

Thomas Weko
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I. International, Federal, State, and Nonprofit Positions

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Directorate for Education and Skills. Paris, France. Senior Analyst, October 19, 2015, to 31 December 2022. Responsible for leading work on higher education policy, including consultation with the OECD's member countries, developing studies, obtaining government and foundation funding for projects, recruiting and leading staff in carrying out these studies, overseeing and carrying out studies, and collaboration with international organizations and researchers across the OECD.

American Institutes for Research, Washington DC. Managing Researcher, Education Program, April 1, 2014 - October 9, 2015. Developed new lines of research and evaluation focusing on postsecondary and career education, and secured foundation support for projects on competency-based education programs (Lumina), alternative measures of institutional performance for colleges (Gates), and income share agreements as an alternative to student loans (Gates).

US Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, Policy Development, Washington DC. Director, Policy and Program Studies Service, July 30, 2012, to March 31, 2014.

- Created a new mission, organization, and staff for Policy and Program Studies Service, establishing a 20-person policy analysis service for the Department of Education (ED).
- Oversaw analytic support for Department and presidential policy proposals, including budget proposals (Preschool for All), reauthorization (Perkins, Higher Education Act), regulatory initiatives (e.g., Gainful Employment Regulation, Teacher Preparation Program Regulation), and information and reporting initiatives (College Scorecard, college ratings).
- Provided department-wide advice on data systems enhancements (e.g., Federal Student Aid data systems), and reviewed and approved investments in evaluations, studies, and data collections.

US Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington DC. Associate Commissioner for Postsecondary, Adult, and Career Education, January 8, 2007, to July 29, 2012.

- Oversaw sample survey and institutional-level data collections with respect to postsecondary education, including the *National Postsecondary Student Aid Study*, the *Beginning Postsecondary Students Study*, *Baccalaureate and Beyond*, the *National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty*, and the *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System*
- Supported the work of the US Congress, Senior Department leadership, and White House/Executive Office of the President, addressing their data and analytic needs
- Worked with higher education press, associations, and advocacy groups to meet their needs for timely and relevant information
- Supervised the work of 20 NCES Postsecondary, Adult, and Career Education staff
- Planned and allocated an annual budget of \$30 million for data collection, analysis, publications,

and data tools

- Guided the work of data collection firms through the development of contracts, the selection of contractors, and the review of work products
- Disseminated data to government analysts, researchers, and consumers through NCES publications, web-based data tools, and the licensing of data sets
- Worked with program offices (Federal Student Aid, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Office of the Under Secretary) to integrate data systems and ensure that they supported the analytic needs of the Department
- Collaborated with university-based researchers to identify new opportunities for policy analysis using NCES data and research-driven changes to NCES data collections

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, France. Analyst, Directorate for Education. September 5, 2005 – December 31, 2006

- Shared in planning and managing a study of tertiary education policies in 24 nations
- Selected and chaired national review teams, planned study visits, and led the drafting of reports to ministries of education containing findings of fact and policy recommendations
- Organized workshops and commissioned research papers on tertiary education
- Presented report findings to Ministries of Education, expert bodies, and news organizations

US General Accounting Office, Washington DC. Senior Analyst in Educational Policy; Education, Workforce, and Income Security Team. June 2001 to September 2005

- Worked with Senate Finance, House Education and Workforce, and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Workforce Committees to identify and plan studies in support of lawmaking and committee hearings
- Directed study teams in the preparation of GAO reports
- Briefed congressional staff, drafted testimony for congressional hearings
- Represented GAO to US Department of Education, postsecondary professional associations, and to researchers by presenting study findings and participating in expert panels

Atlantic Fellow in Public Policy, awarded by the British Foreign Office, and hosted by the Higher Education Policy Institute and the House of Commons Select Committee on Education and Skills, London, England, August 2003 to April 2004.

Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), Olympia, Washington, Associate Director for Policy, December 1998 to June 2001.

