

Nathan Masters Sorber, Ph.D.

1140 Cemetery Rd.

Friendsville, MD 21531

nasorber@mail.wvu.edu

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Higher Education, tenure-track (2012-Present)

Coordinator of Higher Education Administration Program (2014-Present)

Director of the Center for the Future of Land-Grant Universities (2016-Present)

College of Education and Human Services

West Virginia University

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University

College of Education

State College, PA: PhD (2011)

Department of Education Policy Studies

Major: Higher Education; Cognate: History

Dissertation: "Farmers, Scientists, and Officers of Industry: The History of Land-Grant Colleges in the Northeastern United States, 1862-1905"

- *Dissertation of the Year Award*: Penn State University Alumni Association
- *Dissertation of the Year Finalist*: Association for the Study of Higher Education

Vanderbilt University

Peabody College of Education

Nashville, TN: M.Ed. (2004)

Higher Education

Bucknell University

College of Arts and Sciences

Lewisburg, PA: B.A. (2002)

Economics and Political Science

BOOKS

Sorber, N. M. (forthcoming, under contract). *The Morrill Act in Yankeedom: A History of the Origins and Early Years of the Land-Grant Colleges*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Geiger, R. L., & Sorber, N. M., (Eds.). (forthcoming, under contract). *Higher Education in the Post-World War II Era*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press.

Geiger, R. L., & Sorber, N. M., (Eds.). (2013). *The Land Grant Colleges and the Reshaping of American Higher Education*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

Sorber, N. M. (forthcoming, 2017) “Early Land-Grant Colleges and Students in the Northeastern United States: A History of Regional Access and Mobility Patterns in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York, 1862-1878,” *Agricultural History*.

Sorber, N. M. (2017, forthcoming). “The American Land-Grant Universities and Regional Development,” *Handbook of Universities and Regional Development*. Edward Elgar Publishers

Sorber, N. M. (2016). “The University Tradition in the United States,” in *Encyclopedia of International Higher Education Systems and Institutions*, Shin, Jung Cheol, Teixeira, Pedro, editors.

Sorber, N. M. (2015). The Rise and Fall of the Grange's Yankee Land-Grant Colleges, 1873–1901. In Alan Marcus (Ed.). *Science as Service: Establishing and Reformulating American Land-Grant Universities, 1865–1930*. University of Alabama Press.

Sorber, N. M., & Geiger, R. L. (2014). The Welding of Opposite Views: Land-Grant Historiography at 150 Years. *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research*.

Sorber, N. M. (2013). Scientists, agriculturalists, and ‘officers of industry’: The origins of the New England land-grant colleges. *Perspectives on the History of Higher Education*, 30, 41-72.

Geiger, R. L., & Sorber, N. M. (2011). Tarnished icon: William Smith and the College of Philadelphia. *Perspectives on the History of Higher Education*, 28, 1-32.

Sorber, N. M. (2011). The era of the student bureaucracy and the contested road to the Harvard Red Book. *Higher Education in Review*, 8, 13-40.

Sorber, N. M. (2010). Introduction. *Higher Education in Review*, 7, 1-5.

BOOK REVIEWS

Sorber, N. M. (2012). Book Review of *The History of U.S. Higher Education: Methods for Understanding the Past*, Marybeth Gasman, ed. *History of Education Quarterly*.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Sorber, N. M. (2016). *The Anachronisms and Paradoxes of the Land-Grant College Saga in an Era of Privatization*. Research paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Washington DC.
- Sorber, N. M. (2015, November). *Seeking the Origins of Higher Education's Dual Identity as a Public and Private Good*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Denver, CO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2015, November). *Session Discussant Remarks*. Concurrent session chair and discussant comments at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Saint Louis, MO.
- McHenry-Sorber, E., & Sorber, N. M. (2015, October). *Center for the Study of Land-Grant Education & Engagement*. National Rural Education Association. Saint Louis, MO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2014, November). *The Un-Radical Activists: College Student Bureaucrats and Sanctioned Dissent in the American University, 1910-1941*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Washington, DC.
- Sorber, N. M. (2014, November). *Session Discussant Remarks*. Concurrent session chair and discussant comments at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Indianapolis, IN.
- Sorber, N. M. (2014, November). Opening Address - Conference Chairperson. *A Century Beyond the Campus: The Smith-Lever Act and 100 years of Land-Grant Extension*. Conference chair session at the National Research Symposium on the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act and the Past, Present, and Future of Land-Grant Extension. Morgantown, WV.
- Sorber, N. M. (2014, April). *The Ivory Tower and the Golden Silo: A History of Land-Grant and Extension (Dis)engagement with Rural Communities*. Research paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association. Philadelphia, PA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2013, November). *The Rise and Fall of Public Higher Education*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. St. Louis, MO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2013, October). *Beyond "Poor Historiography": Class and American Higher Education*. Research paper to be presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Nashville, TN.

