

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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| Ascendium 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: AEFPP; American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference; APPAM; Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Seminar

2020: AEFPP; 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)