Christopher V. Lau

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Research: Primary: Applied Microeconomics, Economics of Education

Secondary: Industrial Organization

Teaching: Labor Economics

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Dissertation: Essays in Education Policy

Committee Co-Chairpersons: Professor Aviv Nevo and Professor Jonathan Guryan

Date of Completion: July 2015 (expected)

PREDOCTORAL STUDIES

M.A., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2010

B.A., Economics, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, 2009

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2014-2015

MPES Fellowship, Institute of Education Sciences, 2011-2014

Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Northwestern University, 2011, 2014

University Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2009-2010

High Distinction in General Scholarship, UC Berkeley, 2009

High Honors in Economics, UC Berkeley, 2009

Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society, UC Berkeley, 2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Mathematical Methods in Social Science, Northwestern University, 2011-2014

MATH 386-1,2: Econometrics for MMSS I and II

MMSS 398-2,3: Senior Thesis Seminar for MMSS

Teaching Assistant, School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University, 2012-2013

SOCPOL 331: Economics of Inequality and Discrimination (x2)

Teaching Assistant/Grader, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, 2011-2012

MKTG 462 (MBA): Pricing, Promotion, and Retailer Behavior (x2)

Christopher V. Lau, Page 2 JOB MARKET PAPER

"The Incidence of Federal Subsidies in For-profit Higher Education"

Abstract: Over the past few decades, tuition prices and enrollment at for-profit institutions of higher education have grown significantly. With this, students have relied more heavily on federal financial aid to relieve their financial burdens in pursuing a postsecondary degree. For-profit higher education is a differentiated products oligopoly; schools are differentiated both horizontally (individual preferences) and vertically (quality differences). In such a market, the pass-through, or incidence, of federal aid is not clear a priori. This paper finds to what extent federal financial aid improves the consumer surplus of students and to what extent it improves the producer surplus of the schools. To incorporate the market structure of for-profit higher education, I estimate a model of higher education choice (demand) and university pricing (supply) to compute the welfare effects of Federal Student Aid. I estimate that on average, 57 percent of federal grant aid and 51 percent of federal loan aid is passed through to for-profit colleges. In addition, I find that both federal grant aid and federal loan aid improve producer surplus more than consumer surplus.

OTHER PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

"Accountability in For-Profit Higher Education," In Progress "Welfare Comparisons of School Choice Mechanisms," In Progress

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age: 28

Marital status: Single Citizenship: United States

REFERENCES

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