

LOIS MILLER

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of South Carolina, Department of Economics

Assistant Professor

Fall 2024 - Present

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2024

Ph.D Economics

Committee: Jeff Smith (chair), Chris Taber, Matt Wiswall, Nick Hillman

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2019

M.S. Economics

DePauw University

2017

B.A. Mathematics, Minors in Economics and Computer Science

Summa cum laude

RESEARCH PAPERS

Published and Accepted Papers

- Who Scars the Easiest? College Quality and the Effects of Graduating into a Recession (with Garrett Anstreicher) *Forthcoming, ILR Review*
- Distance to Degrees: How College Proximity Shapes Student's Enrollment Choices and Attainment Across Race and Socioeconomic Status (with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, and Camila Morales) *Forthcoming, Economics of Education Review*
- Making College Affordable? The Impacts of Tuition Freezes and Caps (with Minseon Park), *Economics of Education Review* 89 (2022): 102265.
- Workforce Entry Including Career and Technical Education and Training (with Burt Barnow and Jeffrey Smith) in "What Has Happened to the American Working Class Since the Great Recession?", *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 695, no. 1 (2021): 260-274.

Working Papers

- Switching Schools: Effects of College Transfers *Under Review*
- Small Distances that Matter: Effects of Local Community College Openings on Enrollment and Degree Completion
- Community College Bachelor's Degrees: How CCB Graduates' Earnings Compare to AAs and BAs (with Riley Acton (r) Camila Morales (r) Kalena Cortes (r) Julia Turner)

Selected Works in Progress

- Estimating the Labor Market Value of Community College Bachelor's Degrees: Evidence from a Pilot Study in Early Childhood Education (with Riley Acton (r) Camila Morales (r) Julia Turner (r) Kalena Cortes)
- Quantifying Non-Sampling Variation: College Quality and the Garden of Forking Paths (with Heather Little and Jeffrey Smith)
- Distance to College as a Barrier to Application: Documenting Evidence and Exploring Solutions (with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Emily Cook, and Camila Morales)
- Aligning Pathways: Measuring and Improving Course Selections for Transfer Students (with Zhengren Zhu)

GRANTS RECEIVED

Strada Education Foundation (2025): “Understanding Enrollment In and Returns to Community College Bachelor’s Degrees.” (Co-PI with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Camila Morales, & Julia Turner). \$49,680

J-PAL North America Racial Equity Grant (2025): “Estimating the Value of a New Postsecondary Credential: An Audit Study of Community College Bachelor’s Degrees.” (Co-PI with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Camila Morales, & Julia Turner). \$44,575.55 + Research Management Support of \$28,804.99

Texas A&M University Bush School Seed Grant (2025): “Estimating the Value of a New Postsecondary Credential: An Audit Study of Community College Bachelor’s Degrees.” (Co-PI with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Camila Morales, & Julia Turner). \$11,530.

Texas Higher Education Foundation (2025): “PSEO Research Grant” (Co-PI with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Camila Morales, & Julia Turner). \$15,000.

University of South Carolina Riegel and Emory Human Resource Center Grant (2024): “Switching Schools: Effects of College Transfers” and “Small Distances that Matter: Effects of Local Community College Openings on Enrollment and Degree Completion.” \$5,000

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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| Ascendum Postsecondary Scholar Award | 2026 |
| Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award, Association for Education Finance and Policy | 2025 |
| Honorable Mention, Association for Public Policy and Management Best Dissertation Award | 2024 |
| National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship | 2023 |
| Dorothy Rice Dissertation Fellowship, UW-Madison Dept. of Economics | 2022 |
| Mary Claire Ashenbrenner Phipps Dissertator Fellowship, UW-Madison Dept. of Economics | 2021 |
| Dissertation Research Award, UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty | 2021 |
| Honors with Distinction Award for Honor Scholar Thesis, DePauw University | 2017 |
| Phi Beta Kappa Society, Indiana Alpha Chapter | 2016 |

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

2026: (*including scheduled*) Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting; Clemson University; Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Conference

2025: AEFP; City University of New York (CUNY) Higher Education Seminar Series (virtual); Triangle Economics of Education Workshop; Sixth World Labor Conference/Society of Labor Economists (SOLE); Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop; Econometric Society World Congress; Oregon State University; University of California - Davis; California Policy Lab; South Carolina EPiC Cradle to Career Conference; Ohio State University; Texas A&M MicroEconomic Empirical Research workshop; Minneapolis Federal Reserve Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute Early Career Researchers’ Workshop

2024: U.S. Military Academy at West Point; Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) Retail Credit Risk Analysis Division (virtual); University of South Carolina; OCC Compliance Risk Analysis Division (virtual); University of Rochester; ISO New England; Federal Trade Commission; Virginia Commonwealth University; Census Bureau (virtual); RAND Corporation; U.S. Department of Education/Brookings Institute Economics of Education Seminar; AEFP; National Science Foundation Evaluation and Assessment Capability Seminar (virtual); National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine Roundtable on Systemic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education (virtual); Notre Dame/Midwest Econ of Education Conference; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference; Southern Economic Association (SEA) Conference; National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Economics of Education Fall Meeting

2023: AEFP; Midwest Economics Association (MEA) Conference; Census Bureau (virtual);

Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting; Federal Statistical Research Data Center Annual Research Conference (virtual); Abt Associates (virtual); University of Florida College of Education; APPAM; University of North Carolina - Greensboro; University of Texas - San Antonio; State University of New York at Buffalo Graduate School of Education

2022: AEFP; American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference; APPAM; Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Seminar

2020: AEFP; APPAM; E-con of Education Conference

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor (University of South Carolina)

ECON 530, Economics of Education

ECON 436, Introductory Econometrics

Teaching Assistant (UW-Madison)

ECON 410, Introductory Econometrics, Prof. Kohei Yata

ECON 102, Introduction to Macroeconomics, Prof. Stella Chan

ECON 102, Introduction to Macroeconomics, Prof. Elizabeth Kelly

SERVICE

Referee: *AERA Open, American Educational Research Journal, Canadian Journal of Economics, Economic Journal, Economic Inquiry, Economics of Education Review, Economic Journal, Education Finance and Policy, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Educational Policy, ILR Review, Journal of Labor Economics, Quantitative Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Population Economics, Social Science Research, The Scandinavian Journal of Economics*

Seminar Co-Director, University of South Carolina Fall 2024-Present

PhD Development Committee Member, University of South Carolina Fall 2025-Present

Abstract Reviewer, APPAM Education Program Area 2024

Co-founder & leadership team, Wisconsinites for Inclusion & Diversity in Economics (WIDE) 2019-2022

OTHER PUBLICATIONS/WRITING

- **Community College Students Don't Always Benefit from Transferring to a 4-Year College** *Brookings Chalkboard*, September 2025.
- **Unintended Costs: The Hidden Consequences of Tuition Freezes and Caps** (with Minseon Park). Postsecondary Education and Economics Research (PEER) Center Policy Brief, April 2025.
- **Individual Retirement Arrangements**, (with Anita Mukherjee), Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging (section: Social Security and Pension Systems), Springer, March 2019
- **Reaching Further: the Role of Distance in College Undermatching**, (2017) DePauw University Honor Scholar Theses. 72.
- **Effects of College Quality: Occupation and Major as Mechanisms of Earnings Increases** (Resting Paper)