- Sorber, N. M. (2012, November). *Social Mobility Patterns of Land-Grant Students, 1862-1875*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Seattle, WA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2012, May). "Fostering Male Virility": *A Gender History of Land-Grant Education Discourse and Practice, 1862-1895*." Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. Vancouver, Canada.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, November). *Land-Grant Education Historiography at 150 Years: Beyond the Chimera of "Democracy's College"*." Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Chicago, Illinois.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, June). *Scientists, Agriculturalists, and 'Officers of Industry': The Origins of the New England Land-Grant Colleges*. Research paper presented at the Research Symposium of the 150th Anniversary of the Land-Grant Act. University Park, PA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, April). *Public Good or Private Gain: Justin Morrill, Vermont Farmers, and the Contested Origins of the Land-Grant College*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. New Orleans, LA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, April). *Marxian Approaches to the History of American Education*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. New Orleans, LA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2011, April). *The Era of Student Bureaucracy*. "Higher Learning in Society" Symposium. Pennsylvania State University. University Park, PA.
- Sorber, N. M. (2010, November). *Social Class, Agriculture, and Higher Education: The Formation and Reformation of Land-Grant Colleges in the Northeastern United States, 1862-1895*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the History of Education Society. Cambridge, Mass.
- McHenry-Sorber, E., & Sorber, N. M. (2010, October). *Memories of the One Room School: Tracking the Historical Foundations of Contemporary Rural Education Discourse*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the National Rural Education Association. Branson, MO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2010, May). *Theory and Socio-Economic Class: An Agenda for Higher Education Historians*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Education Research Association. Denver, CO.
- Sorber, N. M. (2009, November). *Making College Manly: Education, Gender Identity, and Middle Class Formation in the Nineteenth Century*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Vancouver, BC.

Sorber, N.M. (2009, April). *Advancing Access Ideals: A Historical Analysis of The Truman Commission and the Higher Education Acts*. Research paper presented at the annual conference of the American Education Research Association. San Diego, CA.

Sorber, N.M. & Humphrey, J. (2009, April). *Rethinking the Historical Role of Students in Curricular Decision Making*. Research paper presented at the annual conference of the American Education Research Association. San Diego, CA.

Sorber, N.M. (2008, November). *Towards a Theoretical Framework for Conceptualizing the Philosophical Foundations of General Education and Liberal Education: A Historical Analysis*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Jacksonville, FL.

McHale, I., Moran, P.L., Sorber, N.M, & Woodell, J.K. (2008, November). *A Conceptual Framework for Assessing Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Mergers: Integrative Devices, Leadership, Culture, and Sensemaking*. Research paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Jacksonville, FL.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Sorber, N. M. (2014, February) *The Rise and Fall of the Public Mission: Contextualizing Declining State Support of Higher Education in West Virginia and Beyond*. The Brown Bag Speaker Series. West Virginia University. Morgantown, WV.

Sorber, N. M. (2013, September). *The Land-Grant Movement and West Virginia University*. Special presentation before the West Virginia University Board of Governors. Annual Board of Governors Meeting, Morgantown, WV.

Sorber, N. M. (2013, March). *The Future of Public Higher Education*. Gardner Educational Forum: Wilkes University Lectureship Series. Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Sorber, N. M. (2012, October). *The Curious Cases of John Washburn and George Flint: The Brief History of the Grange's New England Land-Grant Experiment*. Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act. Mississippi State University. Jackson, MS.

Sorber, N.M. (2012, June) *The History of the Land-Grant College Movement*. Meeting of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Colleges. Washington DC.

McHenry-Sorber, E. C., & Sorber, N. M. (2011, March). *Rural Schools*. Educational Forum Series. Wilkes University. Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Sorber, N. M. (2010, May). Discussant: Paper Session. "Higher Learning in Society" Symposium. Pennsylvania State University. University Park, PA.

REPORTS

Sorber, N. M. The Strategic Planning and Implementation Efforts of Penn State University – Wilkes-Barre: A comprehensive assessment of administrative processes and policies, unpublished paper prepared for the Chancellor and Senior Staff of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. (2011, July). Wilkes-Barre, PA: Author.

Sorber, N.M. History of the Social Class Background of Penn State’s Students Before World War II, unpublished paper prepared for the Task Force Pennsylvania State University. (2008, November). *Report of the Land Grant Mission Task Force of the University Strategic Planning Council*. University Park, PA: Author.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sorber, N. M., Audette, K., & Yates, L. (2006, March). *Electronic portfolios: Qualitative Assessment of Resident Assistants*. Concurrent session at the 82nd Annual Convention of the American Association of College Personnel Administrators. Indianapolis.

Sorber, N. M. (2006, May). *Using Organizational Theory to Conceptualize Student Government Organizations*. Concurrent session at the Annual Convention of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls. San Francisco.

Sorber, N. M. (2005, November). *Transforming your Residential Government Association*. Concurrent session at the Annual Convention of the Mid-Atlantic Association of College and University Housing Officers. Wilkes-Barre, PA.

