

Scaling Up Microfinance



The Path to Loan Repayment Webinar June 19, 2013

Presenter Bios

Elaine Edgcomb is a strategic advisor to the Aspen Institute's microenterprise Fund for Innovation, Effectiveness, Learning and Dissemination (FIELD), which she led between 1998 and 2012. She co-authored, with Joyce Klein, *Opening Opportunities, Building Ownership: Fulfilling the Promise of Microenterprise in the U.S.* (2005), an examination of the state of the U.S. microenterprise industry after its first 20 years. She has also authored or co-authored numerous other publications for FIELD, including *Dollars for Dreams: Scaling Microlending in the United States*, *The Informal Economy: Latino Enterprises at the Margins*, *The Informal Economy: Making It In Rural America*, and *Improving Microenterprise Training and Technical Assistance*. Ms. Edgcomb is also the author and editor of works on evaluation practice, institutional development, financial analysis, and on microenterprise strategies implemented both internationally and in the United States. Previously, she served as the founding Executive Director of the Small Enterprise Education and Promotion (SEEP) Network, an association of more than 50 U.S. and Canadian nonprofit organizations that support small business and microenterprise development in the developing world. Ms. Edgcomb's international experience includes work with Catholic Relief Services, where she directed the planning and evaluation of socioeconomic development and relief programs in 13 countries in Central America and the Caribbean. With more than 25 years in international development, she has experience in monitoring and evaluating microenterprise programs, training management staff, and in developing practitioner-oriented materials to support program implementation. She has served on the Board of Directors of the SEEP Network, Pro Mujer International and the Association for Enterprise Opportunity. Ms. Edgcomb holds a Master's Degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University and a B.A. in History and Spanish from Seton Hall University.

Leslie Hoffman began her microfinance career in 2005 when she was hired to coordinate public relations and marketing activities for then-ACCION New Mexico. She quickly took on additional responsibilities ranging from project management of a loan software system conversion to gap coverage on loan collections. She went on to play a number of management and senior-level roles, including vice president positions overseeing lending, portfolio quality, client service and strategic partnership development. She helped the organization expand its footprint into Arizona and Colorado and grow to become the nation's fourth largest microlender by 2011 while improving overall portfolio performance. Her operational experience includes direct small business lending, loan collections, microloan underwriting, portfolio management, sales team development and management, staff recruitment and training, strategic planning, business development and market expansion, process improvement, fundraising, community organizing and outreach, credit education and entrepreneurial training. She has also published articles on financial and small business management topics. Leslie began her professional career as a print journalist, serving as a newswoman for The Associated Press and The Albuquerque Tribune's legal affairs reporter, among other roles. She also served as a municipal development volunteer in the Peace Corps in rural El Salvador and speaks Spanish. She is a two-time University of New Mexico graduate, having earned a bachelor's degree in both journalism and political science and a master's degree in business administration. She returned to UNM's Anderson School of Management in 2012 as a part-time lecturer to teach undergraduate entrepreneurship.

