

ALEX E COMBS

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EDUCATION

- 2018 (Expected) Ph.D., Public Policy and Administration
The Martin School of Public Policy and Administration
University of Kentucky
Dissertation: The effects of high-tuition, high-aid policy on state postsecondary markets, three essays
Chair: Dr. Eugenia Toma
- 2014 M.A., Public Administration
The Martin School of Public Policy and Administration
University of Kentucky
- 2009 B.A., Political Science; Philosophy Minor
Eastern Kentucky University

WORKING PAPERS (AVAILABLE BY REQUEST)

- Local response to school finance equalization: The importance of place., with Eugenia Toma and John Foster
- Do the distances students migrate to attend college affect their probability of success?
- Bridging K-12 accountability and postsecondary outcomes: An examination of Kentucky's NCLB waiver and accountability reform
- The differential impacts of high-tuition, high-aid policy across levels of student income and ability

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Does high-tuition, high-aid policy drive state postsecondary market segmentation in academic quality and amenities?
- Advanced Placement incentive programs and student outcomes, with Ron Zimmer
- The theory and estimation of “defiers” in natural experiments, with J.S. Butler

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Economic and Business Statistics, Instructor (Spring 2017)
Public Financial Management, Instructor (Summer 2016)
Education: Economics and Policy, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2015)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017 Research Assistant for Drs. Ron Zimmer & Eugenia Toma
2016 Research Assistant for Dr. Ron Zimmer
2015 Research Assistant for Drs. Merl Hackbart & Eugenia Toma
2014 Research Assistant for Dr. Merl Hackbart
2013 Research Fellow, Council of State Governments

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

2017 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management. Chicago, IL.
The effect of NCLB waivers on college outcomes
Local response to school finance equalization: The important of place
Association of Education Finance and Policy. Washington D.C.
Local response to state finance reforms
The effect of NCLB waivers on college outcomes (poster)
Association for Budgeting and Financial Management. Washington D.C.
Local response to school finance equalization (poster)
2016 Association of Education Finance and Policy. Denver, CO.
Does close count in higher education? The effect of distance on completion
2014 Association of Budgeting and Financial Management. Grand Rapids, MI.
The state of privatization: Identifying trends and determinants

AWARDS AND HONORS

2017 Graduate School Travel Grant
2016 Graduate School Travel Grant
2015 Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship
2014 Graduate School Travel Grant
2014 Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship
2014 Daniel Reedy Award for Outstanding MPA Paper
2014 Second Place, Policy Solutions Challenge USA
2014 Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society

NONACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016-17 Student Congress Policy Coach, The Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship
2010-13 Associate Director, Education Programs & Evaluation, Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

REFERENCES

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Wendell H. Ford Professor of Public Policy
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