

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

August 2020 - Present

Ph.D., Education Policy, Leadership, and School Improvement

Vanderbilt University

August 2018 – May 2020

M.P.P., Education Policy
Concentration: K-12 Education Policy

Wake Forest University

August 2012 – May 2016

B.S., Mathematics
Honors Thesis: Models for Ordinal Data

RESEARCH INTEREST

Economics of Education, Teacher Labor Markets, Distribution of Teacher Quality, Rural Education, and Teacher Preparation and Licensure

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Dr. Lauren Sartain

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2020 – Present

- Utilize University of Chicago Consortium data to create policy reports and briefs, evaluating Chicago's system of teacher evaluation
- Research the impact of school leadership on the perceptions of teacher evaluation and its impact on the evaluation process
- Designing a program of research evaluating the impact of the expansion of online education in the UNC System

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

North Carolina Education Futures Initiative

Graduate Research Assistant

June 2021 – Present

- Cleaning and organizing UNC System data to create a set of research-ready data for research associates
- Collaborating with UNC System policymakers to improve data quality and accessibility for collaborating researchers
- Summarize data into descriptive statistics for use in preliminary publications, briefs, and policy reports

The Hunt Institute

Durham, NC

Department of Policy and Research

Policy and Research Fellow

May 2020 – January 2021

- Designed a district level COVID-19 map which was updated daily to display the spread of COVID-19 throughout school districts in the United States alongside other district-level achievement and demographic data
- Organized virtual roundtable conversations with policymakers, practitioners and researchers to discuss evolving education issues during the COVID-19 pandemic

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

Tennessee Education Research Alliance

Graduate Research Assistant

January 2019 – May 2020

- Supports implementation and analysis of the annual Tennessee Educator Survey
- Produces presentations and deliverables which convey the findings of the Tennessee Educators Survey
- Writes research and policy briefs with TERA research affiliates

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

Fuchs' Research Group

Research Assistant

July 2018 – January 2019

- Administered pre- and post-testing to students participating in the Fuchs' Research Study
- Provided tutoring in content and learning strategies to Metro Nashville Public Schools' students identified as having math difficulties as part of the Second Grade Mathematics Project
- Reviewed recordings of tests and tutoring sessions, evaluating each for fidelity of implementation

Forsyth Futures

Winston-Salem, NC

Data and Research Team

Research Intern

January 2016 – May 2016

- Compiled, organized, and analyzed census data on poverty and educational attainment within Winston-Salem for the Mayor's Commission of Poverty
- Investigated common methodology and established a project specific methodology for studying poverty
- Summarized research on education's influence on poverty and collaborated in producing final poverty report

PUBLICATIONS**UNDER
REVIEW**

Barrow, L., **Morris, W.**, & Sartain, L. "The Expanding Landscape of Online Education: Who Engages and How They Fare." Prepared for David Card's festschrift.

Sartain, L., & **Morris, W.** "Teacher Satisfaction with Teacher Evaluation: The Importance of School Leadership."

**RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS**

Klasik, D., **Morris, W.**, Hutt, E., Sartain, L., & Zaharan, W. "How Do Unexpected College Grades Shape Race and Gender Gaps in the Stem Pipeline?"

Sartain, L., Zaharan, W., Hutt, E., Klasik, D., & **Morris, W.** “Grading The Pandemic: Student Use of University Pass/Fail Policies in Spring 2020”

**GENERAL
AUDIENCE**

Morris, W., Ronfeldt, M., Bardelli E., & Truwit M. “Learning from the Best: Promising Practices in Preparing Tennessee’s Future Teachers” Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Vanderbilt University April 2020.

Morris, W. “Teacher Perceptions of Evaluation Fairness and Burden” Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Vanderbilt University December 2019.

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS**

Where Do They Come from? Where Do They Go? The Geography of Teacher Labor Markets and Teacher Preparation Programs. Presented at the Association of Public Policy and Management. (November 2023)

How Do Unexpected College Grades Shape Race and Gender Gaps in the Stem Pipeline? Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2023)

The Expanding Landscape of Online Education: Who Engages and How They Fare. Presented at the Association for Education Fincance and Policy. (March, 2022)

Teacher Satisfaction with Teacher Evaluation: Factors that Explain the Variation. Presented at the Association for Education Fincance and Policy. (March, 2021)

Fairness and Burden in Tennessee’s Statewide Teacher Evaluation System: How Educators Preparation and Information Systems Can Make a Difference. Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2020)

**FELLOWSHIPS
& AWARDS**

Education Policy Academy (2023), American Enterprise Institute

Community Engagement Fellow (2022), UNC Center for Public Service

SERVICE

President (2023-2024), Graduate Student Association, School of Education, UNC-Chapel Hill