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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, *The University of Tennessee*, 2022 (expected)

Dissertation committee: Don Bruce (chair), Matt Harris, Maria Padilla-Romo, LeAnn Luna

Dissertation topic: “Three Essays on the Determinants of Business Activity and Entrepreneurship”

Research interests: Public finance, labor economics, urban and regional economics

M.A. Economics, *The University of Tennessee*, 2018

B.S. Economics and Finance, *West Chester University of Pennsylvania*, 2013 (summa cum laude)

EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Research Assistant, *Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research (BCBER)*, 2019 – Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Department of Economics, The University of Tennessee*, 2017 – 2019

Regional Economist, *IHS Markit*, 2014 – 2017

Economic Research Fellow, *Division of Insurance and Research, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation*, 2014

PUBLICATIONS

Failure to Launch: Measuring the Impact of Sales Tax Nexus Standards on Business Activity

with Don Bruce, *Journal of Public Economics*, September 2021, volume 201, #104476

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2021.104476>

RESEARCH

Broadband Internet and Business Activity

Job Market Paper, **under review at *American Economic Review***

Presented at the 2020 SEA, 2021 EEA, 2021 CEA, and 2021 IIPF annual meetings

Abstract: Does the diffusion of broadband Internet enhance business activity and entrepreneurship? Does the narrowing of the Digital Divide spur rural economic growth? To answer these questions, I empirically examine one of the Federal Communication Commission’s largest broadband deployment programs – Phase II of the Connect America Fund. Exploiting plausibly exogenous variation in the deployment of wired broadband connections during 2015-18, my county-level difference-in-differences results show persistent gains in the number of firms, establishments, and entrepreneurs, as well as higher employment levels and average annual wages among treated counties. Firm growth is driven by small, young, and rural firms. To assess the social welfare implications of this program, a cost-benefit analysis reveals that the benefits from CAF II outweigh the costs by a factor of 42.

Business Dynamism in the 21st Century: Origins of the Slowdown

Work in progress

Presenting at the 2022 AUBER conference

All About That Base: State Corporate Tax Bases and Business Activity

Work in progress

BCBER POLICY REPORTS

Economic Development Plan for the Governor of Tennessee (2021)

with Larry Kessler, Matt Harris, Bill Fox, Don Bruce, Celeste Carruthers, and Alannah Shute.

How Will Expanding Broadband Internet Access Benefit Knox County, TN? (2021)

with Larry Kessler, Alex Norwood, Bill Fox, and Brittany Permaul.

The Entrepreneurial Resurgence: Business Formation During the COVID-19 Pandemic (2021)

Economic Report to the Governor (2021)

with Larry Kessler, Don Bruce, Celeste Carruthers, Bill Fox, Enda Hargaden, Vickie Cunningham, and Alex Norwood.

Connect Knox: Greater Knoxville Economic Report Card (2019)

with Don Bruce and Tim Kuhn.

IN THE PRESS

Lost Mom and Pop Shops. A Flood of Startups. How COVID Changed Small Business in the South

By Cassandra Stephenson, *The Tennessean (Knox News)*, 2021.

Job Growth Over Six Years Puts Asheville in Elite Echelon

By Mike Cronin, *Citizen Times*, 2016.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Stata, LaTeX, EViews, AREMOS (IHS MARKIT), RIS (FDIC), Microsoft Office

TEACHING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

ECON 313: Intermediate Macroeconomics, Primary Instructor, Fall 2021

ECON 213: Principles of Macroeconomics, Primary Instructor, Summer 2020

ECON 213: Principles of Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2019

ECON 211: Principles of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2018

ECON 201: Introductory Economics, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2018

ECON 305: Markets, Ethics, and Capitalism, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017

DISTINGUISHED ACCOLADES

Charles B. Garrison Excellence in Teaching Award, *The University of Tennessee*, 2021

Charles B. Garrison Best Graduate Assistant Award, *The University of Tennessee*, 2021

Boyd Center Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, *Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research*, 2021

Outstanding Doctoral Student Research Award, *Haslam College of Business*, 2021

Boyd Center Supplementary Fellowship, *Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research*, 2021

J. Fred and Wilma Holly Award for Excellence in Research, *The University of Tennessee*, 2019

J. Fred and Wilma Holly Graduate Fellowship, *The University of Tennessee*, 2017 – 2019

Graduate Student Senate, *The University of Tennessee*, 2017 – 2021

National Society of Collegiate Scholars, *Temple University*, 2016

Drum Corps International World Champion, *Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps*, 2011

Eagle Scout, *BSA Troop 210*, 2007

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS: [P] PRESENTED [A] ATTENDED

Office of Tax Analysis Research Conference [A] (virtual), 2021
International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress [P] (virtual), 2021
Canadian Economic Association Annual Meeting [P] (virtual), 2021
Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting [P] (virtual), 2021
UTK Economics Department Brown Bag Workshop [P] (Knoxville, TN), 2021
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting [P] (virtual), 2020
National Tax Association Annual Meeting [A] (virtual), 2020
UTK Economics Department Brown Bag Workshop [P] (Knoxville, TN), 2020
Federation of Tax Administrators Revenue Estimating Conference [A] (virtual), 2020
National Tax Association Spring Symposium [A] (virtual), 2020
National Tax Association Annual Meeting [P] (Tampa, FL), 2019
UTK Economics Department Brown Bag Workshop [P] (Knoxville, TN), 2019
Brookings Conference: Greater Philadelphia Export Plan [A] (Philadelphia, PA), 2016
Philadelphia Federal Reserve Policy Forum: The New Normal [A] (Philadelphia, PA), 2015
Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting [P] (Boston, MA), 2014

REFeree

Perspectives on Undergraduate Research Mentoring (1x)
Public Finance Review (1x)
Economic Inquiry (1x)
Economics of Education Review (1x)
International Tax and Public Finance (1x)

CONSULTING WORK

City of Philadelphia Revenue Forecast, *IHS Markit*, 2015, 2016, 2017
City of Philadelphia Economic Report to the Budget Director, *IHS Markit*, 2015, 2016, 2017
Department of Energy Regional Economic Indicators, *IHS Markit*, 2017

CERTIFICATIONS

edX Macroeconomic Forecasting, *International Monetary Fund*, 2017
EViews Advanced Econometrics, *IHS Markit*, 2015
EViews Time Series Analysis, *IHS Markit*, 2015
EViews Basic, *IHS Markit*, 2015
Advanced Tutor (Level II), *College Reading and Learning Association*, 2013

REFERENCES

Dr. Donald Bruce

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