
ISAAC McFARLIN, JR.

University of Florida
2-230D Norman Hall
P.O. Box 117049
Gainesville, FL 32611 USA

imcfar@ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 273-4330
[Professional Website](#)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Assistant Professor of Education and Economics, College of Education, 2016-present
Affiliate Faculty, Department of Economics, 2017-present
Affiliate Faculty, Bureau of Economic & Business Research, 2018-present

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Assistant Research Scientist of Public Policy, 2010-2015
Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, 2007-2009

The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX
Research Associate, Education Research Center, 2002-present
Assistant Professor, School of Economics, Political and Policy Sciences, 2004-2007
Lecturer, School of Economics, Political and Policy Sciences, 2002-2004

National Bureau of Economic Research
Faculty Research Fellow, 2017-present

U.S. Census Bureau
Special Sworn Status, Michigan Census Research Data Center, 2010-present

Editorial Board
AERA Open, 2014-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, 2004
Primary Field: Labor Economics; *Secondary Fields*: Industrial Organization, Econometrics

B.A., Economics and Mathematics, Boston University, 1994

VISITING POSITIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Visiting Scholar, Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago,
February 2008

Visiting Scholar, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April
2007

Graduate Fellow, Joint Center for Poverty Research, Northwestern University/University of
Chicago, 1999-2001

Participant, American Economic Association Summer Program, Stanford University, Summer
1993

RESEARCH PAPERS

Journal Articles

"Does Student Effort Respond to Incentives? Evidence from a Guaranteed College Admissions Program." (with Lindsay Daugherty and Daniel Leeds). 2017. *Research in Higher Education*, 58(3): 231-243.

"Investing in Schools: Capital Spending, Facility Conditions, and Student Achievement." (with Paco Martorell and Kevin Stange). 2016. *Journal of Public Economics*. Vol. 140, pp. 13-29.

Earlier versions: NBER WP# 2151; Upjohn Institute WP# 16-256

Media coverage: *Washington Examiner*

"Does Failing a Placement Exam Discourage Underprepared Students from Going to College?" (with Paco Martorell and Yu Xue). 2015. *Education, Finance and Policy*. 10(1): 46-80.

Earlier version: National Poverty Center Working Paper Series #11-14.

Media coverage: *Education Week*

"Percent Plans, Automatic Admissions, and College Outcomes" (with Lindsay Daugherty and Paco Martorell). 2014. *IZA Journal of Labor Economics*

Media coverage: *Houston Public Radio* (interview); *Austin American Statesman*; *Chronicle of Higher Education*; *Inside Higher Ed*; *The Alcade*

"Help or Hindrance? The Effects of College Remediation on Academic and Labor Market Outcomes" (with Paco Martorell). 2011. *Review of Economics and Statistics*. 93(2): 436-454.

Media coverage: *Wall Street Journal*; *Chronicle of Higher Education*; *Education Week*

"Do School Teacher Parents Make a Difference?" 2007. *Economics of Education Review*. 26(5): 615-628.

Other Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Who does the choosing under school choice?" *Brown Center Chalkboard*, Brookings Institution (with Peter Bergman). April 15, 2019

"The Texas Ten Percent Plan's Impact on College Enrollment: Students go to Public Universities Instead of Private Ones" (Lindsay Daugherty and Paco Martorell) May 2014. *Education Next*.

Book Review: After Admission: From College Access to College Success, by J. Rosenbaum, R. Deil-Amen, and A. Person. 2008. *Journal of Economic Literature*. 46(3):742-744.

Papers Under Review

"Education for All? Evidence from a Nationwide Audit Study of School Choice," (with Peter Bergman). May 2020. NBER Working Paper No. 25396. Revise and Resubmit *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Media coverage: *The Atlantic*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Chalkbeat*

“Can Re-Enrollment Campaigns Help Dropouts Return to College? Evidence from Florida Community Colleges,” (with Justin Ortagus and Melvin Tanner). April 2020. NBER Working Paper No. 26649. Revise and Resubmit *Educational Evaluation & Policy Analysis*

Media coverage: *Education Dive, Inside Higher Ed*

“Do Public Subsidies Improve College Attainment? Evidence from Community College Taxing District Expansions,” (with Paco Martorell and Brian McCall). May 2020.

