

Amaris Benavidez

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*

- Lead portfolio of higher education topics including issues related to federal student aid, consumer protections and accountability, college access and student success, and minority-serving institutions
- Led planning and implementation of Committee markups on 9 higher education bills and assisted with other bills
- Led 11 higher education hearings, including briefing Members, staff, and witnesses, and drafting materials
- 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
- Oversee the monitoring of higher education regulatory developments by the U.S. Department of Education
- Compile and analyze quantitative data to inform policy decisions and for tracking purposes
- Liaise and strategize with the U.S. Department of Education, Member offices, and other education stakeholders
- Led drafting of the *Jobs to Compete Act* (H.R. 1655) and *Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act* (H.R. 6585) in the 118th

Congress and passage of the *Enhancing Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act* (H.R. 5407) and the *Campus Prevention & Recovery Services for Students Act* (H.R. 7780) in the 117th Congress

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, with a focus on state politics and policy
- 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

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, 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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Social Impact Industry Group Lead, QuestBridge Alumni Association **September 2024 – Present President**, DC-Metro Chapter, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Alumni Association **June 2022 – Present**

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