

# Kristin Vrona

Sycamore, IL 60178 • (630) 881 - 7612 • kristin.vrona@gmail.com

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy** DeKalb, IL  
*Graduate Research Fellow | Primary Grant Reviewer, Open Space Land Acquisition  
& Development Program* Aug. 2022 - Aug. 2024

- **Sponsored by Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)**
- Consulted IDNR management on funding misallocation and improvements to grant evaluation processes
- Evaluated 150+ grant applications, allocating \$59M in funding, resulting in increased funding to distressed areas by 20%
- Collaborated with colleagues from Environmental Sciences to identify priority districts in need of funding, utilizing GIS in tandem with Gini coefficient analysis
- Contributed in strategic development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Implemented outreach to underrepresented rural communities eligible for funding opportunities

**M.O.L. America, INC.** (now O.N.E. Line, INC.) Lombard, IL  
*Business & Planning Analyst* May 2016 - July 2017

- Improved cost and quantity forecasting accuracy 5-8% through econometric methods
- Monitored and assessed projection model performance, identified trends, and presented actionable insights to senior management
- Developed and implemented standard operating procedures across multiple departments
- Initiated weekly audits, optimizing asset allocation and enhancing sustainability and cost savings in tandem
- Awarded the MOL Spot Award (June 2017) for successful project management leading to improved processes used throughout the company

## EDUCATION

**Northern Illinois University (NIU)** DeKalb, IL  
Ph.D., Economics Expected 2025

- **Fields: Health Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics**
- Dissertation: *An Analysis of Mental Health and Labor Supply*
- Recipient of Dissertation Fellowship (NIU)

M.A., Economics 2018

- Outstanding Graduate Research Award (NIU)

B.S., Economics and Psychology, *summa cum laude* 2016

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

### Programming Languages

R Proficient  
SAS Advanced  
VBA Advanced  
Python Intermediate  
Matlab Basic  
GitHub Fundamental

### BI & Query Software

SQL  
Oracle Discoverer BI  
Oracle Discoverer ODS

### Contract Management & Auditing

STARNET

### Grant Management Software

AmpliFund

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### **Northern Illinois University, Department of Economics**

DeKalb, IL

*Doctoral Researcher*

Jan. 2019 - present

- Recipient of: Dissertation Fellowship (NIU), Outstanding Graduate Research Award (NIU)
- Investigated labor force participation decisions and labor supply variations, focusing on the influence of employer-sponsored contractual benefits
- Applied game theory to evaluate equilibrium outcomes when employers comply with or shirk mental health parity laws (collaborated with Dr. Anna Klis, NIU)
- Conducted comprehensive reviews of studies on benefit packages, adverse selection, job-switching costs
- Examined the impact of Medicare eligibility on self employment in collaboration with National Institute of Health

### **Northern Illinois University, Department of Economics**

DeKalb, IL

*Teaching Fellow*

Aug. 2018 - Aug. 2022

- Independently instructed undergraduate macroeconomics courses for 15–38 students, adapting to remote delivery during COVID-19
- Led discussion sections and tutorials of 8 - 12 graduate students, planned lessons and activities, graded papers and provided comments
- Conducted lectures in graduate and undergraduate courses on the cohesion of health and labor economics, game theory, and mechanism design

*Undergraduate Academic Advisor*

Aug. 2017 - May 2019

- Rendered extended office hours for non-traditional students, transfer students, and students with disabilities
- Represented the Economics Department at university events, promoting the program and recruitment
- Provided tailored academic support and career advice to undergraduate students