



Applicant Information

Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]

Member Information

PKP Member #: [Redacted]
Chapter Where Initiated: [Redacted]
Current Chapter Affiliation: [Redacted]
Place of Employment:
Job Title: Doctoral Candidate

Proposed Use of Funds:

- travel tuition continuing education
 research other:

Love of Learning History:

Previously Awarded: No

Transcript:

Status: Missing

Summary of Educational Background

<u>Name & Location</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Degrees Earned Date</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Hours Earned</u>	<u>Degree(s) Earned</u>
St. John's College (Annapolis)	8/1994	5/1998	5/1998	3.10	134.00	Bachelor's in Philosophy & History of Math and Science
College of Notre Dame of Maryland (Baltimore, MD)	8/2000	5/2004	5/2004	3.91	36.00	Masters of Arts in Leadership in Teaching
Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ)	8/2010	5/2015	5/2015	4.00	92.00	PhD Education Policy and Evaluation

Academic Recognitions:

Awards

Nominated for the ASU Dissertation Fellowship (January 2014)
ASU, Graduate and Professional Student Association, Travel Grant, Spring 2014 (\$950)
ASU, Graduate and Professional Student Association's Graduate Research Grant, Fall 2013 (\$2,000)
ASU, Graduate College, Travel Grant, Fall 2013 (\$200)
ASU, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Travel Grant, Fall 2013 (\$250)
ASU, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, University Fellowship, Spring 2013 (\$800)
ASU, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, University Fellowship, 2012-2013AY (\$1,000)
ASU, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, University Fellowship, Spring 2012 (\$3,000)
AERA, Division L, Travel Grant, Spring 2012 (\$500)
ASU, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College of Education, Travel Grant, Spring 2012 (\$300)
ASU, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies Fellowship, Spring 2011 (\$4,000)
Nominated for the St. John's College Senior Essay Award (May 1998)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Topper, A. M. & Powers, J. (2013). Democracy's college: The American community college in the 21st century. Framing the issue. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 21(14). This article is part of EPAA's Special Issue on Democracy's College: The American Community College in the 21st Century, Guest Edited by Jeanne M. Powers and Amelia M. Topper. Available at: <http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/1319>.

Jimenez-Castellanos, O., & Topper, A. M. (2012). The cost of providing an adequate education to English language learners: A review of the literature. *Review of Educational Research*, 82(2), 179-232. doi: 10.3102/0034654312449872

Powers, J., Topper, A., & Silver, M. (2012). Student choice and student movement in metropolitan Phoenix. *Journal of School Choice*, 6(2), 209-234. doi: 10.1080/15582159.2012.673862

Lee, J., & Topper, A. (2006). The future of proprietary postsecondary education. *On the Horizon*, 14(2), 84-91. doi: 10.1108/10748120610674058

Book Chapters

Topper, A. (2014). Myth 4. Charter schools are private schools. In D. C. Berliner, G. V Glass, and Associates (Eds.), *50 myths & lies that threaten America's public schools*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Reports

Choy, S., Lee, J., & Topper, A. (2012, August). Academic competitiveness and national SMART grant programs: Final report. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, Washington, D.C.

Choy, S., Lee, J., & Topper, A. (2011, August). Academic competitiveness and national SMART grant programs: Third-year lessons learned. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, Washington, D.C.

Choy, S., Berkner, L., Lee, J., & Topper, A. (2010, September). Academic competitiveness and national SMART grant programs: Second-year lessons learned. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, Washington, D.C.

Choy, S., Berkner, L., Lee, J., & Topper, A. (2009, January). Academic competitiveness and national SMART grant programs: First-year lessons learned. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, Washington, D.C.

Topper, A., & Clery, S. (2007). Faculty salaries: 2005-2006. *The NEA 2007 Almanac of Higher Education*, National Education Association, Washington, D.C.

Topper, A., & Clery, S. (2006). Faculty salaries: 2004-2005. *The NEA 2006 Almanac of Higher Education*, National Education Association, Washington, D.C.

