

CJ Libassi

Email: cjl2232@tc.columbia.edu

Website: cjlibassi.com

Education

Teachers College PhD in Economics and Education	September 2021 - Present
University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy Master of Public Policy	September 2013 - May 2015
American University Master of Arts in Teaching	August 2010 - August 2012
University of Scranton Bachelor of Arts in English, Spanish, and Philosophy	September 2006 - May 2010

Relevant Experience

US Department of Education, Office of the Chief Economist Senior Advisor and Federation of American Scientists Impact Fellow	Washington May 2022 - January 2024
Community College Research Center Senior Research Assistant	New York June 2021 - Present
College Board Senior Policy Research Analyst	Washington April 2018 - March 2021
George Washington University Professorial Lecturer	Washington January 2018 - May 2021
Center for American Progress Policy Analyst	Washington July 2016 - December 2018
Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan Research Area Specialist	Ann Arbor May 2015 - December 2016
Comunidad de Madrid Fulbright English Teaching Assistant	Madrid September 2012 - December 2013
Prince George's County Public Schools Foreign Language Teacher / Teach For America Corps Member	Upper Marlboro June 2010 - December 2012

Publications and Works in Progress

Publications

- Susan Dynarski, CJ Libassi, Katherine Micheltore, and Stephanie Owen. "Closing the Gap: The Effect of Reducing Complexity and Uncertainty in College Pricing on the Choices of Low-Income Students" *American Economic Review*, 2021
- Zachary Mabel, CJ Libassi, and Michael Hurwitz. "The value of using early-career earnings data in the College Scorecard to guide college choices" *Economics of Education Review*, 2020

Working Papers

- Judith Scott-Clayton, CJ Libassi, Veronica Minaya, and Joshua K.R. Thomas. "Who Rides Out the Storm? The Immediate Post-College Transition and its Role in Socioeconomic Earnings Gaps", *NBER Working Paper No. 34366*, October 2025

- CJ Libassi, Michel Grosz, Sophie McGuinness, Jordan Matsudaira, and Rajeev Darolia. "An Overview of Graduate Borrowing and Outcomes", *OCE Working Paper No. OCE2024-007, US Department of Education, January 2025*

Works in Progress

- CJ Libassi. "Pell Away from the Cutoffs: A Simulated Instrument Approach to Estimating the Effects of the Pell Grant from Changes in Formula Generosity Over Time" [Job Market Paper]

Selected Other Writing

- CJ Libassi and Julia Turner. "Debt and Earnings in Graduate School: Moving Beyond Standard Measures for the Typical Student in the Short Term." PSEO Coalition, 2025.
- CJ Libassi and Zachary Mabel. "A Closer Look at College Affordability: The Link between Living Allowances and Student Debt." Urban Institute, 2022.
- Judith Scott-Clayton, CJ Libassi, and Daniel Sparks. "The Fine Print on Free College: Who Benefits from New York's Excelsior Scholarship? An Essay for the Learning Curve.." Urban Institute, 2022.
- Jennifer Ma, Matea Pender, CJ Libassi, and Sandy Baum (co-author 2018-2019). "Trends in College Pricing" and "Trends in Student Aid." College Board, 2018, 2019, 2020.
- CJ Libassi. "The Neglected College Race Gap: Racial Disparities Among College Completers." Center for American Progress, 2018.
- Ben Miller and CJ Libassi. "Sharing the Risk: A Plan for Colleges to Participate in the Costs of Student Loan Failure." Center for American Progress, 2016.

Teaching Experience

George Washington University

Professorial Lecturer, Data Analysis for Journalism and Political Communication

Washington, DC

Spring 2018 - 2021

Fellowships

Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Training Grant, PEAR Fellowship

2021-2025

Invited Presentations and Conferences

2025: APPAM Fall Research Conference (Seattle, WA), MidSouth Education Policy Workshop; **2024:** Office of the Chief Economist Conference, US Department of Education (Washington, DC); **2021:** Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP); **2020:** Society of Government Economists (SGE); **2019:** APPAM Fall Research Conference; **2018:** Southern Economic Association (SEA)

Service

Referee: *Economics of Education Review, Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis, Journal of Public Economics, Social Science Review*

Co-organizer: DC Economics of Education Seminar Series (2017-2019)

Grants Received

2025: PSEO Coalition Research Grant: "Debt and Earnings in Graduate School: Moving Beyond Standard Measures for the Typical Student in the Short Term" (Co-Principal Investigator with Julia Turner), \$15,000