

## MidSouth Education Policy Workshop Schedule

\* Preliminary – Subject to Change \*

University of Kentucky

October 16-17, 2025

All sessions are in the Gatton College of Business and Economics, unless otherwise specified

Thursday, October 16th

Time	Session	Location
12:00 – 12:30pm	<b><u>Check-in</u></b>	TBA
12:30 – 12:45pm	<b><u>Welcome</u></b>	311
12:45 – 2:00pm	<b><u>Paper Session 1: K-12 Education 1</u></b> Chair: Chloe Gibbs, University of Notre Dame  <i>SNAP Disbursement, Free Lunch Expansion and Student Discipline</i> <b>Liliane Nienstedt</b> , Vanderbilt University Leah Clark, U.S. Census Bureau  <i>Staying Connected: Experimental Effects of Weekly Text Messages in an Adult High School</i> Alberto Ortega, Indiana University and NBER <b>Pietro Pellerito</b> , University of Notre Dame Patrick Turner, University of Notre Dame and IZA  <i>When the Student Becomes the Master: A Field Experiment on Learning by Teaching</i> <b>Rohen Shah</b> , Yale University  <i>The Effect of Access to Pre-Kindergarten on Long-Term Educational and Labor Market Outcomes</i> Maya Mikdash, Louisiana State University <b>Jiee Zhong</b> , Miami University	311
	<b><u>Mentoring Session: Higher Education</u></b> Details to be announced	230 & 330
2:00 – 3:15pm	<b><u>Paper Session 2: Higher Education 1</u></b> Chair: Riley Acton, Miami University  <i>\$1,000 Scholarships Increase Pass Rates of Principles of Microeconomics Retakers</i> Alisha Hancock, Towson University <b>Seth Gitter</b> , Towson University	311

	<p>Melissa Groves, Towson University  Alexa Prettyman, Towson University  <i>Incidence and Effects of University Student Absences for Bereavement and Illness</i>  <b>C. Lockwood Reynolds</b>, Kent State University  Timothy F. Harris, Illinois State University</p> <p><i>Pell Away from the Cutoffs: A Simulated Instrument Approach to Estimating the Effects of the Pell Grant from Changes in Formula Generosity Over Time</i>  <b>CJ Libassi</b>, Teachers College, Columbia University</p> <p><i>The Effect of Ending Legacy Preferences on the Characteristics of Incoming Postsecondary Students</i>  <b>Brent Evans</b>, Vanderbilt University  Cody Christensen, Vanderbilt University</p>	
	<p><b><u>Mentoring Session: K-12 Education</u></b>  Details to be announced</p>	230 & 330
3:15 – 3:30pm	Break	
3:30 – 5:00pm	<p><b><u>Research / Policy / Practice Plenary Session</u></b>  Speakers &amp; Details TBA</p>	183
5:30 – 8:30pm	<b><u>Reception and Dinner</u></b> (Registered Guests Only)	Offsite TBA

Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

Time	Session	Location
9:00 – 10:15am	<p><b><u>Paper Session 3: Higher Education 2</u></b>  Chair: Celeste Carruthers, University of Tennessee</p> <p><i>Political Views and College Choices in a Polarized America</i>  <b>Riley Acton</b>, Miami University  Emily Cook, Tulane University  Paola Ugalde Araya, Louisiana State University</p> <p><i>Politics of the Professoriate: Longitudinal Evidence from a State Public University System's Universe of Faculty</i>  <b>Mark Chin</b>, Vanderbilt University  Alberto Ortega, Indiana University  Matthew Patrick Shaw, Vanderbilt Law School  Daniel Yoo, Vanderbilt University</p>	311

