Brianna Felegi

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Notre Dame M.A. Economics, University of Notre Dame B.A. Economics, University of Florida Minor - Actuarial Science Honors - Summa Cum Laude Expected May 2023 June 2019 May 2018

Fields of Interest

Applied Microeconomics and Economics of Education

Job Market Paper

"Supply-Side Responses in School Choice" with Chandon Adger

Abstract: Despite the growing size of private school voucher programs, our understanding of their effectiveness relies on results from small-scale randomized control trials. In this paper, we show why those results may not translate to programs at scale. First, we examine changes in school quality following the implementation of the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program and find that public schools facing high exposure to the policy increased their school quality while participating private schools decreased their quality. Second, we develop a model of household demand for schools to show that the incentive for schools to increase quantity is nonlinear with respect to the voucher amount and the income eligibility threshold. Our results suggest that voucher programs only threaten public school enrollment when the voucher amount is large, or when a significant proportion of students are eligible to participate with current voucher amounts. Lastly, we show that when high-income families qualify for a voucher, the incentive to provide quality is first-order different for public and private schools. Policymakers interested in adopting and expanding these programs should consider these indirect and nonlinear effects to understand vouchers' impact on educational outcomes.

Working Papers

"Do the SAT and ACT Limit Enrollment? Evidence from the Test-Optional Movement"

Research in Progress

"The Free Tuition Laws and Their Impact on Educational Attainment in the 20th century"

"Can Light-Touch Interventions in High School Impact Education Outcomes?"

"The War on Poverty and Higher Education Access: Educational Attainment and Intergenerational Effects of Upward Bound" with Chloe Gibbs

Research Experience

Research Assistant, University of Notre Dame, Department of Economics Chloe Gibbs, Fall 2021 through Summer 2022 Kasey Buckles, Spring 2020 through Summer 2021

Presentations

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Fall 2022 Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Fall 2022

Teaching Experience

Instructor, University of Notre Dame, Department of Economics Statistics for Economics Tutorial, Fall 2022 Principles of Microeconomics, Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame, Department of Economics Graduate Microtheory I, Michèle Müller-Itten, Fall 2019 Principles of Microeconomics, Daniel Hungerman, Spring 2019 Principles of Microeconomics, Ethan Lieber, Fall 2018

Tutor, University of Notre Dame, Academic Student Services Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2018 through Fall 2021

Fellowships

Burns Fellow, Program for Interdisciplinary Educational Research, Fall 2020 through Spring 2023 Dean's Fellow, University of Notre Dame, Fall 2018 through Spring 2023

Service

Graduate Student Committee, Co-Chair, Fall 2021

Academic References

Daniel Hungerman (Chair) Professor Department of Economics University of Notre Dame Email: dhungerm@nd.edu

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