

Nate Mackinnon

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY - <i>Cambridge, Massachusetts</i> JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT Master in Public Administration	2013-2014
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY - <i>Boston, Massachusetts</i> Bachelor of Science in Political Science <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	2002-2005
FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY - <i>Fitchburg, Massachusetts</i>	2000-2002 <i>(Transferred)</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION - *Boston, Massachusetts*

Assistant Commissioner & Chief of Staff

March 2009 – Present

(Educational Leave July 2013 – June 2014)

- Chief of Staff of state coordinating agency for public colleges and universities with approximately 65 employees across three office locations
- Coordinate and lead weekly Senior Staff/Cabinet meetings and set agendas
- Serve as agency liaison to:
 - Office of the Governor
 - Executive Office of Education
 - Massachusetts State Legislature
 - Board of Higher Education
 - State University and Community College Councils of Presidents
- Implemented Community College Reform Initiative and served as point person for the Governor's Office on all efforts relating to major reform of the existing system of Community Colleges
- Responsible for all Government and Legislative Affairs for the Department and Board of Higher Education
- Align daily and annual work with strategic goals and framework of the organization on behalf of the Commissioner
- Chief advisor to Commissioner of Higher Education
 - Provide high-level political and public analysis for agency decisions
 - Advise Commissioner on policies affecting state public higher education
 - Develop annual strategy for increasing legislative support for public higher education
 - Successfully lobbied legislative leadership to create a \$7.5 million Performance Incentive Fund for FY12 Budget
- Led system-wide review and proposed revisions to leave benefits for presidents and senior administrators at institutions in response to public and political scrutiny
- Served as DHE representative on seven separate public college/university presidential searches
- Manage daily affairs of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
- Responsible for Board of Higher Education agenda development and meeting execution
- Procured and opened new satellite office locations in accordance with state protocol
- Chaired Student Health Insurance Plan Steering Committee for public higher education leading to reformed plan procurement and design saving students 15% and increasing existing benefit levels
- Staff lead for national search for a new Commissioner of Higher Education
- Serve as agency spokesperson as needed

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MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE - *Boston, Massachusetts*

Joint Committee on Education

May 2007 – March 2009

Research Director

- Supervised staff of two professional research analysts and two administrative support staff
- Advised Education Committee Chairwoman on policy developments and recent research findings on education matters
- Informed legislators and staff of current education policy and proposed legislation
- Coordinated Education policy agenda with leadership and Ways & Means Committee Chair and staff
- Managed daily activities of Education Committee including creation and distribution of Committee material and summaries of over 300 pieces of legislation
- Routinely collaborated with various advocacy groups and stakeholders on legislative and budgetary issues
- Acted as liaison for Chairwoman to educational constituencies, including Department of Education and Office of the Governor

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - *Malden, Massachusetts*

Office of the Commissioner

December 2005 – May 2007

Research Coordinator / Education Specialist, Department Spokesperson

- Acted as official spokesperson for the Department of Education
- Provided accurate and in-depth responses to requests for information by state legislators and their staff
- Coordinated with other DOE units on data and research presentations for Deputy Commissioner
- Produced Board of Education documents and records, and assisted with Board member requests
- Planned and executed media release events by coordinating with local school and town officials
- Coordinated and developed press conferences on behalf of the Commissioner

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY - *Boston, Massachusetts*

Special Assistant to the Executive Director

July 2005 – December 2005

- Facilitated all logistics for the creation and opening of a new agency state Operations Center
- Edited final school district accountability reports
- Managed agency procurement and contracts

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY - *Boston, Massachusetts*

Office of Governor Michael S. Dukakis

January 2003 – May 2005

Research Assistant / Personal Assistant to Governor Michael Dukakis

- Assisted in writing policy memorandums and op-ed columns
- Established connections with state legislators to build coalition for rail improvement project
- Provided background and research for Governor Dukakis' public appearances

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Commonwealth Management Certificate Program Mentor (2016)
- American Collegiate Moot Court Association Judge – Eastern Regional Qualifying Tournament (2015)
- Board of Directors, Chair, Friends of Raising the Village (2015- Present)
- Recipient of The Lucius N. Littauer Award at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2014)
- Governor Robert F. Bradford Fellow for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at Harvard University (2013-2014)
- American Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT) Weekly Tuesday Night Team Leader (2009-2012)
- American Red Cross DAT Team Member (2008-2013)
- Movember, Platinum-Level Fundraiser for International Men's Health Awareness Campaign (2012 & 2013)
- Board of Directors, Village Theatre Project (2006-2009)
- Michael S. Dukakis Fellow (2003)