO of Think Detroit PAL, one of the largest youth development organizations in Detroit, delivering programs to more than 12,000 young people each year. He previously served on the State Board of Education is a founding member of the Excellent Schools Detroit coalition. Excellent Schools Detroit is a broad-based coalition of Detroit's political, education, business, civic and foundation leaders who are committed to having every student in an excellent school by 2020. Its goal is to see 90 percent of the city's students graduate from high school, 90 percent of them go on to college or high-quality career training and 90 percent be prepared to succeed at college or career training without needing remedial education. Find more at www.excellentschoolsdetroit.org



Sarah Reckhow, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University

Sarah Reckhow's work on urban schools has focused on policy reforms in New York City, Los Angeles, Oakland, and Detroit. Her award-winning book with Oxford University Press, [*Follow the Money: How Foundation Dollars Change Public School Politics*](#), examines the role of major foundations, such as the Gates Foundation, in urban school reform. Reckhow was recently awarded a [research grant from the W.T. Grant Foundation](#) (with Megan Tompkins-Stange) to study the use of research evidence in the development of teacher quality policy debates. Aside from education policy, her research and teaching interests include urban politics, nonprofits and philanthropy, and racial and ethnic politics. She has published articles in the *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Policy Studies Journal*, and *Planning Theory*. Reckhow is affiliated with

the [Global Urban Studies Program](#) and the [Education Policy Center](#) at Michigan State. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2009. Previously, Reckhow taught history and government at Frederick Douglass High School in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Find more at <http://polisci.msu.edu>



Gary Naeyaert, Executive Director, Great Lakes Education Project

Mr. Naeyaert is the Executive Director of the Great Lakes Education Project (GLEP) a bi-partisan, non-profit advocacy organization supporting quality choices in public education for all Michigan students. GLEP strongly supports efforts to improve academic achievement, increase accountability and empower parental choice in our public schools. The organization consists of the Great Lakes Education Project, a 527 Political Action Committee; the Great Lakes Education Foundation, a c(3) education entity; and the GLEP Education Fund, a c(4) advocacy organization.

Naeyaert has been a legislative and communications advocate specializing in government relations and public policy for more than three decades. Most recently, he was Senior Policy and Communications Advisor for the Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University. He has served as Vice President of Public Relations and Legislative Affairs for the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) and directed government relations for the Michigan Road Builders Association; the Michigan Department of Transportation; Creative Media, Inc.; and Marketing Resource Group. A 1983 MSU graduate of James Madison College, Mr. Naeyaert later attended Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Find more at www.glep.org



Kristi Bowman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor of Law, Michigan State University

While a member of the senior leadership team at the Law School, Dean Bowman is also an education law scholar. She co-authored the 5th edition of a leading textbook, *Educational Policy and the Law* (2012), is the editor of *Pursuing Racial and Ethnic Equality in American Public Schools: Mendez, Brown, and Beyond* (2015), and author of a textbook written for non-American education law scholars and practitioners. In 2010, she received the Education Law Association's Steven S. Goldberg Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Education Law. She is a faculty affiliate of the Education Policy Center at the MSU's College of Education. Prior to teaching, she practiced at Franczek Sullivan, P.C. (now Franczek Radelet) in

Chicago, where she represented school districts, and clerked on the United States Court of Appeals. During law school she worked at the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. In 2001, Dean Bowman graduated *magna cum laude* from the Duke University Law School, having served as both the Articles Editor of the *Duke Law Journal* and the Associate Executive Editor of the *Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy*. She simultaneously received her M.A. in Humanities from Duke University. Find more at <http://www.law.msu.edu>

Sponsor Leadership

Matt Grossmann, Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), Associate Professor of Political Science

A nationally known political scientist, he also holds a position as [Associate Professor](#) of Political Science at Michigan State University. As an expert on American politics and government, his research spans national and state policymaking, election campaigns, interest groups, and political parties. He is the author of [Artists of the Possible: Governing Networks and American Policy Change Since 1945](#), published by Oxford University Press in 2014 and [The Not-So-Special Interests: Interest Groups, Public Representation, and American Governance](#), published by Stanford University Press in 2012. He has also authored numerous journal articles on such topics as policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. He is also co-author of *Campaigns & Elections*, a textbook available through W. W. Norton, and editor of the volume *New Directions in Interest Group Politics*, from Routledge.

His work experience includes candidate training, policy and survey research at the Rose Institute of State and Local Government, the Institute of Governmental Studies, the Center for Voting and Democracy and the Center for Democracy and Technology. A member of MSU's faculty since 2007, he is founder and director of the [Michigan Policy Network](#) and served as liaison to [MSU's Washington Semester Program](#). He received his bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College, his master's in political science in 2002 and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007. He became IPPSR director in January 2016. Matt is available by phone (517) 355-6672, by email at grossm63@msu.edu and on Twitter @mattgrossmann

Barbara Markle, Ph.D., Assistant Dean, Michigan State University



Barbara Markle is assistant dean for K-12 Outreach in the College of Education. She develops and implements programs for teachers, administrators and policymakers that translate educational research to application in schools and settings where education policy decisions are made. She directs several state and federal grants, including the Educational Coaching 101 Institute. She also works closely with local school districts, the Michigan Department of Education, the state Board of Education and the state's professional education associations. A major focus of K-12 Outreach work is developing school turnaround expertise for high poverty, low performing urban schools and districts. Under her direction, the Office of K- 12 Outreach

sponsors the annual Summer Institute for Superintendents, the Emerging Leaders Program for aspiring principals, international education study tours and monthly forums for legislators and other policymakers. Dr. Markle's areas of expertise include Administration and Leadership in K-12 Schools.

Forum Facilitator

AnnMarie Schneider is the director for Program Planning and Policy Education at IPPSR. She served on the start up team for IPPSR cornerstone programs including the Annual Public Policy Forum Series, State of the State Survey, Michigan Political Leadership Program, and MSU's Legislative Leadership Program. She continues to work with these programs while advising the Institute's marketing and communications. She administers the Michigan Applied Public Policy Grant Program for university faculty with policy research interests and is noted for her work in both the public and private sector for group facilitation, strategic planning, networking and program implementation. She serves on the International Studies and Programs leadership team as director of the Canadian Studies Center. In this role, she is charged with strengthening cross border university connections while encouraging academic and research interests in Canada.