

# Cora E. Bennett

Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research  
Department of Economics  
University of Tennessee  
916 Volunteer Boulevard  
Knoxville, TN 37966

Phone: (+1) 317-626-6600  
Email: corabennett@utk.edu  
Website: [www.CoraBennett.org](http://www.CoraBennett.org)  
Citizenship: USA  
Last Updated: November 2020

## Education

---

Ph.D., Economics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Expected May 2021
Advisors: Don Bruce, Celeste Carruthers, and Matt Harris	
M.A., Economics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville	2017
B.S.B.A., Economics, Seton Hall University, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2016

## Research Interests

---

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education

## Working Papers

---

### It's Dolly's World, We're Just Reading in It: The Effects of an Early Childhood Literacy Program (Job Market Paper)

*Abstract:* High quality preschool and other early childhood interventions are an integral part of the early human capital model, but there is little known about the impacts of inputs at home, such as parental time or attention and material resources. This paper examines how small capital investments affect early human capital development. Using the national roll out of an early childhood literacy program that gives away new books for free, I assess the effects on elementary academic achievement. I find that having access to the program leads to extremely small effects on both third and fourth grade English Language Arts and Math standardized tests. However, interpreting this as a precise null effect, these results suggest that capital alone is not an effective input into the early human capital model; time and attention from parents or guardians is also necessary.

## Works in Progress

---

Do Benefit Phase-outs and Cliffs Create a Poverty Trap?  
Does Payday Lending Reduce Crime?

## Academic & Teaching Experience

---

### Sole Instructor

Econ 201: Introductory Economics, Survey Course  
Econ 211: Principles of Microeconomics

Fall 2019  
Summer 2019

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Tennessee      Fall 2018-

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Econ 512: Graduate Microeconomic Theory II      Spring 2018

Econ 511: Graduate Microeconomic Theory I      Fall 2017

Econ 211: Principles of Microeconomics      Spring 2017

Econ 201: Introductory Economics, Survey Course      Fall 2016

### **Other Research Experience**

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Policy Analysis Division Intern      Summer 2015

### **Awards and Honors**

---

Haslam Doctoral Scholarship, University of Tennessee      2016-2021

Chi Alpha Sigma, National College Athlete Honor Society, Seton Hall University      2016

Omicron Delta Epsilon, Honor Society for Economics, Seton Hall University      2016

Big East All-Academic Team, Seton Hall University      2012-2016

### **Conference and Seminar Presentations**

---

2020 University of Tennessee Brown Bag Workshop, National Tax Association Annual Meetings (planned), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (poster, planned), Triangle Economics of Education Workshop (planned)

2019 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Regional Student Conference, University of Tennessee Brown Bag Workshop

2018 University of Tennessee Brown Bag Workshop

### **Professional Activities**

---

*Member:* American Economic Association, Association for Public Policy and Analysis, National Tax Association, Southern Economic Association

### **References**

---

*Don Bruce* (Chair)

Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research

Department of Economics

University of Tennessee

(865) 974-6008

dbruce@utk.edu

*Celeste Carruthers*

Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research

Department of Economics

University of Tennessee

(865) 974-6000

carruthers@utk.edu

*Matthew Harris*

Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research

Department of Economics

University of Tennessee

(865) 974-5591

mharris@utk.edu