The Pell Institute (2005). *Demography is not destiny: Increasing the graduation rates of low-income college students at large public universities*. Washington, D.C.

Topper, A., & Clery, S. (2005). Faculty salaries: 2003-2004. *The NEA 2005 Almanac of Higher Education*, National Education Association, Washington, D.C.

Policy Briefs

Powers, J., Topper, A., Mazza, B., Silver, M., Williams, T., & Anderson, J. (2011, August). Patterns of student mobility in metropolitan Phoenix. *Policy Points*, 3(4). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Topper, A. (2011, January/February). Developmental education: Time to completion. *Data Notes*, 6(1). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Topper, A. & Lee, J. (2010, September/October). Outcomes of first-year persisting students. *Data Notes*, 5(5). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S., & Topper, A. (2010, May/June). Returning students. *Data Notes*, 5(3). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S., & Topper, A. (2010, January/February). Grade point average and student outcomes. *Data Notes*, 5(1). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Topper, A. (2009, November/December). Late stop outs, Part 2. *Data Notes*, 4(6). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Topper, A. (2009, September/October). Late stop outs. *Data Notes*, 4(5). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S. & Topper, A. (2009, May/June). Characteristics of students who stop out. *Data Notes*, 4(3).

Topper, A. (2009, March/April). When do students stop out? *Data Notes*, 4(2). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Topper, A. (2008, November/December). Outcome differences by developmental status and gender. *Data Notes*, 3(6). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S., & Topper, A. (2008, September/October). Students earning zero credits. *Data Notes*, 3(5). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S. & Topper, A. (2008, July/August). Developmental education: Completion status and outcomes. *Data Notes*, 3(4). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S. & Topper, A. (2008, May/June). Population characteristics and student outcomes. *Data Notes*, 3(3). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S. & Topper, A. (2007, November/December). Enrollment status and outcome differences. *Data Notes*, 2(4). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Clery, S. & Topper, A. (2007, September/October). Changes in cohort composition. *Data Notes*, 2(3).

Topper, A. (2007, May/June). Achieving the dream students and financial aid. *Data Notes*, 2(2). Silver Spring, MD: Achieving the Dream.

Invited Panel Participation

edXchange, Arizona State University (2014, March). Part of a panel of authors who contributed to D. C. Berliner, G. V Glass, & Associates (Eds.), *50 Myths & Lies that Threaten America's Public Schools*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Topper, A. (2014, March). Part of a panel of journal editors entitled *How to Publish and Get Published: An Introduction to Working With and For Open Access and/or Student-Run Journals*. Comparative International Education Society Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education's Annual Conference (2013, November). Reaction Panel Discussion responding to keynote speaker Michael B. Horn, *Disrupting College: How Disruptive Innovation Can Deliver Quality and Affordability to Postsecondary Education*, with Dr. Rufus Gasper (Chancellor, Maricopa County Community Colleges District) and Dr. William Pepicello (President, University of Phoenix).

Conference Presentations

Topper, A. & Harvey, T. (2014, June). Evaluating Financial Aid Policy through the Lenses of Access, Equity, Capabilities, and Deprivations. Student Financial Aid Resource Network Conference, Providence, RI.

Topper, A. (2014, April). Toward a Richer Understanding of Community College Student Success. The Council for the Study of Community Colleges Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. (accepted, unable to attend)

Topper, A. (2014, March). Capabilities, Concientización, and the American Community College. Comparative International Education Society Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada. Part of a panel entitled "Freire and International Education in the Twenty-First Century."

Topper, A. (2013, November). Where the Rubber Meets the Road: When Disaggregation is Not Enough. Comparative International Education Society Western Regional Conference, Los Angeles, CA. Part of a panel entitled "When the Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Intersectionality in Practice and Policy."

Powers, J. & Topper, A. (2013, November). Assessing Charter School Competition: Does the Measurement Matter? University Council for Educational Administration 2013 Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN.