Working Papers

“How Much Do Tuition Subsidies Promote College Access? Evidence from Community College Taxing Districts,” (with Paco Martorell and Brian McCall). September 2017.

Earlier version: U.S. Census Bureau, Census for Economic Studies [Working Paper 14-32](#)

Work in Progress

“The Effects of Attending Big-Time College Sports on Achievement and Future Alumni Giving: Evidence from Ticket Lotteries” (with Joshua Hyman)

“The Effects of Student Aid on College Attendance and Completion: A Randomized Evaluation of the Higher Education Opportunity Scholarship Program,” (with Hector Sandoval and Justin Ortagus).

“How Much Do Informal Networks Affect Educational and Behavioral Outcomes?”

Permanent Working Papers

“Do Public Subsidies Promote College Access and Completion? Evidence from Community College Taxing Districts,” 2007.

"Who Attends Community College in Texas? And Why?" 2005. (with Paul Jargowsky and Vera Holovchenko). University of Texas at Dallas [working paper](#)

“School Teacher Parents and the Black-White Test Score Gap,” 2004.

CURRENT AND COMPLETED RESEARCH GRANTS

Principal Investigator. “Information Accessibility and School Choice,” 2017-2019. (Walton Family Foundation; awarded to University of Florida: \$142,700; Co-PI: Peter Bergman).

Co-Investigator. “Florida College Student Re-Enrollment,” 2017-2019. (Helios Education Foundation; awarded to University of Florida: \$300,000).

Principal Investigator. “Do Charter Schools Provide Limited Access to Disadvantaged Students,” 2015-2016. (Russell Sage Foundation; award to University of Michigan: \$32,000; Co-PI: Peter Bergman).

Principal Investigator. “Do Charter Schools Discriminate?” 2014-2015. (Center for Public Policy in Diverse Societies; award to University of Michigan: \$5,000)

Principal Investigator. “Do Charter Schools Limit Access to Disadvantaged Students?” 2014-2015. (Center for the Education of Women; award to University of Michigan: \$2,000)

Principal Investigator. “On the Importance of School Facilities Spending on Student Outcomes,” 2014-2017. (U.S. Department of Education grant: R305A140363; award to University of Michigan: \$2,079,385; Co-Investigators: Paco Martorell and Kevin Stange).

Co-Investigator. “Do Physical School Settings Influence Student Success?” 2014. (W.T. Grant Foundation; award to University of Michigan: \$25,000).

Principal Investigator. “On the Consequences of Public Subsidies in Higher Education: Evidence from Community College Taxing Districts” 2010-2013. (Smith Richardson Foundation grant 2010-8434; award to the University of Texas at Dallas: \$150,000).

Principal Investigator. “Causes and Consequences of Public Subsidies in Higher Education: Evidence from Community College Districts” 2010-2014. (U.S. Department of Education grant: R305A100369; award to University of Michigan: \$2,573,484).

Principal Investigator. “Transitions through Higher Education: Evidence on the Mismatch Hypothesis” 2008-2013. (U.S. Department of Education grant: R305A080620; award to University of Michigan: \$638,003)

Principal Investigator. “The Effects of College Remediation on Students’ Academic and Labor Market Outcomes” 2007-2009. (U.S. Department of Education grant: R305B070581; award to University of Texas at Dallas: \$301,687)

Principal Investigator. “Help or Hindrance? A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of College Remediation” 2006-2011. (Smith Richardson Foundation grant: 2006-5747; award to University of Texas at Dallas: \$160,000)

Principal Investigator. “The Effect of Tuition on Two-Year College Enrollment: A Regression-Discontinuity Approach” 2005-2007. (Spencer Foundation grant: 2005-00136; award to University of Texas at Dallas: \$40,000)

ADVISING (*chair, +committee member)

Alberto Ortega+ (Ph.D., Economics, 2017) – Whitman College

Miwa Nguyen* (Ed.D., Higher Education Administration, 2017)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Affiliations

American Economic Association

Association for Education Finance and Policy

Association for Public Policy and Management

National Bureau of Economic Research

Journal Referee Service

AERA Open Access

American Economic Journal: Applied Econ.

