

# Amaris Benavidez

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **United States House of Representatives, Committee on Education and Labor**

Washington, DC

*Professional Staff Member, Higher Education*

**April 2022 – Present**

*Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Education Graduate Fellow*

**August 2021 – April 2022**

- Manage portfolio of 30 discrete higher education topics including: community colleges, data collection, early college and dual enrollment, FAFSA, federal-state partnerships, for-profit institutions, homeless and foster youth, incarcerated students, institutional accountability, mental health, OPMs, Pell grants, STEM education, TRIO, undocumented students, and veterans, and supported other areas as necessary
- Lead planning and implementation of Committee markups on higher education bills
- Lead planning for higher education hearings, including briefing Members, staff, and witnesses, and drafting materials
- Compile, analyze and manipulate quantitative data to inform policy decisions and for tracking purposes
- Provide technical assistance and policy development support to Members on higher education-related legislation
- Draft memos, talking points, letters, and legislative analyses on higher education-related issues
- Liaise and strategize with the U.S. Department of Education, Member offices, and advocacy organizations

### **The Education Trust**

Boston, Massachusetts

*Massachusetts Fellow*

**November 2020 – July 2021**

- Supported the development of policy recommendations by conducting literature reviews, policy scans, legislation tracking, and written summaries related to P-16 policy priorities and research.
- Managed policy portfolio of topics including: educatory diversity, anti-racist curriculum and cultural responsiveness, postsecondary pathways, and unfinished learning
- Drafted large policy brief and executive summaries on effective state and district use of ESSER funding and Student Opportunity Act funding, and for state and district accountability metrics
- Co-lead Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership coalition through leading bi-weekly meetings, developing internal strategic plans, and sharing digital resources and programs

### **Office of Residential Life, Boston College**

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

*Graduate Assistant, Living Learning Communities*

**August 2019 – July 2021**

- Managed 11 residential Living Learning Communities, which serve over 500 students annually, through overseeing event planning, meetings, strategic planning and managing a \$200,000 budget
- Served on the leadership team for first-year residential community, co-supervising 22 student staff and providing professional development sessions aimed at advancing workplace skills and equity-centered citizenship
- Implemented 4 year-long mixed-method assessments to analyze effectiveness of multicultural and equity initiatives and presented findings to stakeholders to ensure recommendations are instituted
- Designed and formalized 2 new Living Learning Communities for first-generation college students and students of color centered on multicultural leadership and high-impact practices to promote college retention

### **The RAND Corporation**

Santa Monica, California

*Scholar, American Educators Panel*

**October 2020 – May 2021**

- Conducted quantitative research project analyzing student success in states with varying P-16 council and state coordination structures, and presented findings to scholars and research cohort
- Analyzed, cleaned and manipulated postsecondary education preparation and attainment data from the RAND Corporation and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System using STATA
- Awarded \$5,000 grant to conduct research through RAND's American Educators Panel Scholarship

### **Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College**

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

*Research Assistant, Latinx Legal Education Project*

**February 2020 – September 2020**

- Provided support to Drs. Raquel Munoz and Andres Castro-Samayoa's published research aiming to articulate the value of legal education for Latinx students through normative case studies
- Recruited for and conducted over 50 1-hour long interviews with administrators and Latinx students about law school experiences, professional goals, and personal identity across 4 law schools
- Conducted interview transcriptions using NVivo to ensure accurate representation of team interviews

## EDUCATION

**Boston College** – Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

**May 2021**

Master of Arts in Higher Education (Concentration: Higher Education Administration)

**Columbia University** – New York, New York

**May 2019**

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (Minor: Sociology); QuestBridge Scholar