



American Youth  
Policy Forum

## **Saving Summer Jobs: How Can Summer Youth Employment Programs Improve Youth Outcomes during COVID-19?**

An AYPF Webinar

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

**1:00pm - 2:00pm ET**

### **Panelist Biographies**



#### **Dr. Alicia Sasser Modestino**

**Associate Professor with appointments in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and the Department of Economics at Northeastern University**

Alicia Sasser Modestino is an Associate Professor with appointments in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and the Department of Economics at Northeastern University. Dr. Modestino also serves as the Research Director of the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy and is a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution. Previously, Modestino was a Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston where she advised policymakers on regional economic issues.

Dr. Modestino's current research focuses on youth labor market attachment, skills mismatch, and the future of work. She currently leads a multi-year program evaluation of the Boston Summer Youth Employment Program funded by the William T. Grant Foundation. Her work has been published in top journals including the Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Human Resources, and Journal of Policy Analysis and Management and has been covered extensively in the media including the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, NPR's On Point and ABC News' Nightline.

Modestino holds both a Master's and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, where she was also a doctoral fellow in the Inequality and Social Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School.



**Rashard O. Cope**

**City of Boston Director of Department of Youth Engagement & Employment**

Rashad O. Cope serves the City of Boston, as Director of the Department of Youth Engagement & Employment - where he provides leadership and oversight to advance the lives of Boston's youth through programs and strategic partnerships with stakeholders.

Rashad is responsible for developing an extensive strategy and youth development plan that addresses inequities, improves quality outcomes and elevates the work of: hiring youth in the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program (*via the SuccessLink Program*); strengthening youth career & skill development and educational training; engaging youth in civic opportunities, connecting youth to services and resources; and amplifying the voices of youth.

Rashad Cope is a proud native of the City of Boston. He holds a Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Fitchburg State University; and a Master's of Science (MS Ed.) in Education Studies; and a Nonprofit Organizational Leadership Graduate Certificate from Wheelock College. Rashad's drive comes from being a triplet and a loving and dedicated father of son Tavaj O. Cope.