



Jimmy Clarke, Senior Associate

Jimmy Clarke has gained experiences which have shaped his passion for postsecondary education policy and improving the lives of others. Raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and influenced by the cultural revolution of the 1960s, Jimmy received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of California at Santa Barbara and later earned his master's degree and a Ph.D. in education administration from Louisiana State University's College of

Education.

Jimmy spent twenty years at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he served in a variety of capacities including Dean of Student Personnel and Dean of Enrollment Management. From this perch, Jimmy had an intimate view of the challenges students face in reaching their educational goals. He also served on the staff of the Louisiana Board of Regents for eight years, a portion of which he served in a dual capacity as Acting Chancellor of the statewide, 42-campus Louisiana Technical College. In these roles, Jimmy developed a deep understanding for policy issues affecting every stakeholder in higher education – an invaluable perspective that he brings to his work at HCM.

Jimmy believes that education policies crafted to benefit the student ultimately benefit the community and the nation; therefore, he strives to ensure that decision-makers sift through the complexity of public policy and consider all of the consequences on students and their families. At HCM, he serves as the Director of Lumina Foundation's Strategy Labs. Strategy Labs provide state leaders with technical assistance for policies that can increase higher education attainment. For more information, see www.strategylabs.luminafoundation.org. A people person at heart, Jimmy views his role as a builder of relationships and trust in an effort to foster collaboration among state policymakers with mutual student success goals.

Known for his problem-solving abilities and can-do spirit, Jimmy was tapped to be Chief of Staff to Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco directly following Hurricane Katrina. He remained in this post throughout the rest of the Governor's term, answering the call to duty during a time of crisis and rebuilding. A sports enthusiast, Jimmy has a long history of involvement with intramural and recreational sports. During football season, he enjoys cheering for the New Orleans Saints and remains loyal to the San Francisco Giants during baseball season. A husband and father of two children and has one grandchild, Jimmy lives in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Kevin P. Reilly

**President Emeritus and Regent Professor
University of Wisconsin System**



Dr. Kevin Reilly is President Emeritus and Regent Professor with the 26-campus University of Wisconsin (UW) System, having served as president from 2004–2013. In collaboration with the UW Board of Regents and the Chancellors, he developed the "Growth Agenda for Wisconsin," a long-term vision and strategic framework for what the university needed to do to help Wisconsin and the nation be more competitive in the global knowledge economy. Under his leadership, enrollment grew to 182,000—an all-time high—and sponsored research continued to expand beyond \$1 billion annually.

Dr. Reilly served as Chancellor of UW-Extension from 2000 to 2004 and as Provost and Vice Chancellor of Extension from 1996 to 2000. A native of New York City, he came to Wisconsin from the State University of New York (SUNY) System, where he was Associate Provost for Academic Programs and then Secretary of the University. In the latter role, he was the corporate officer staffing the SUNY Board of Trustees.

He is currently a member of the Higher Education Working Group on Global Issues for the Council on Foreign Relations and the Steering Committee for the Celtic Studies Program at UW-Madison. He has also served as the President of the National Association of System Heads.

He is author and editor of books and articles on higher education leadership, policy, and accreditation, among other topics in literature and Irish studies. Among his awards and honors are the Signature of Excellence Award from the University Professional & Continuing Education Association, the Chancellor's Medallion from UW-Oshkosh, and a commendation from the Senate of Wisconsin for his contributions to the state.

Dr. Reilly earned his B.A. at the University of Notre Dame and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.



Martha Snyder, Senior Associate

Martha Snyder is an education policy specialist with high-level experience supporting federal and state policymakers. She provides policy expertise and strategic counsel on the issues of accountability, college readiness and common core implementation for Achieve, the Bush Institute and the College Board. She also leads a strand of work for the Lumina Foundation supported Productivity Strategy Labs Network focused on performance funding.

A believer in the link between higher education and economic success, Martha has worked both personally and professionally to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged students. While at Villanova University earning her bachelor's degree, Martha tutored inner-city students and witnessed the education system challenges that allowed many students to fall through the cracks. Martha later graduated from Syracuse University with a master's degree in public administration and, inspired by a graduate professor, pursued a career in education policy to help expand educational opportunities for students.

Before her tenure at HCM, Martha worked as a senior policy advisor at the U.S. Department of Education, focusing on K-12 accountability, high school reform and special education. She also served as an associate director for the White House Domestic Policy Council, developing budget priorities and providing analysis and counsel on all federal education issues. Her legislative branch experience includes a stint as a legislative assistant to Rep. Jim Gerlach of Pennsylvania.

Living in a state capital, Martha has a strong understanding of the role state-level leadership plays in advancing strong policies that lead to growth and innovation. This perspective has been an important foundation to Martha's work with state policy makers. Specifically in Indiana and West Virginia, Martha has worked with state leaders, including state legislators and higher education policy officials, to facilitate the development, grounded in

research-based expertise, of performance based funding recommendations and related strategic higher education policies.

Martha lives with her husband and two children in Albany, New York, where she has put her passion for creative educational approaches to work on the board of directors for two local charter schools. A 13-time marathon finisher, Martha is an enthusiastic runner and dedicated fan of the Buffalo Bills.

You can contact Martha at martha_snyder@hcmstrategists.com.

Sheila Stearns

**Commissioner Emerita
Montana University System**



Dr. Sheila Stearns is a native Montanan who has served in a variety of senior administrative positions in higher education, including vice president of the University of Montana, chancellor of UM-Western, president of Wayne State College in Nebraska, and commissioner of higher education in Montana.

Stearns served as commissioner of higher education in Montana for nine years, the hallmark of which was her vision to expand educational opportunities for Montanans through programs grounded in institutional research and diligent communication with board members college presidents. She was Montana's longest-serving commissioner and a highly respected statewide advocate for educational opportunity. She was named commissioner emerita by the board of regents on March 1, 2012.

As vice president of the University of Montana, she led external relations of the university, including legislative, alumni, and foundation divisions. As chancellor of UM-Western, she fostered the early stages of an innovative transformation of the curriculum from the typical semester to four blocks per semester of one class at a time. A leading faculty advocate for the change was eventually named the national CASE professor of the year for the significance of this innovation. As resident of Wayne State College in Nebraska, Stearns guided the college through economic turbulence following in the wake of the dot-com bubble, keeping morale strong, core programs stronger, and increasing investment in the institution by donors and the state.

Stearns holds bachelor's degrees in English in history, a master's in history, and a doctorate in educational administration and supervision, all from the University of Montana.