	<p><i>Supporting Advanced Manufacturing Growth – How do Community Colleges Respond to Local Economic Development Investments?</i>  <b>Emily Wilcox Walls</b>, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>In pursuit of revenue or mission? Examining public institutions' responses to changes in state funding</i>  <b>Kathryn Blanchard</b>, Strada Education Foundation  James Dean Ward, Strada Education Foundation</p>	
	<p><b><u>Paper Session 4: K-12 Education 2</u></b>  Chair: Ron Zimmer, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>From Disruption to Recovery: Charter School Performance During and After the Covid-19 Pandemic</i>  <b>Adam Kho</b>, University of Kentucky  Shelby L. Smith, University of Southern California  Ron Zimmer, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>Evaluating the Impact of Voucher Programs on Students in Participating Private Schools: A Mixed Methodology Approach</i>  <b>Brianna Felegi</b>, Virginia Tech  Joseph Waddington, University of Notre Dame</p> <p><i>Does Training Teachers Locally Affect Teacher Shortages? Evidence from Regional Public Universities</i>  Greg Howard, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  Keitaro Ninomiya, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  <b>Russell Weinstein</b>, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign</p> <p><i>Does Reducing the Week Reduce Teacher Burnout? An Analysis of Teacher Well-Being in Four-Day Districts</i>  <b>Kate Barnes</b>, Texas A&amp;M University</p>	265
10:15 – 11:30am	<p><b><u>Paper Session 5: Transitions to Higher Education</u></b>  Chair: Brent Evans, Vanderbilt University</p> <p><i>Performance Signal, Selection into Technical Education, and Postsecondary Outcomes</i>  <b>Yerin Yoon</b>, Boston College</p> <p><i>Out-of-Field vs. In-Field Teachers and Student Outcomes in Texas High Schools</i>  <b>Shinyoung Kim</b>, Texas Tech University  Jessica Gottlieb, Texas Tech University</p>	311

	<p>Alexander Wiseman, Texas Tech University</p> <p><i>Bridging the Gap: Aligning Career and Technical Education Professional Development with Teacher Needs</i>  <b>Mitchel Mandel</b>, University of Louisville  Jeffery Sun, University of Louisville  Heather Turner, University of Louisville</p> <p><i>Public School Enrollment Patterns by Family Income and Grade Level</i>  <b>Leah Clark</b>, U.S. Census Bureau  Christopher Cleveland, Brown University  Thurston Domina, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill  Paul Hanselman, University of California-Irvine  Emily Penner, University of California-Irvine  Quentin Brummet, NORC  Paul Yoo, Stanford University  Andrew Penner, University of California-Irvine</p>	
	<p><b><u>Flash Talk Session 1: K-12 Education 3</u></b>  Chair: Adam Kho, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>Pre-K Teachers and Elementary Schools: Labor Practices in Complex Organizational Context</i>  <b>Angela Cox</b>, Vanderbilt University</p> <p><i>Beliefs, Conversations, and Language Development in Early Childhood: Evidence and Mechanisms from an Experimental Study</i>  Flávio Cunha, Rice University  Snejana Nihtianova, Rice University  <b>Jessica Rood</b>, Rice University  Anja-Lize van der Merwe, Texas Policy Lab</p> <p><i>Ground Shakes, Academic Performance Falls? Evidence from Earthquakes in Mexico</i>  <b>Xin Jin</b>, University of Tennessee</p> <p><i>Human Capital Decisions in Resource Booms: Evidence for the Role of Dynamic Complementarities</i>  Taylor Jaworski, Colorado University – Boulder  <b>Carl Kitchens</b>, Florida State University  Luke Rodgers, Florida State University</p> <p><i>Disentangling and Deconstructing Preferences for and Perceptions of Teaching as a Career</i></p>	265

	<p><b>Matthew Truwit</b>, University of Louisville</p> <p><i>Governing for Recovery: Central Office Decision-making to Address Chronic Absenteeism and Learning Loss</i></p> <p><b>Kate Kennedy</b>, University of Cincinnati</p>	
11:30 – 12:30pm	<b>Lunch</b> (Registered Guests Only)	Onsite TBD
12:30 – 2:00pm	<p><b><u>Paper Session 6: Higher Education 3</u></b></p> <p>Chair: Mike Kofoed, University of Tennessee</p> <p><i>Dollars and Degrees: The Asymmetric Impact of State Appropriations on STEM and Non-STEM Fields</i></p> <p><b>Ahmed El Fatmaoui</b>, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse</p> <p><i>Investing in Educators, Investing in Students: Leveraging Faculty and Staff Development as a Means to Support Vulnerable Student Populations</i></p> <p><b>Kyle Phillips</b>, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>State Merit Aid and the Supply Curve of Higher Education</i></p> <p><b>Ken Troske</b>, University of Kentucky</p> <p>Sam Glick, U.S. Census Bureau</p> <p><i>Removing Barriers to College Credits: Where and for Whom AP Exam Fee Waivers Work</i></p> <p><b>Md Twifiquir Rahman</b>, Georgia State University</p> <p>Cade Lawson, Georgia State University</p> <p><i>Understanding Gaps in College Outcomes by First-Generation Status</i></p> <p>Esteban M. Aucejo, Arizona State University</p> <p>Jacob French, New York University</p> <p><b>Paola Ugalde Araya</b>, Louisiana State University</p> <p>Basit Zafar, University of Michigan</p>	311
	<p><b><u>Flash Talk Session 2: Assorted Topics</u></b></p> <p>Chair: Mark Chin, Vanderbilt University</p> <p><i>Contemporary Problems of Practice in Youth Participatory Action Research: Insights from research, policy, and storytelling work of the Kentucky Student Voice Team</i></p> <p><b>Daniela Di Giacomo</b>, University of Kentucky</p> <p>Chase Colvin</p>	265