Economics of Education Review

Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

Journal of Econ. Behavior & Organization

Journal of Economic Literature

Journal of Human Resources

Journal of Labor Economics

Journal of Policy Analysis and Management

Journal of Public Economics

Journal of Urban Economics

Research in Higher Education

Review of Economics and Statistics

Southern Economic Journal

Institutional Service

Research Advisory Committee, College of Education, University of Florida, 2017-present

Search Committee, College of Education, University of Florida, 2017-2018

Faculty Representative, Center for Educational Outreach, University of Michigan, April 2012

Ad-hoc Conference and Grant Review

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (2008, 2017)

Smith Richardson Foundation

Conference Session Organizing

“School Choice and Public Policy,” Session at Association for Public Policy & Management in Washington, DC, November 2016

“Economics of Higher Education,” Session at Allied Social Sciences Association in San Francisco, January 2016

“College Access, College Choice, and College Success,” Session at Allied Social Sciences Association in San Diego, January 2013

“Impact of School Resources on Student Performance,” Session at Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, November 2013

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

2019-2020: University of Tennessee-Knoxville (scheduled); Auburn University (scheduled); Association for Education Finance and Policy (scheduled); Association for the Study of Higher Education

Education for All? Evidence from an Audit Study of Schools of Choice

American Economic Association, Atlanta, GA, January 2019

Department of Economics, Princeton University, February 2017 (coauthor)

Causal Inference in Education Research, University of Michigan, January 2017

National Bureau of Economic Research, Labor Studies Meetings, November 2016

Association for Public Policy and Management Fall Conference, November 2016

Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, October 2016

The University of Wisconsin at Madison, Institute for Research on Poverty, June 2016
Education and Inequality in 21st Century America conference, Stanford University, May 2016
John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, April 2016 (coauthor)
Department of Economics, University of Florida, April 2016

The Effects of College Tuition Subsidies: Evidence from Community College Taxing Districts

Department of Economics, University of Florida, April 2017
Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, March 2017 (coauthor)
American Economic Association, January 2016
Association for Public Policy and Management Fall Conference, November 2015
Columbia University, Teachers College, October 2015
Society of Labor Economics/European Association of Labor Economics, Montreal, June 2015
University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research on Poverty, April 2014
University of Michigan, Causal Inference in Education Research, September 2011
University of Michigan, School of Education, April 2011
National Bureau of Economic Research, Higher Education Working Group, May 2007
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Research Division, March 2007

The Effects of School Infrastructure Investments on Student Outcomes

Cornell University, Policy Analysis and Management, February 2015
University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, April 2014
School of Economics, University College – Dublin, April 2014
Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, February 2014
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington DC, November 2013
Child Health Evaluation and Research Seminar, University of Michigan (Medicine) April 2013
Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, March 2013
University of Michigan, Causal Inference in Education Research, February 2013

Automatic Admissions, Percent Plans, and College Outcomes

University of Florida, College of Education, April 2015
University of Michigan, Law School, October 2013
American Sociological Association conference, August 2013
MSU-University of Michigan-Western “Labor Day” presentation, May 2013
Institute of Education Sciences, March 2013
Nagoya University, School of Economics, Nagoya, Japan, February 2013
American Economic Association, January 2013
National Bureau of Economics Research, Education Working Group, November 2012
University of Kentucky, Department of Economics, March 2012
University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy, April 2012
University of Wisconsin at Madison, June 2012
Association for Public Policy and Management Fall Conference, November 2012
Institute of Education Sciences Research Conference, June 2010 (poster presentation)

Does Failing a Placement Exam Discourage Underprepared Students from Going to College?

Western Economics Association International, July 2010

The Effects of College Remediation on Academic and Labor Market Outcomes

The University of Wisconsin at Madison, Institute for Research on Poverty, April 2007
The University of Michigan, Department of Economics, November 2007
North American Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society, June 2007
Wayne State University, Department of Economics, September 2007
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Department of Economics, September 2007
Syracuse University, Maxwell School, September 2007
University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy, February 2008
Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, March 2008
Institute of Education Sciences Research Conference, June 2008
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Developmental Education Conference, Oct. 2008
National Board for Education Sciences, January 2009