

Carolyn Trager Kliman

WORK EXPERIENCE

Professor of Practice at ASU MLFC, Washington, DC

August 2024 - Present

- Build, co-lead, and grow Mary Lou Fulton College's Youth-Serving Workforce Solutions Initiative and Advisory Board.

Senior Advisor, Washington, DC

September 2022 – Present

- Partner with nonprofits and foundations nationwide to enhance organizational impact.
- Support organizational innovation by conducting impact assessments and landscape analyses, creating tools to foster humane uses of artificial intelligence, drafting policy recommendations, contributing to publications, and designing in the United States and Singapore convenings to advance high-priority initiatives for multiple nonprofits and foundations.
- Developed landscape analysis, preliminary research and learning agenda, and new approach to understanding organizational impact for the Center for Whole Child Education at ASU.

City Year, Inc., Washington, DC

December 2015 – May 2023

Senior Advisor

- Advise CEO and CTO on learning and thought leadership strategy; provide guidance and managerial support to the Education Research and Strategy team; and oversee critical research projects.

Senior Vice President, Education Research and Strategy

Vice President, Education Research and Strategy

- Built and led diverse team managing City Year's current portfolio of research and evaluation projects.
- Initiated new approach to research and evaluation, resulting in more equitable research practices.
- Tripled research and evaluation projects that inform practice improvements and systems change.
- Established new partnerships with funders to build the Education Research and Strategy Team.
- Developed over 30 strategic partnerships to inform sector-wide change.
- Co-designed, developed, and executed City Year's thought leadership strategy.

Vice President, Education Strategy and Policy

Senior Director, Education Strategy and Policy

- Led team responsible for City Year's education policy work, including policy and partnership development.
- Developed the organization's first education policy platform and approach to state policy engagement.
- Oversaw external evaluations of City Year's work, resulting in two new national evaluations of City Year.
- Collaborated with cross-departmental team to create organization's first district learning network.

America Achieves, Washington, DC

January 2013 – December 2015

Senior Director

Program Director

- Built, led, and managed diverse team to establish and scale the Global Learning Network, an international community of practice for participants in the first-ever, school-level global benchmarking tool.
- Managed strategic partnerships with government agencies, the media, researchers, and funders.
- Developed convenings for state leaders and produced policy guidance.

City Year, Inc., Washington, DC

June 2011 – January 2013

Senior Public Policy Manager

- Built and executed strategy to engage federal, state, local officials, and partner organizations in using policy recommendations to improve educational outcomes for all young people.

U.S. Senate HELP Committee, Washington, DC

August 2010 – June 2011

Education Policy Fellow

- Wrote legislative language regarding teacher preparation, family and community engagement, and secondary school reform to foster equitable access to a high-quality education for all.

Education Pioneers, Washington, DC

June 2010 – August 2010

Fellow at Center City Public Charter Schools

- Created data-informed strategic plan for recruiting 1,500 students across six campuses.

GenerationOn / Children for Children, New York, NY

November 2006 – June 2009

Manager, School Outreach and Grants

- Promoted from Program Associate to Senior Associate to Manager.
- Partnered with hundreds of schools in systemically under-resourced communities to implement service-learning programs to foster student engagement, belonging, and agency.
- Expanded school grant program beneficiaries from 17,000 students to 42,000 students.
- Co-designed Volunteer Summit with diverse group of high school students and the NYC Mayor’s Office.

AmeriCorps, New York, NY

November 2005 – November 2006

*AmeriCorps*VISTA member, assigned to Children for Children*

- Created data-informed service programs in partnership with young people and families.

Lansner and Kubitschek, New York, NY

July 2004 – October 2005

Public Interest Legal Assistant

- Collaborated with attorneys to provide legal services to victims of domestic violence or abuse in foster care.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy, Washington, DC

August 2009 – May 2011

Master of Public Policy, focus on policy and quantitative analysis, thesis on the role of service-learning in dropout prevention, Chair of Annual Public Policy Conference

Tufts University, Medford, MA

August 2000 – May 2004

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (focus on developmental psychology) and English, Magna Cum Laude, Board Member of the Leonard Carmichael Society, Founder of Jumbothon, and Leader of Kids Day

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Invited panelist. (October 16, 2025). Reflections on Service and AmeriCorps. More Perfect Union.
- Invited speaker [webinar]. (May 7, 2025). Join the Military Spouse Circle of Influence. Blue Star Families.
- Invited speaker [webinar]. (February 9, 2024). Equitable research and community engagement. Move4America.
- Invited panelist [webinar]. (August 12, 2022). Talking Data Equity. We All Count
- Trager Kliman, C. (2022) “City Year’s research agenda: An equity-focused learning journey.” City Year. <https://www.cityyear.org/national/stories/equity/city-years-research-agenda-an-equity-focused-learning-journey/>.
- Invited panelist [webinar]. (March 10, 2021). Lessons from the Pandemic: Student and practitioner perspectives on mutually supportive relationships. City Year and America’s Promise Alliance
- Balfanz, J., Chong, T., Trager Kliman, C. (2017) “Investing in Relationships: How One Cleveland High School ‘Moves the Needle’ for Students.” The Aspen Institute. <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/investing-relationships-one-cleveland-high-school-moves-needle-students/>.
- Invited presenter. (February 3, 2017). The Role of Mentors in Building Academic Mindsets. National Mentoring Summit. Washington, DC.
- Connolly, A., Trager Kliman, C., Ney, J. (2012). *National Service: providing pathways to employment*. Voices for National Service. <https://voicesforservice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/PathwaysReport-1.pdf>
- Connolly, A., Trager Kliman, C., McMahon, C, Ney, J. (2012). *National Service: delivering critical services to Americans in need*. Voices for National Service. <https://voicesforservice.org/research-and-reports/national-service-delivering-critical-services-americans-need/>
- Balfanz, J., Andrekopoulos, W., Hertz, A., Trager Kliman, C. (2012). CLOSING THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP: Leveraging City Year and National Service as a new human capital strategy to transform Low-Performing Schools. <https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ClosingtheImplementationGap.pdf>

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Select Trainings: Adaptive Schools Foundations Seminar, Clover Youth Development Leadership Cohort, We All Count Data Equity Learning Series, Equitable Evaluation Initiative Foundations, and clinical trainings on nonviolent crisis intervention, mental health and well-being.