	<p><i>From Access to Success: How Mentorship Shapes Black Boys' Futures in STEM-CTE and the Workforce</i>  <b>Jason Segrest</b>, The Ohio State University  Celina Hairston, The Ohio State University</p> <p><i>Military Credit in Higher Education: Policy Challenges and Emerging Solutions</i>  <b>Tracy Teater</b>, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education,  <b>Matt Bergman</b>, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, <b>Cassie Bradley</b>, Eastern Kentucky University, &amp; Dallas Kratzer</p> <p><i>Paper Title TBD</i>  <b>Mike Kofoed</b></p> <p><i>Does Oversight Matter? Understanding the Impacts of Fiscal Accountability on Districts and Students</i>  <b>Brittany Vasquez</b>, University of Pennsylvania</p> <p><i>Public-Private Partnerships in Education: Experimental Evidence from Colombia</i>  <b>Andrew Dustan</b>, College of William and Mary  Felipe Barrera-Osorio, Vanderbilt University  Luis Carvajal-Osorio, Vanderbilt University</p>	
2:00 – 3:15pm	<p><b><u>Session 7: K-12 Education 4</u></b>  Chair: Zitsi Mirakhur, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>Exhausted? The Effect of Diesel School Bus Emissions on Academic Achievement</i>  <b>Maranna Yoder</b>, Indiana University</p> <p><i>Preschool as Child Care: Head Start Duration Expansions and Maternal Employment</i>  <b>Chloe Gibbs</b>, University of Notre Dame/Upjohn Institute</p> <p><i>Persistent Effects of Class Rank on Educational Outcomes</i>  <b>Maria Padillo-Romo</b>, University of Tennessee  Eunsik Chang, Mississippi State University  Cecilia Peluffo, University of Florida</p> <p><i>Skills that Pay: Unpacking Subject-Specific Competencies to Predict Economic Wellbeing</i>  <b>Cameron Conrad</b>, University of Maryland  Nolan Pope, University of Maryland  George Zuo, RAND</p>	311

	<p><b><u>Flash Talk Session 3: Higher Education 4</u></b>  Chair: Neal Hutchens, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>The Value of Community College Advisors</i>  <b>Mark Drozd</b>, Johns Hopkins University  Stefanie DeLuca, Johns Hopkins University  Brittany Lowe, Johns Hopkins University  Nick Papageorge, Johns Hopkins University</p> <p><i>Paper Title TBD</i>  <b>Christopher Ledford</b></p> <p><i>Youth as Bridges: Elevating Disability-Informed Policy</i>  <b>Austin Nugent</b>, University of Kentucky Human Development Institute  Megan Best, University of Kentucky  Johnny Collett, University of Kentucky</p> <p><i>Evidence on the Returns to Community College Bachelor's Degrees</i>  Riley Acton, Miami University  Kalena Cortes, Texas A&amp;M University  Lois Miller, University of South Carolina  Camila Morales, University of Texas-Dallas  <b>Julia Turner</b>, Northwestern University,</p> <p><i>College Quality and Student Education Choices</i>  <b>Su Wang</b>, Johns Hopkins University</p> <p><i>Where are the Young Men?</i>  <b>Thomas Verville</b>, University of Tennessee  Celeste Carruthers, University of Tennessee</p>	265

- Paper presenters are in bold.
- Paper sessions contain 4 papers each. Presenters will have 15 minutes each, with 15 minutes for discussion session chairs.
- Flash talk sessions contain 6-7 papers each. Presenters will have 10 minutes each, with 15 minutes for discussion led by session chairs.
- All meals are limited to registered guests.