



HARVARD Kennedy School
TAUBMAN CENTER
for State and Local Government

RODRICK MILLER NAMED VISITING FELLOW AT HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL'S TAUBMAN CENTER FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 20, 2022

CAMBRIDGE – Rodrick Miller, one of the nation’s foremost economic development leaders, has been named a visiting fellow at Harvard Kennedy School’s Taubman Center for State and Local Government. He began his appointment in September 2022.

As visiting fellow, Miller will share lessons about economic development learned during his decades of experience as a global leader in the space. Miller will serve as a strategic thought partner to the Taubman Center and its affiliated faculty, fellows, and staff on research initiatives, driving practitioner engagement, and spreading ideas and solutions developed for state, regional, and local economic development practitioners. He will also provide Harvard Kennedy School students with mentorship and connections to opportunities to advance economic development in communities throughout the United States.

“We are pleased to welcome Rodrick Miller to the Taubman Center this fall as a visiting fellow,” said **Taubman Center Director and Harvard Kennedy School Professor of Public Policy Jeffrey Liebman**. “Rodrick is respected globally for his ability to provide long-term economic development solutions to state and local governments across the country. His expertise will help the Taubman Center advance our mission to convene leading thinkers and practitioners to engage on best practices and shared challenges.

The addition of Miller as a visiting fellow is the latest offering by the Taubman Center in response to an increase in student interest in domestic economic development content, learning opportunities, and career pursuits. This includes the Center’s yearlong non-credit Economic Development Seminar, now in its fifth year, and a new for-credit State and Local Economic Development course, co-taught by Taubman Center’s Executive Director and Adjunct Professor, Rafael Carbonell.

“It is an honor for me to come back to HKS in this role after my days as a student here,” said **Rodrick Miller**. “I could not be more excited to work with Taubman Center and HKS faculty and staff to better inform and inspire students to pursue leadership roles in economic development, and to support current economic development leaders who are working to make the field more impactful and equitable.”

Miller led economic recovery efforts in challenged markets across the country, launching or turning around public-private development agencies in New Orleans, Detroit, and Puerto Rico during some of the most challenging times these communities faced, including through bankruptcy, natural disasters, and entrenched economic decline. As CEO of Ascendant Global, a

boutique economic development firm focused on providing bold growth solutions to help economies sustain themselves, gain jobs, and spur private investment, Miller has led diverse economic initiatives for clients including Living Cities, the Kellogg Foundation, The Fund for our Economic Future, and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

Miller holds a master of public policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor of science degree in international business from St. Augustine's College. He gained a graduate diploma in finance from the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico as a Fulbright Fellow. He is a board member of the New Growth Innovation Network, the Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Board, New Corp (CDFI), and St. Augustine's University.

The Taubman Center and its affiliates house several research fellows each year, typically academics and experienced practitioners who take a sabbatical to study, write about, and help spread insights and ideas on a variety of subjects. During their time at the Harvard Kennedy School, they engage with other scholars and practitioners, faculty members, staff, and students.

About the Taubman Center for State and Local Government

The Taubman Center for State and Local Government and its affiliated institutes and programs are the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's focal points for activities that address state and local governance. The Center's mission is to develop the next generation of state and local government leaders, generate big ideas and solutions to state and local government challenges, and help state and local government implement and scale solutions. The Taubman Center focuses on urban policy issues such as economic development, transportation, education, public infrastructure, land use, social services, public sector technology and data utilization, procurement, and performance management. Visit the [Taubman Center website](#) to learn more.

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