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Author Bios

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Aisha Labi is a freelance journalist and consultant based in New York City. She focuses primarily on higher education and was a correspondent for the Chronicle of Higher Education for more than a decade. She has a BA from Dartmouth College and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania.

James Hearn

James C. Hearn is professor and associate director in the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia. Prior to coming to the University of Georgia, he was a faculty member at Vanderbilt University, a faculty member and administrator at the University of Minnesota, and a policy analyst in Washington, DC. Hearn's research and teaching focus on postsecondary education policy, organization, and finance. Hearn earned a doctorate in the sociology of education and an M.A. in sociology from Stanford University.

Alison Kadlec

Alison Kadlec is senior vice president and director of higher education and workforce programs at Public Agenda. She and her team have worked with dozens of colleges and universities across the country to support the capacity of institutional leaders and faculty at every level to effectively engage members of their communities as constructive partners in the hard work of change on behalf of student success. Alison and her team also works with the U.S. Department of Education, state policymakers and system leaders in more than half the states in the U.S. to help improve the quality of policy development and implementation around higher education and workforce issues. Before joining Public Agenda in 2005, Alison was a visiting professor in the political science department at Macalester College and an adjunct professor in the political science departments at the University of Minnesota, Baruch College and Hunter College. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Minnesota and BAs from Michigan State University in Political Theory, Constitutional Democracy and English Literature.

Susan Shelton

Susan Shelton is a senior partner with Converge Group. She has more than 20 years' experience designing, implementing and evaluating strategies, policy and processes in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Susan conducts qualitative and quantitative research, designs and facilitates deliberative processes and leads our training programs. Prior to her current role, Susan was director of public engagement at Public Agenda. Susan has a MS in Policy Analysis and Public Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a PhD in Social and International Studies from the University of Bradford.