

Colleen Gaffney

Consultant

Position with Firm

2024-present **Consultant.** Conducts research, data analysis, and literature reviews to ensure high-quality deliverables for clients. Develops reports, proposals, and other project materials related to the evaluation of talent and economic development policies and programs. Facilitates and coordinates stakeholder meetings, focus groups, and strategic planning sessions to gather insights and ensure successful project outcomes.

Previous Professional Experience

2023-2024

Policy Consultant, Michigan Community College Association, Lansing, Michigan. Monitored legislative proceedings and conducted bill analyses to support advocacy efforts for community colleges. Created tailored fact sheets for college presidents on enrollment trends and student success outcomes. Analyzed dual enrollment policies across states and coordinated with research specialists to inform strategies to increase college completions and achieve statewide education goals. Provided support at association meetings and presented key findings from bill investigations and data analysis to community college leadership.

2021-2023

Research Associate, American Institutes for Research, Washington, D.C. Prepared government client for biannual Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) meetings, collaborating with partner countries to develop comparable education indicators and reports. Produced updated data documentation and written annual reports on international and national postsecondary data trends. Crafted annual Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data tables in accordance with federal reporting requirements and served as a reviewer of survey materials and compliance of survey administration with federal statute. Coded data, analyzed trend accuracy, and prepared annual submission of U.S. education statistics for OECD surveys.

2018-2021

Research Assistant, American Institutes for Research, Washington, D.C. Managed independent reviews of National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) postsecondary longitudinal survey items, education datasets, and annual report publications to certify clarity and accuracy. Streamlined NCES help desk operations, responded to media inquiries on data releases and educational reports, and enhanced the accuracy and credibility of public communications.

Coordinated material collection for proposals and developed dashboards that aggregate key metrics to strengthen bid strategies.

2017-2018 Research Assistant, University of Michigan Ross School of Business, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

> Qualitatively coded 35 in-depth interviews based on methods of decision making and emotional pathways to evaluate women's social and psychological experience during in vitro fertilization treatment. Synthesized relevant literature on patients' cognitive appraisal

and developed publication themes using grounded theory.

Education University of Michigan, BA Sociology and Women's Studies

University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy, MPP