Powers, J. & Topper, A. (2013, April). The Dynamics of Public School Choice in Arizona: Are District Characteristics Associated with Patterns of Student Movement? American Educational Research Association, 2013 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Clery, S. & Topper, A. (2013, March). Working toward the Public Good: Collaboration of Faculty, Unions, and Student Success Initiatives. National Education Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Lee, J., Topper, A. & Shapiro, D. (2012, November). Student Unit Record Data: Will it Meet the Need? The Council on Public Policy & Higher Education Forum Pre-Conference, Association for the Study of Higher Education 2012 Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Topper, A. & Bor, E. (2012, June). Do Pell Grant Predict Community College Success? An Analysis of the Achieving the Dream Database. Student Financial Aid Resource Network Conference, Memphis, TN.

Jimenez-Castellanos, O., & Topper, A. (2012, April). The Cost of Providing an Adequate Education to English Language Learners: A Review of the Literature. American Education Research Association 2012 Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada.

Topper, A., & Jimenez-Castellanos, O. (2012, March). The Treatment of English Language Learners in the Cost-Study Literature: An Integrative Review. Association for Education Finance and Policy 2012 Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Topper, A., Clery, S. & Bor, E. (2012, February). Inspirations: Surprising Findings and What We Have Learned from Achieving the Dream Analyses. Achieving the Dream 2012 Strategy Institute, Dallas, TX.

Topper, A. & Clery, S. (2011, June). Achieving the Dream: An Update on Pell Grant Recipients. Student Financial Aid Resource Network Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Topper, A, Bor, E, & Clery, S. (2011, February). Use of Evidence to Improve Policies, Programs, and Services. Achieving the Dream: 2011 Strategy Institute, Indianapolis, IN.

Topper, A., & Bor, E. (2010, February). Got Evidence? Achieving the Dream: Annual Strategy Institute, Charlotte, NC.

Choy, S., Berkner, L., & Topper, A. (2009, June). Academic Competitiveness and SMART Grants: The Second Year. Student Financial Aid Research Network Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

Choy, S., Berkner, L., Lee, J., & Topper, A. (2008, June). Academic Competitiveness and SMART Grants: The First Year. Student Financial Aid Research Network Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.

Kessler, M. & Topper, A. (2007, October). PERSIST: A Comprehensive Guide for Student Success in Higher Education. National College Access Network Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Community Activity & Leadership:

Service

Graduate and Professional Student Association, Assembly Member October 2013-present
Assembly member representing the graduate students in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

Graduate Student Volunteer, edXchange Initiative August 2013-May 2014

(Leadership Team: Dr. Gustavo E. Fischman, Dr. Adai Tefera)

Graduate student volunteer assisting with the development of the newly-established Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College edXchange initiative. Responsibilities include: coordinating dissertation support group for advanced doctoral students, planning Saturday Scholar events, planning professional development workshops for graduate students, participating in planning meetings, note taking, grant writing, and developing social media plan.

Teachers College Graduate Student Organization, Interim President January 2013-May 2014

Founder and interim president of the Teachers College Graduate Student Organization, designed to support and extend the work of graduate students in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

Chair/Discussant

American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2013 Annual Conference, Graduate Student Council In-Progress Research Roundtable, Session Chair

Conference Reviewer

American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2013 Annual Conference, Division J: Postsecondary Education, Section 2: Student Access; Adult Literacy and Adult Education SIG

American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2012 Annual Conference, Division J: Postsecondary Education, Section 2: Student Access; Adult Literacy and Adult Education SIG

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) 2012 Annual Conference

Journal Reviewer

American Educational Research Journal, 2014-present

Current Issues in Education Journal, 2011-present

Education Policy Analysis Archives, 2010-present

Review of Educational Research, 2012-present

Professional Development

Arizona State University, edXchange's Research for All Program, 2014-2015 AY

AERA Division J Emerging Scholars Workshop, April 2014 (accepted, unable to attend)

Arizona State University, Advanced Social Media Workshop, February 2014

ASHE Graduation Student Policy Seminar, 2013 Annual Conference

ASHE Graduate Student Mentor, 2013 Annual Conference

Preparing Future Faculty Program, Arizona State University, 2011-2012 AY

William L. Boyd National Education Politics Workshop, 2012 AERA Annual Conference

