

The Capital Times: Panel talk examines student loan debt in Wisconsin

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In Wisconsin, there are an estimated one million people with some \$19 billion in student loan debt. Some call it a “crisis” that will have grave consequences, but others say the macroeconomic implications are overblown and argue that high levels of debt reflect the real cost of a valuable higher education. So which of those is true, and what should current borrowers be thinking about for down the road?

The Cap Times has assembled an outstanding panel to discuss those questions at the High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington Ave., on Monday, Oct. 23. Reporter Katelyn Ferral, who is examining this topic in stories and a podcast, will moderate the panel. Its members are:

- Ellie Bruecker, doctoral student in UW-Madison’s Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis
 - Analiese Eicher, program director at One Wisconsin Now
 - Derek Kindle, office of student financial aid director at UW-Madison
 - Brad O’Brien, financial education manager at GreenPath Financial Wellness

This free Cap Times Talk runs 6:30-7:30 p.m. If you would like to record the event with film or audio, please contact Managing Editor Chris Murphy at [\(608\) 252-6420](tel:6082526420) or cmurphy@madison.com.