

Education & Workforce Conference: Virtual

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A native of Monmouth County, NJ, Kelly is a summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College, where he earned a degree in history in 2002. He also holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was a National Science Foundation research training fellow and was honored as an outstanding graduate student instructor.

Kelly's advice and expertise are widely sought by state and national policymakers and business leaders. He has twice been invited to testify before Congressional committees on issues related to higher education finance reform and performance management. He has served as the lead researcher for the U.S. Chamber's "Leaders and Laggards" project, a state-by-state report card on public postsecondary education. He also served as an informal adviser on higher education to the Jeb Bush presidential campaign.

Kelly's research findings have appeared in the American Journal of Education, Education Next, Educational Policy, Policy Studies Journal, and Teachers College Record. He has also been published in popular outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Education Week, The Atlantic, and National Review.

He has edited many books on higher education, including "Reinventing Financial Aid: Charting a New Course to College Affordability" (Harvard Education Press, 2014), "Stretching the Higher Education Dollar: How Innovation Can Improve Access, Equity, and Affordability" (Harvard Education Press, 2013), and "Getting to Graduation: The Completion Agenda in Higher Education" (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). In 2011, Education Week's Policy Notebook blog named Kelly one of its 16 Next Generation Leaders in education policy.