EITC
Funders Network

Shaping the Future Forum

Wednesday, April 19th from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm ET

Speaker Bios

Erin Currier

Erin Currier is a senior program officer for Family Economic Security at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. As a member of the Family Economic Security team, Erin is responsible for identifying and nurturing opportunities for affecting positive systemic change within communities, and executing programming efforts that align with the foundation's strategic plan. She and the team advance grantmaking designed to further workforce mobility and financial stability for low-income families. She works closely with staff across the foundation to ensure integration and coordination of efforts; maintains strong relationships with grantees, grantseekers and partners; and provides leadership and oversight for on-the-ground execution of foundation investments. Erin was named one of the 25 Most Influential Washington Women Under 35 by the *National Journal* and was awarded a Marano Fellowship from the Aspen Institute. She has served as a volunteer board member with Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment and the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, both in Washington, D.C. Erin holds a master's degree in public policy and women's studies from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a bachelor's degree in English and sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Samuel Hammond

Samuel Hammond is a Senior Economist at the Lincoln Network where his research focuses on innovation and science policy, state capacity, and the impact of disruptive technologies. He previously worked as the director of social policy for the Niskanen Center where he remains a senior fellow, as an economist for the Government of Canada specializing in regional economic development, and as a graduate research fellow for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Hammond has received a B.A. in Economics from Saint Mary's University and M.A.'s in Economics from George Mason University and Carleton University.

Francesca Jean Baptiste

Francesca Jean Baptiste is the Director of Tax Partnerships at the CASH Campaign of Maryland. In this role she manages and supports a network of organizations throughout the state of Maryland that provide free tax preparation through the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and other financial capability initiatives. Francesca also leads other capacity building programs including the Maryland Community Fellows Program and the Schedule C Step Up, a program designed to educate low-income entrepreneurs and small business owners about their tax compliance requirements. Francesca earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies from CUNY – New York City College of Technology and Juris Doctor from the Washington & Lee School of Law. She is currently working towards her LLM in Taxation at the University of Baltimore.

David Newville

David Newville is the Senior Program Director for Get Your Refund at Code for America. He has spent the last decade in Washington building financial security for low- and moderate-income people. In every role he has held, he has created and advocated for policies and programs informed by robust data, rigorous analysis, and the lived experiences of those on the margins of the U.S. economy. David served as Vice President of Policy & Research at Prosperity Now, a national intermediary dedicated to building stability, wealth, and prosperity in the United States. Under his leadership, Prosperity Now was instrumental in introducing federal legislation around enacting a nationwide Baby Bonds program and helping Earned Income Tax Credit recipients build emergency savings at tax time. He also co-created the model by which Prosperity Now coaches state and local coalitions and advocates to advance racial wealth equity. David also served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the U.S. Department of the Treasury during the Obama administration and with the Financial Health Network, where he focused on consumer protection, financial access, and nonbank financial regulation. His commentary has appeared in CNN.com, the Washington Post, The Hill, USA Today, and American Banker. Before coming to D.C., David worked on state policy and advocacy issues related to childcare, early childhood education, and health care at Illinois Action for Children. He also was a producer at WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio. He has a Master of Public Policy degree from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Grinnell College. David is a marathoner, outdoor enthusiast, and dog lover. He is originally from Wisconsin but now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife and son.

Nina Olson

Nina E. Olson is the Executive Director of the Center for Taxpayer Rights. From March 2001 to July 2019, Nina served as the National Taxpayer Advocate of the United States, an independent organization within the Internal Revenue Service , dedicated to assisting taxpayers resolve their problems with the IRS and making administrative and legislative recommendations to mitigate those problems systemically. She has submitted 39 annual reports to Congress, and testified before congressional committees over 60 times. Before serving as the National Taxpayer Advocate, Nina founded and directed The Community Tax Law Project, the first independent Low Income Taxpayer Clinic in the US. She also maintained a private legal practice, representing taxpayers in disputes with the IRS. Nina has received many awards and recognitions, including the American Bar Association Section of Taxation's Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Service, Pro Bono Award, and Jules Ritholz Memorial Merit Award for Outstanding Dedication, Achievement, and Integrity in the Field of Civil and Criminal Tax Controversies; the Tax Foundation's Public Sector Distinguished Service Award; and Pro Bono Awards from the Virginia State Bar, the Virginia Bar Association, and the City of Richmond Bar Association. In 2016 she was recognized by Tax Analysts as one of the Top 10 Outstanding Women in Tax (internationally). Nina received her LLM in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center, her JD from North Carolina Central University School of Law, and her AB (in fine arts) from Bryn Mawr College.

Leigh Phillips

Since joining SaverLife in 2015, Leigh has led SaverLife's transformation from a local direct service organization to a leading financial technology nonprofit. Prior to joining SaverLife, Leigh was the founding Director of the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment, spending over ten years in City Hall. Under Leigh's leadership, the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment spearheaded several "first in the nation" programs to increase financial inclusion, such as Bank On San Francisco, the first municipally led effort to bank the unbanked and Kindergarten to College, the first universal and automatic college savings program for public school children. On the national level, Leigh was instrumental in the creation of the Nonprofit Leaders in Financial Technology Coalition, of which she is an active member, and the Cities for Financial Empowerment Coalition, which advocates for greater financial opportunity and protection for all Americans in cities across the United States.Kindergarten to College was named a finalist in the Harvard "Innovations in American Government" Awards in June 2015. Leigh received the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award in 2008 and was named one of the Bay Area's "Top Forty Under Forty" in 2013. Leigh's work has been featured in publications such as the New York Times, the Economist, Time Magazine, and the San Francisco Chronicle, and on NPR and CNN. Leigh currently serves on the CFPB Consumer Advisory Board, and the Board of Directors of the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund. She previously served as Chair of the Board of the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) for five years and on the Advisory Board of the start-up Level Money, which was acquired by Capital One.Leigh is the author of two lifestyle books published by San Francisco's Chronicle Books. She received both her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Social Sciences and a Masters of Economic and Social Sciences in Women's Studies from the University of Manchester, in her native United Kingdom.

Bryndan Stueve

Bryndan Stueve is the Manager of Community Impact and Economic Mobility with United Way Worldwide. In this role, he supports the United Way network in implementing programs and initiatives that advance economic mobility in communities throughout the US. He also leads United Way's MyFreeTaxes program, an online tax filing program that has helped 1.3 million LMI people file their federal and state taxes for free while claiming over $2 billion in refunds and credits and saving $260 million in filing fees.

Melanie Styles

As the Senior Program Officer for Workforce Development, Melanie works with community-based organizations and public agencies to develop and strengthen skills training available in Baltimore and assist low-wage job seekers in finding and maintaining employment. She manages the Foundation's portfolio of workforce development grants and initiates projects to inform workforce development policy and practice in Baltimore. Prior to joining the Abell Foundation in 2000, Melanie worked for 11 years designing and evaluating programs for youth and families at Public/Private Ventures in Philadelphia and Enterprise Community Partners. Melanie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and sociology and a Master of Arts degree in sociology from the University of Virginia.