- Managed agency staff responsible for higher education policy
- Planned, conducted, and wrote studies on higher education
- Testified to legislature and the HECB, and prepared testimony and briefings for the executive director and board members
- Worked with legislative and gubernatorial staff in developing and planning studies
- Developed legislative and budget proposals for the HECB and represented the HECB to universities, the Governor's office and Office of Financial Management, and news media

II. Academic Appointments

- Associate Professor, Department of Politics and Government, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, 1994-1998
- Assistant Professor of Politics and Government, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, 1992-1994
- Assistant Professor of Politics and Government, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH, 1989-1992
- Brookings Dissertation Research Fellow, Brookings Institution, Washington DC, 1987-1988

III. Government Studies and Reports

Lead or Co-author:

- [*Public policies for effective micro-credential learning*](#), OECD, 2023.
- [*Micro-credential policy implementation in Finland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain*](#), OECD 2023.
- [*Consideration of an optimal representation for the technological higher education sector in Ireland*](#), OECD, 2023.
- [*Shaping Digital Education*](#), OECD, 2023.
- [*A review of technological university academic career paths, contracts, and organisation in Ireland*](#), OECD, 2022.
- [*Expanding and steering capacity in Finnish higher education*](#), OECD, 2022.
- [*Micro-credential innovations in higher education: Who, What and Why?*](#) OECD, 2021.
- [*Quality and value of micro-credentials in higher education*](#), OECD, 2021.
- [*The State of Higher Education: One Year into the COVID Pandemic*](#) OECD, 2021.
- [*How are higher education systems in OECD countries resourced?*](#) OECD, 2021.
- [*Resourcing Higher Education: Challenges, Choices, and Consequences*](#), OECD, 2020.
- [*The Emergence of Alternative Credentials*](#), OECD, 2020.
- [*The Future of Mexican Higher Education: Promoting Quality and Equity*](#), OECD, 2019.
- [*Rethinking Quality Assurance for Higher Education in Brazil*](#), OECD, 2018.
- [*Education in Lithuania*](#), OECD, 2017.
- [*National Assessment of Career and Technical Education, Final Report to Congress*](#), 2014.
- [*Gainful Employment, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*](#), US Government Printing Office, 2014.
- [*Expert Response to Czech Republic Ministry of Education January 2009 White Paper on Tertiary Education*](#), OECD, December 21, 2009
- [*OECD Reviews of Tertiary Education: Japan, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Finland*](#), 2007-2009
- [*Schools' Use of Antitrust Exemption Has Not Significantly Affected Affordability or Enrollment*](#), for US Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Antitrust, GAO-06-963, September 2006 (lead analyst 2004-2005)
- [*Higher Education Tax Benefits: Problems of Complexity and Coordination*](#), for Senate Finance Committee, GAO-05-684, July 2005
- [*Federal Student Aid*](#), GAO-03-905, US General Accounting Office, September 2003
- [*Student Aid and Tax Benefits*](#), GAO-02-751, US General Accounting Office, September 2002
- [*Higher Education and Students of Color in Washington: Participation and Achievement*](#), Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, March 2001
- [*Distance Education*](#), Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, January 2001.
- [*Accountability Performance*](#), Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, November 2000
- [*Gender Equity Report*](#), Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, January 2000
- [*Nontraditional Degree-Granting Providers*](#), Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, May 1999

IV. Selected Academic Publications (full list available upon request)

- “Old Dogs and New Tricks: What Can the UK Teach the US about University Education?” May 2004, Higher Education Policy Institute (Oxford, England)
- “The Institutionalization of Power,” in Jacobs and Shapiro, Eds. *Forging the Presidency for the 21st Century*, Columbia University Press, 1999 (with Kenneth Mayer)
- “Qualitative Research and the Study of the Presidency,” *Congress and Presidency*, 1999 (with Karen Hult and Chuck Walcott)
- “Framing the Voters’ Choice in 1996,” Thomas Weko and John Aldrich, in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*, 5th ed., 1996
- *The Politicizing Presidency: The White House Personnel Office, 1948-1994*. (University Press of Kansas, 1995)

V. Education

- University of Minnesota, Ph.D. in Political Science, 1991
- Pennsylvania State University, B.A., 1980, Political Science (major field) Economics (minor field)