Shishir Shakya   West Virginia University

John Chambers College of Business & Economics   ss0088@mix.wvu.edu
1601 University Ave   http://shishirshakya.github.io
Morgantown, WV, 26505   (304) 906-8943

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing to express interest and submit my application for the position of Assistant Professor that was posted on the JOE. Under the direction of Dr. Jane E. Ruseski, I will be completing my Ph.D. in Economics at West Virginia University in the Spring of 2020. I am exceedingly interested in this position at XYZ University where I can contribute to your focus on teaching, continue my research on healthcare policy evaluation, and inspire a new generation of economist through teaching and hands-on experiences.

I am an applied economist specializing in health and regional/public economics. My dissertation, "Three Essays on Health Economics Policy Evaluation," is a collection of the U.S. health and healthcare policy analysis. With the attached job market paper, I estimate how different subpopulation are uniquely susceptible to the effects of Medicaid using the causal machine learning methods and the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment (random assignment of Medicaid) data set. I use the estimated heterogeneous treatment effect to develop efficient policies that can elevate the impact of Medicaid for health care use, personal finance, health, and well-being. The efficient policy conclaves the ethical, legislative, and political rationales and provides cost and benefits. These findings are valuable to the contemporary national debates on Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act and insurance planners.

My second chapter explores the effects of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) on the prescription opioid deaths. I find that PDMPs are ineffective in reducing prescription opioid overdose deaths, but the effects are heterogeneous across states with mandatory PDMPs. I find that marijuana and naloxone access laws, poverty level, income, and education confound the impact of mandatory PDMPs on prescription opioid overdose deaths. My third chapter explains why the "California proposition 8: the limits on dialysis clinics' revenue and require initiative" proposition failed. The proposition requires clinics to issue refunds to patients or their payers for revenue that exceeds 115% of the cost. I find counties regional dynamics and special interest of the DaVita firm led to the failure of the proposition.

In addition to my dissertation research, I am working on a selection of other projects. The project I believe would be most interesting to your institution is a series of papers determining: how does work requirements in Medicaid as a condition of eligibility could affect employment and health outcomes; county-level Assessment of PDMPs, opioid prescription rate, and opioid overdose; and the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) and its impacts. I have completed data management and currently working on developing causal machine learning algorithms. These topics will use big-data and are important to recent U.S. healthcare policy and debates. Attached CV provides links of my nearly completed other working paper series.

During my time at WVU, I was a graduate research assistant at the Regional Research Institute and contributed to developing an open-source version of the WVU Econometric Input-Output (WVU-ECIO) model in Python and R programming language. My researches use big-data, machine learning, spatial econometrics, panel data analysis, time-series, and input-output methods.

Along with these research works, I also developed online course material for Business Data Visualization course of Business. These materials are based on the Rpubs and Shiny application. My CV provides links to these courses and my GitHub codes. I also taught Principles of Macroeconomics and Elementary Business and Economic Statistics at the undergraduate level. My overall teaching effectiveness score was 3.2 out of 5 in Macroeconomics (Spring 2018), and a 4.3 in Statistics (Summer 2018 online). My rating is slightly less than the departmental averages for Macroeconomics while well above the department averages for Statistics. I find that my teaching style of using pedagogical techniques to actively engage students in group discussion has inspired more confidence in my students as they approach economic theory and applications. I would be happy to teach, statistics, applied econometrics, machine learning, and causal inferences as well as the principles and intermediate course sequence both online or in-person.

I am especially interested in working at your institution. My teaching pedagogy focuses on conversation and facilitating group discussions within the classroom. I value the undergraduate level focus and that the small classroom sizes allow for me to have more personal interactions with my students so that I can focus on mentorship and providing guidance on their undergraduate research projects.

I am excited about your departments interest in health economics and applied economics, which are a passion of mine. I believe that I would be a substantial addition to your department because of my interest in research that compliments work currently being undertaken within your university and my commitment to enriching the student experience with flexible and responsive teaching methods. I look forward to discussing the Assistant Professor position with you in the coming weeks. Thank you for your consideration for this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Shishir Shakya