

CJ Libassi

Email: cjl2232@tc.columbia.edu

Website: cjlibaldi.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 - April 2018
Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan Research Area Specialist	Ann Arbor May 2015 - June 2016
Comunidad de Madrid Fulbright English Teaching Assistant	Madrid September 2012 - June 2013
Prince George's County Public Schools Foreign Language Teacher / Teach For America Corps Member	Upper Marlboro June 2010 - June 2012

Publications and Works in Progress

Publications

- Susan Dynarski, CJ Libassi, Katherine Michelmore, 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, Veronica Minaya, CJ Libassi, 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. “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	Washington, DC
<i>Professorial Lecturer, Data Analysis for Journalism and Political Communication</i>	Spring 2018 - 2021

Fellowships

Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Training Grant, PEAR Fellowship	2021-2025
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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