

## Speaker Biographies

### Kelsey Schaberg



Kelsey Schaberg is a Senior Research Associate in MDRC's Economic Mobility, Housing, and Communities policy area. Her research focuses on workforce policy and training initiatives, including those with an emphasis on work-based learning. Kelsey serves as Project Director for the Evaluation of Management Leadership for Tomorrow's Turn Pro program. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Miami University and a master's degree in urban policy analysis and management from the New School.

### Alex Mayer



Alex Mayer is a national expert in higher education research and the use of evidence in higher education practice and policy. He leads MDRC's work in postsecondary education, focused on uncovering and evaluating promising new approaches to improving higher education, and helping states and colleges to use evidence to improve student outcomes. Dr. Mayer has led several national research initiatives and is currently the Principal Investigator of the National Rural Higher Education Research Center, funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in the U.S. Department of Education. He is the Project Director for MDRC's

research on Texas's new funding formula, which shifts over one billion dollars of state funding to better align the state's funding for community colleges with its completion and workforce goals. Dr. Mayer also led the College Completion Strategy Guide, a collaboration among higher education research experts across the country, which provides evidence-backed guidance for policymakers and system leaders on increasing college completion rates.