

**RILEY K. ACTON**  
Curriculum Vitae

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Department of Economics  
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**EMPLOYMENT**

Assistant Professor, Miami University, Department of Economics, 2020 – present

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Research Affiliate, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), 2021 – present  
Research Affiliate, College Crisis Initiative, 2020 – present

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Economics, Michigan State University, 2020  
M.A., Economics, Michigan State University, 2016  
B.S., Economics & Mathematics, Ursinus College, 2015 (*summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa)

**FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Health Economics

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

Current & former Miami student coauthors underlined

“Is a Name Change a Game Change? The Impact of College-to-University Conversions.” *Economics of Education Review*, 88, 2022.

“The Influence of Peer Institutions on Colleges’ Decisions: Evidence from Fall 2020 Reopening Plans” (with Emily Cook & Allison Luedtke). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 195, 2022.

“Do Health Insurance Mandates Spillover to Education? Evidence from Michigan's Autism Insurance Mandate” (with Scott Imberman & Michael Lovenheim). *Journal of Health Economics*, 80, 2021.

“Community College Program Choices in the Wake of Local Job Losses.” *Journal of Labor Economics*, 39(4), 2021.

“Effects of Reduced Community College Tuition on College Choices and Degree Completion.” *Education Finance and Policy*, 16(3), 2021.

**WORKING PAPERS**

“The Effect of Vaccine Mandates on Disease Spread: Evidence from College COVID-19 Mandates” (with Emily Cook, Wenjia Cao, Scott Imberman, and Michael Lovenheim). NBER Working Paper No. 30303. *Under Review*.

## SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Returns to School Spending in Rural America: Evidence from Wisconsin’s Sparsity Aid Program”  
(with Cody Orr & Salem Rogers)

“Suspended from Work and School: Impacts of Layoff Events and Unemployment Insurance on  
Disciplinary Incidence” (with Jo Alkhafaji-King & Austin Smith)

“Long-Run Effects of Public Investments in Higher Education Access: Evidence from the  
Community College Expansion Period” (with Emma LaGuardia & Gregory Niemesh)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED SEMINARS

2023: ASSA Annual Meeting (scheduled)

2022: APPAM Fall Research Conference (delayed from 2021), University of Central Oklahoma,  
Ohio State University, NYU Wagner, Elon University, RAND, APPAM Fall Research Conference

2021: University of Memphis, University of North Texas, AEFP Annual Conference, SOLE Annual  
Meetings, University of Exeter, Liberal Arts College Labor & Public Conference, WEAI Annual  
Conference, Kansas State University, Davidson College

2020: University of Notre Dame, Miami University, Wake Forest University, Dickinson College,  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, The Brookings Institution

2019: AEFP Annual Conference, University of Michigan H2D2 Day (poster session), University of  
Toledo, SOLE Annual Meetings, UM-MSU-UWO Labor Day, APPAM International Conference,  
APPAM Fall Research Conference, American University School of Public Affairs, University of  
Michigan CIERS Seminar, University of Texas at Dallas

2018: AEFP Annual Conference, University of Michigan CIERS Seminar, APPAM Fall Research  
Conference

## SPONSORED RESEARCH

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, \$78,983, August 2021 – August 2022. “Impact of Sparsity  
Funding in State Formulas” (PI).

## AWARDS & HONORS

Creativity & Innovation Award, Miami University	2022
Honorable Mention, Jean Flannigan Outstanding Dissertation Award, AEFP	2021
University Distinguished Fellowship, MSU	2015-2020
Department of Economics Excellence-in-Teaching Award, MSU	2018
Red Cedar Award (best third year paper), MSU	2018
Compton-Rose Prize (top graduating economics major), Ursinus College	2015

## TEACHING & ADVISING

Courses taught at Miami University:

ECO 415/515/630, Topics in Microeconomics (S21, S22, S23)

ECO 315, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (F20, S21, F21, S23)

Courses taught at Michigan State University:

EC 480, Analysis of Labor Markets (S19)  
EC 202, Introduction to Macroeconomics (SU17)

Invited guest lectures:

Claremont Graduate University, ECON 371 – Labor Supply (F21)  
Michigan State University, EC 485 – Economics of Education (S19)

Undergraduate honors thesis advising at Miami University – with initial placement:

Aisulu Murzagulova, 2023 – ongoing (co-advisor with Peter Nencka)

M.A. thesis advising at Miami University – with initial placement:

Teresa Maloney, 2023 – ongoing (co-advisor with Peter Nencka)  
Emma LaGuardia, 2022 – Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (co-advisor with Gregory Niemesh)

**PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Professional Service:

Mentor, Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics (2022-2023)  
Program Committee, AEFPP Annual Conference (2022, 2023)  
Session Organizer, APPAM Fall Research Conference (2018, 2019, 2022)

University Service:

*Miami University*

Member, Economics Assistant Professor Search Committee (2022-2023)  
Member, Economics of Disadvantage Project (2021 – present)  
Member, Economics Graduate Studies Committee (2021 – present)  
Member, Economics Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee (2021)  
Member, Economics Seminar Committee (2020 – present)  
Member, Economics Diversity and Inclusion Task Force (2020 – 2021)  
Co-Advisor, Women in Economics Club (2020 – present)

**REFeree**

*Economics of Education Review* (5), *Education Finance and Policy* (3), *Journal of Public Economics* (3), *Journal of Health Economics* (2), *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management* (2), *AERA Open*, *American Education Research Journal*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Education Economics*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, *Higher Education*, *Higher Education Policy*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*