

## ALEX E. COMBS

The Martin School of Public Policy and Administration  
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### EDUCATION

- Dec. 2018 Ph.D., Public Policy and Administration  
The Martin School of Public Policy and Administration  
University of Kentucky  
Dissertation: State Subsidy Composition in Higher Education: Policy and Impacts  
Chair: Eugenia F. Toma
- 2014 Master of Public Administration  
The Martin School of Public Policy and Administration  
University of Kentucky
- 2009 Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Philosophy Minor; Honors Scholar  
Eastern Kentucky University

### FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Public Finance, Education Policy, Quantitative Research Methods

### PUBLICATIONS

- Combs, A.E., Foster, J., & Toma E.F. (Forthcoming). Local response to school finance equalization: Wealth or place? *Journal of Public Finance and Management*.
- Combs, A.E. What if schools were not punished? The effect of ESEA waivers on college enrollment in Kentucky. *Under Review*.

### WORKING PAPERS (Drafts Available)

- State subsidy composition and postsecondary institutional expenditures: driving a divergence between academic quality and amenities.
- The differential impacts of state postsecondary subsidies on student demand across income and achievement.
- Do the distances students migrate to attend a college affect their likelihood of success there?

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Advanced Placement Incentive Programs and labor market outcomes, with Ron Zimmer
- The effect of state intervention on the accuracy of property value assessments following school finance equalization, with Erin Troland, John Foster, and Eugenia Toma
- What explains the choice of tax rate made by local school districts over time?

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2018 Strategic Planning & Organizational Change, Fall
- 2018 Public Financial Management (online), Fall
- 2017 Economic and Business Statistics, Spring
- 2016 Public Financial Management, Summer
- 2015 Education: Economics and Policy (TA), Fall

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2018-19 Research Fellow, Kentucky Center for Statistics & University of Kentucky
- 2015-18 Research Assistant
- 2014 Research Internship, Council of State Governments

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)

The effect of NCLB waivers on college outcomes. 2017. Chicago, IL

Local response to school finance equalization: The important of place. 2017. Chicago, IL

Association of Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)

High-tuition, high-aid policy and college expenditures. 2018. Portland, OR

The effect of NCLB waivers on college outcomes. 2017. Washington D.C.

The effect of distance on degree completion. 2016. Denver, CO

Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM)

Are state subsidies in higher education driving a divergence in institutional expenditures?  
2018. Denver, CO

Local response to school finance equalization (poster). 2017. Washington D.C.

The state of privatization: Identifying trends and determinants. 2015. Grand Rapids, MI

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship (2015, 2016)

Graduate School Travel Grant (2015, 2016, 2017)

Daniel Reedy Award for Outstanding MPA Paper (2014)

Second Place, Policy Solutions Challenge USA (2014)

Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society (2014)

## **NONACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Student Congress Policy Coach, Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship (2016-2018)

Associate Director, Education & Evaluation, Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. (2010-2013)

Consultant, Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. (2009-2010)

Student President & Regent, Eastern Kentucky University (2008-2009)

## REFERENCES

Eugenia Toma (Dissertation Committee Chair)  
Wendell H. Ford Professor of Public Policy  
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration  
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