Amanda Wahlers

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EDUCATION

Stanford University

September 2020 – Present

PhD student in Economics

Stanford, CA

Washington and Lee University

September 2014 – May 2018

Bachelor of Arts in economics with a minor in mathematics, cum laude

Lexington, VA

Research Experience

Opportunity Insights at Harvard University

July 2018 – June 2020

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow

Cambridge, MA

- Worked as a full-time research assistant to Professors Raj Chetty, David Deming, John Friedman, and Nathaniel Hendren on the Collegiate Leaders in Increasing MoBility (CLIMB) Initiative
- Collaborated with team of fellow research assistants on projects seeking to increase low-income access to selective universities and estimate the causal value-added of attending individual U.S. post-secondary institutions
- Constructed primary CLIMB database from IRS tax records, College Board, and ACT datasets and standardized numerous school-specific datasets for analysis
- Used SAS to integrate large supplemental IRS datasets into analyses, including leading the effort to evaluate occupational choices and outcomes
- Trained, helped coordinate, and aided in skill development of first-year fellows on CLIMB team

Honors Thesis in Economics

September 2017 – May 2018

Advised by Professor Katharine Shester

Lexington, VA

• Used a difference-in-differences model to identify the impact of milk pasteurization on mortality from milk-related ailments in 38 U.S. cities during the early 20th century

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

June 2017 – August 2017

Undergraduate Summer Research Analyst, Capital Markets

New York, NY

- Compile tick-level bid-ask spread datasets to perform statistical analysis
- Utilize Stata and OneTick to analyze primary government securities dealers' positions and trading activity in U.S. treasury securities
- Automate the generation of charts and tables to Excel to present findings
- Communicate with Dr. Michael Fleming regularly to discuss progress and further analysis

Washington and Lee Economics Department

October 2015 - May 2017

Research Assistant to Prof. Katharine Shester and Prof. Christopher Handy

Lexington, VA

- Use Stata to assemble and analyze historical datasets
- Attend daily research meetings with professors to discuss progress on the research project
- Work independently and in collaboration with a fellow RA to problem-solve a variety of challenges arising from integrating numerous datasets over several years
- Conduct literature reviews, proofread academic papers, and create data tables to report results

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Award

April 2020

Fellowship recognizing and supporting outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines

John McKenzie Gunn Scholarship

April 2017

Economics department scholarship awarded for outstanding achievement, leadership, and character

Johnson Scholarship

May 2014

Merit scholarship covering Washington & Lee University's cost of attendance, awarded on the basis of academic accomplishment, leadership, and intellectual promise

National Merit Scholarship

May 2014

Academic competition awarding college scholarships on the basis of PSAT/NMSQT scores

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Stata, SAS/SQL, Matlab, LaTeX