TEACHING

Assistant Professor of Higher Education, tenure-track (2012-Present)

M.A. Program in Higher Education Administration

Certificate Courses for the Graduate Academy in College Teaching

Courses Taught

- HIED 448: History of American Higher Education (Hybrid)
 - Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014
 - Course Newly Developed in Fall 2012
- HIED 449: Contemporary Issues in Higher Education (Hybrid)
 - Spring 2013, Spring 2014
 - Course Newly Developed in Spring 2013
- HIED 651: College Student Development (Hybrid)
 - Summer 2013
- HIED 654: College Student Affairs (Hybrid)
 - Spring 2013, Spring 2014

- HIED 693M: Global Issues in Higher Education (Hybrid)
 - Summer 2014
 - Course Newly Developed in Summer 2014
- HIED 693F: International Higher Education (F2F)
 - Fall 2014
 - Course Newly Developed in Fall 2014

Dissertation Committee Chair

- Michael Boekhe, *Barriers, Facilitators, and Frequency of Evidence Based Practice Use in Athletic Training.*
 - Successfully defended November 2014
- Jason Ottley

PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Lecturer (2011-2012)

Department of Graduate Education
 Educational Leadership
 Wilkes University

- ED 629: Strategic Thinking and Planning (Hybrid: Online and Traditional).
- ED 681: Introduction to Educational Research (Hybrid: Online and Traditional).
- Dissertation Chair and Committee Member

Graduate Assistant (2007-2010)

Major Advisor: Roger L. Geiger

Center for the Study of Higher Education
 Pennsylvania State University

- Research assistance on Roger Geiger's forthcoming book *Careers, Culture, and Knowledge: The History of American Higher Education.*
- Teaching assistant for HIED 505; 571: History of American Higher Education (I & II).
- Teaching assistant for HIED 521: History of Colonial and Early American Higher Education.

Guest Lecturer, Education Psychology (2010)

Wilkes University College of Education

- Lectured to aspiring teachers on the politics, history, and philosophy of education.

Graduate Assistant (2009)

Advisor: Beverley Lindsay

Center for the Study of Higher Education
 Pennsylvania State University

- Teaching assistant for HIED course: Sociology of Higher Education Seminar.
- Teaching assistant for HIED course: Administration & Leadership (Hybrid)

- Coordinated the Distinguished Speaker Series of major higher education leaders.

FELLOWSHIPS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

**Dissertation of the Year Finalist
Association for the Study of Higher Education (2012)**

**Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship – Social Sciences (Applied)
Pennsylvania State University (2011)
Total Grant: \$5000.**

Robert Ostar Fellowship (2010-2011)
Total Grant: \$28,000.**

- Fellowship is awarded to one doctoral student at Penn State University. Please see administrative and professional experiences for more information on this fellowship.

**Robert Graham Endowed Fellowship (2007-2008)
Total Award: \$2500.**

- Fellowship awarded by the Pennsylvania State University Graduate School for students showing academic promise.

**David Jones Award of Excellence
Vanderbilt University, Peabody College (2004)**

- Award given to one student in the Vanderbilt Higher Education program for excellence in the study of higher education administration and institutional advancement.

**Thelma Showalter Prize for Excellence in Public Administration
Bucknell University (2002)**

- Awarded by the president of Bucknell University to one student showing the greatest potential in the field of public and community affairs.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

History of U.S. HI ED
Higher Education & External Communities
Public Higher Education Policy & Practice
Land-Grant Colleges & Universities
Outreach, Engagement, & Extension

Economic Development & HI ED
Philosophy of Higher Education
Socio-Economic Class & HI ED
European Union & HI ED Reform

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department of Curriculum & Instruction

West Virginia University
Tenure and Promotion Committee
Member (2013-Present)

McGrath and Bucklew University Lectures
West Virginia University
Selection Committee
Member (2013-Present)

Perspectives on the History of Higher Education
Editor (2015-Present)
External Reviewer (2011 – Present)
Board Member (2013- Present)

History of Education Quarterly
External Reviewer (2013 – Present)
Book Reviewer (2012 – Present)

Journal of Rural Education
External Reviewer (2009 – Present)

Higher Education in Review
Editor, Vol. 7 (2009-10)
Associate Editor, Vol. 6 (2008-09)
Co-Technical Editor, Vol. 5 (2008)

Association for the Study of Higher Education
Discussant (2012)
Member and External Reviewer (2007-Present)

American Education Research Association
Member and External Reviewer (2007-Present)

History of Education Society
Discussant (2014)
Member and External Reviewer (2012-Present)

Member of the *History of Education Society*
Member of the *National Rural Education Association*
Member of the *History of Agriculture Society*

PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Special Assistant for Strategic Planning and Research, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, PA
**** Ostar Fellowship Position**

(2010-2011)

- Served as a special assistant to the Chancellor in charge of implementing and assessing the campus strategic plan.
- Worked with enrollment management, student affairs, academic affairs, business services, faculty senate, finance, and development to create unit plans and assessment measures for the various functional areas.

Residential Life Coordinator, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

(2004-2007)

- Supervised seventy-five student staff members and oversaw the operation of three residential communities for the Office of Housing and Residential Life.
- Served as the advisor to the Residential Hall Association Student Senate, a fifty-member student government organization that worked with administrators to influence university policy, provide university programming, and offer community service opportunities.