The United States government has had a direct hand in shifting the demographic landscape of higher education and also of citizenship. How so? One important way is that more women earn bachelor's degrees in the United States today than ever before in our history in significant part because of Title IX legislation passed in 1972. Even so, the benefits of greater social, economic and political inclusion in society still escape many Americans today because of barriers to college education. Recently, federal policies initiated during the Obama administration aimed to expand access to "first class citizenship" by increasing the number of Americans earning Associate's and Bachelor's degrees. This goal would especially affect women and low-income Americans in a knowledge-based economy that would otherwise have left them behind. Deondra Rose examines these and other phenomena and the impacts of historically relevant social and political decisions on higher education, as well as American political development, political behavior, identity politics (e.g., gender, race, and socioeconomic status), and inequality. This is all in the context of issues surrounding the idea of full citizenship.

An important focus of Rose's research is the feedback effects of landmark social policies on the American political landscape—essentially, how policies alter people's capacity to engage in politics. By examining policies (Title IX or the National Defense Education Act for example), her research provides a review of lessons learned and suggested approaches for future legislation. Rose's research has appeared in Studies in American Political Development, the Journal of Policy History, the Journal of Women, Politics & Policy, and PS: Political Science & Politics. She is the author of Citizens by Degree: Higher Education Policy and the Changing Gender Dynamics of American Citizenship (Oxford University Press, 2018), which examines the development of landmark policies—including the National Defense Education Act of 1958, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments—and their impact on the American political landscape.

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