

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Katie Roy, Director and Founder



Katie Roy founded the Connecticut School Finance Project in 2015 with more than 10 years of experience in law, policy, and organizational leadership.

Prior to founding the Connecticut School Finance Project, she served as the chief operating officer at the Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER). At CCER, she developed the organization's strategy to link policy with practice by providing direct support to Connecticut's lowest performing districts. Over the past two years, she led the organization's school finance policy and district work, partnering with five Connecticut districts to help them better understand how they are spending their financial resources, and identifying opportunities to allocate resources to better align with each district's strategic plan.

Katie began her career advocating for LGBT civil rights and marriage equality, and then spent five years serving as the executive director of the Hartford Hillel Foundation.

A Connecticut native, Katie holds a juris doctorate and certificate in tax studies from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where she spent a year working in the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Additionally, she has written and published several academic papers, including serving as editor and chapter author for the American legal history book, *Legal Relationships between Colonists and Native Peoples Prior to the American Revolution, a Colony-by-Colony Compilation* (2012). She is also an alumna of Connecticut College and Vassar College, and a member of the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Katie and her family are proud residents of New Haven.

Patrick Gibson, Senior Data Analyst



Patrick Gibson comes to the Connecticut School Finance Project with several years of experience in quantitative public policy analysis.

Previously, Patrick served as a yearlong data analyst fellow at the Connecticut Council for Education Reform. At CCER, he worked in close collaboration with Education Resource Strategies and three Connecticut public school districts to improve student learning outcomes and better align allocated resources with district strategy. Additionally, Patrick performed various in-depth analyses of Connecticut public school districts' revenue and expenditures using publicly available data.

Patrick holds a master's of science in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University, and a bachelor of arts in political science and business administration from Muhlenberg College. At Carnegie Mellon University, Patrick worked with a team to model the economic impact of a proposed brownfield redevelopment in Pittsburgh.

Michael Morton, Communications Manager



Michael Morton comes to the Connecticut School Finance Project with several years of experience in public affairs, media relations, and communications strategy.

Prior to making the move to Connecticut, Michael worked for the global communications firm H+K Strategies and was a member of its public affairs practices in Washington, D.C. and Austin, Texas. At H+K, Michael was heavily involved in government relations, policy research, media relations, stakeholder engagement and message building.

Over the course of his tenure at H+K, Michael helped lead accounts for a prominent federal consulting group, an international tire manufacturer, and a leading company uniform supplier. Prior to joining H+K, Michael completed an internship at Elizabeth Christian & Associates Public Relations in Austin, where he worked on health care, energy, and nonprofit clients.

Michael holds a bachelor of journalism degree and a bachelor of science in communication studies degree from The University of Texas at Austin. While at UT Austin, Michael served as the president of the Senate of College Councils, the student representative on the University Budget Council, and the chair for the University of Texas System Student Advisory Council's Finance and Legislative Affairs Committee. Michael also led the nonpartisan Invest in Texas legislative campaign and taught a seminar class in UT Austin's School of Undergraduate Studies titled "Productivity and Politics: the Higher Education Debate in Texas."