



The Department of Economics
Bryan School of Business and Economics
462 Bryan Building, PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

November 9, 2020

School of Economics
University of Maine
5782 Winslow Hall, Room 206
Orono, ME 04469

Dear Search Committee Chair,

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Maine, as advertised on JOE. I expect to graduate in May 2021 with my PhD in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. My area of specialization is Applied Microeconomics, with an emphasis on Public Economics, Urban Economics, and Innovation Economics. My research interests, skillset, and experience make me an excellent candidate for this position at UMaine.

My current research focuses on the prevalence and prevention of rental housing evictions. I have presented my research in both academic and nonacademic settings, which has given me experience communicating to technical and non-technical audiences. In my job market paper, I explore the potential of unemployment insurance (UI) to serve as an eviction prevention program by mitigating a negative effect of unemployment on eviction. I exploit variation in UI benefits across states and over time to estimate the effect of benefits on filing rates. Despite what intuition may indicate, I find that when UI benefits are low, an increase in the unemployment rate leads to a decrease in eviction filings; while when benefits are high, an increase in the unemployment rate leads to an increase in eviction filings. My current research signals my broader interest in issues that affect low- to moderate-income families. I pursue topics that can influence Federal, state, or local policies aimed at improving our communities.

Prior to graduate school, I worked in Birmingham, AL with the nonprofit Impact Alabama (now Impact America). Over the course of two years, I gained valuable experience in working with regional and community stakeholders. As a result, I am particularly interested in the commitment of the School of Economics to projects of interest to regional or community stakeholders. I would welcome the opportunity to seek collaborative research opportunities.

In addition to my research interests and skillset, my teaching experience would be an asset to UMaine. I have been an Instructor for three undergraduate-level courses. Through these courses, I have gained experience in curriculum development and best practices. As I have taught both in-person and online courses, I am able to foster learning environments across multiple platforms. I look forward to the opportunity to teach both undergraduate- and graduate-level courses.

I am available for virtual interviews at the ASSA 2021 Virtual Conference or on demand. I am including my CV, job market paper, and transcripts. Letters of recommendation have been requested and will follow. Please visit my website: www.kelsighobbs.com for my complete profile and do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelsi G. Hobbs

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