Teaching Portfolio Workshop, Graduate College of Education, Arizona State University, Spring 2012

CV Workshop, Graduate College of Education, Arizona State University, Fall 2011

Reading Job Ads Workshop, Graduate College of Education, Arizona State University, Fall 2011

Description of your Intended Use of Funds & Itemized Budget:

The purpose of this trip is to present research related to my dissertation project at the Human Development and Capability Approach Association's annual international conference. This conference is hosted this year in Athens, Greece, between September 2nd and September 8th, 2014. The accepted paper presentation, "Exploring Conceptualizations and Measures of Community College Student Success," reflects the early work of my dissertation project – which is guided by the Association's conceptual perspective, the capability approach. The session I am participating in provides a structured opportunity for young scholars to present their research to leading capability approach scholars, including HDCA fellows Dr. Martha Nussbaum (University of Chicago), Dr. Melanie Walker (University of Free State, South Africa), and Dr. Sabine Alkire (University of Oxford), among others. My participation on this panel represents the first paper on my dissertation project at a major conference, and it will be reviewed and discussed by prominent capability approach scholars.

Attending this international conference is both professionally and personally significant to my research agenda and future academic career. Furthermore, it will connect my work with that of leading, internationally recognized capability approach scholars. Their feedback on my application of the approach and my initial findings will be invaluable to my dissertation project. This will also be my first time attending this conference. In addition, travel to this conference will be of great professional importance as I enter the job market this coming fall. I am honored to be representing Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College and Phi Kappa Phi at this international conference, and I hope my presentation will enhance their reputation and further establish ASU's and PKP's graduate students as skillful researchers and scholars.

If I am selected, the \$500 award would cover the cost of staying at the conference hotel from September 1st through September 6th, as well as contribute to meals during my stay.

Conference hotel (President's Hotel, Athens, Greece) = \$94.20/night x 5 nights = \$471.00

U.S. Department of State Athens, Greece, Per Diem Rate for Meals/Incidentals = \$144/day x 5 days = \$720

Personal Statement:

In December 2011 I had the opportunity to observe and administer a pilot survey to an accelerated developmental English class at community college in Northern California. The survey explored how students' experiences in the class and at the college influenced their aspirations and enrollment decisions. This class was the last class before finals, and for many of its students this was the first college exam they had ever taken. I sat with a group of three young African American men who were working on developing their thesis statements for their final paper and we talked about what they had learned in this class, their degree plans, and their life goals. One man said, "I had never finished a whole book before this class," and another added, "I never thought I could write for 10 pages." Although a number of students would end up not passing the class, the instructor explained that this class was really about helping students recognize what they were capable of and where they wanted those capabilities to take them.

This visit made me rethink the assumptions I have made in my own professional work on national student success initiatives and, more broadly, how the research and policy communities define and measure "student success." As a doctoral candidate in Arizona State University's Education Policy and Evaluation program, I have been able to explore the extent to which community colleges enhance or constrain student development and how meanings of student success vary between students, faculty, and administrators. My dissertation project is one of the first to apply the capability approach (Sen, 1979) to community colleges, which makes it a unique contribution to the existing literature. Attending this conference, where I will be presenting on my dissertation project and sharing my initial findings, I will be able to connect with capability approach scholars who will provide me with crucial feedback on my use of the approach to understand community college student success, as there are no faculty at ASU who use the capability approach in their research.

My dissertation research will lay the groundwork for the development of a more comprehensive, equitable, and relevant multidimensional index of community college student success than is currently used by institutions and policymakers. My long-term research agenda is to become an active, engaged member of the HDCA association and continue to work on bringing the capability approach to a wider, higher education audience. Receiving this award will have both an immediate impact on the quality of my dissertation project, and a lasting impact on my professional goals by expanding my network of colleagues and future research collaborators. This conference represents the first step in what I hope is a productive and meaningful career researching issues of student success in higher education.