

MidSouth Education Policy Workshop Schedule
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	<u>Check-in</u>	Lobby
12:30 – 12:45pm	<u>Welcome</u>	311
12:45 – 2:00pm	<u>Paper Session 1: K-12 Education 1</u> Chair: Zitsi Mirakhur, University of Kentucky <i>SNAP Disbursement, Free Lunch Expansion and Student Discipline</i> Liliane Nienstedt , 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 Pietro Pellerito , 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> Rohen Shah , Yale University <i>The Effect of Access to Pre-Kindergarten on Long-Term Educational and Labor Market Outcomes</i> Maya Mikdash, Louisiana State University Jiee Zhong , Miami University	311
	<u>Mentoring Session: Higher Education</u>	230 & 330
2:00 – 3:30pm	<u>Paper Session 2: Higher Education 1</u> Chair: Riley Acton, Miami University <i>\$1,000 Scholarships Increase Pass Rates of Principles of Microeconomics Retakers</i> Alisha Hancock, Towson University Seth Gitter , Towson University Melissa Groves, Towson University Alexa Prettyman, Towson University	311

	<i>Incidence and Effects of University Student Absences for Bereavement and Illness</i> C. Lockwood Reynolds, Kent State University Timothy F. Harris, Illinois State University <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> CJ Libassi, Teachers College, Columbia University <i>The Effect of Ending Legacy Preferences on the Characteristics of Incoming Postsecondary Students</i> Brent Evans, Vanderbilt University Cody Christensen, Vanderbilt University <i>Dynamically-Aligned Workforce Grant Aid</i> Rajeev Darolia, University of Kentucky Chuanyi Guo, University of Kentucky Kangwook Noh, University of Kentucky Emily Wilcox Wall, University of Kentucky Ron Zimmer, University of Kentucky	
	<u>Mentoring Session: K-12 Education</u>	230 & 330
3:30 – 3:45pm	Break	
3:45 – 5:15pm	<u>Research / Policy / Practice Plenary Session</u> Matt Berry, KYSTATS Celeste Carruthers, University of Tennessee Travis Muncie, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Chloe Gibbs, Upjohn Institute/University of Notre Dame Moderator: Rajeev Darolia, University of Kentucky	183
5:30 – 8:30pm	<u>Reception and Dinner</u> (Registered Guests Only) Dinner starts at 6:30 102 Vine Street (Upstairs) <i>Sponsored by Strada Education Foundation</i>	Ethereal Public House

Friday, October 17th

Time	Session	Location
9:00 – 10:15am	<u>Paper Session 3: Higher Education 2</u> Chair: Brent Evans, Vanderbilt University <i>Political Views and College Choices in a Polarized America</i> Riley Acton, Miami University Emily Cook, Tulane University Paola Ugalde Araya, Louisiana State University	311

	<i>Politics of the Professoriate: Longitudinal Evidence from a State Public University System's Universe of Faculty</i> Mark Chin, Vanderbilt University Alberto Ortega, Indiana University Matthew Patrick Shaw, Vanderbilt Law School Daniel Yoo, Vanderbilt University <i>Supporting Advanced Manufacturing Growth – How do Community Colleges Respond to Local Economic Development Investments?</i> Emily Wilcox Walls, University of Kentucky <i>In pursuit of revenue or mission? Examining public institutions' responses to changes in state funding</i> Kathryn Blanchard, Strada Education Foundation James Dean Ward, Strada Education Foundation	
	<u>Paper Session 4: K-12 Education 2</u> Chair: Ron Zimmer, University of Kentucky <i>From Disruption to Recovery: Charter School Performance During and After the Covid-19 Pandemic</i> Adam Kho, University of Kentucky Shelby L. Smith, University of Southern California Ron Zimmer, University of Kentucky <i>Evaluating the Impact of Voucher Programs on Students in Participating Private Schools: A Mixed Methodology Approach</i> Brianna Felegi, Virginia Tech Joseph Waddington, University of Notre Dame <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 Russell Weinstein, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign <i>Does Reducing the Week Reduce Teacher Burnout? An Analysis of Teacher Well-Being in Four-Day Districts</i> Kate Barnes, Texas A&M University	265
10:15 – 11:30am	<u>Paper Session 5: Transitions to Higher Education</u> Chair: Kathryn Blanchard, Strada Education Foundation <i>Performance Signal, Selection into Technical Education, and Postsecondary Outcomes</i> Yerin Yoon, Boston College	311

	<i>Out-of-Field vs. In-Field Teachers and Student Outcomes in Texas High Schools</i> Shinyoung Kim, Texas Tech University Jessica Gottlieb, Texas Tech University Alexander Wiseman, Texas Tech University <i>Bridging the Gap: Aligning Career and Technical Education Professional Development with Teacher Needs</i> Mitchel Mandel, University of Louisville Jeffery Sun, University of Louisville Heather Turner, University of Louisville <i>Public School Enrollment Patterns by Family Income and Grade Level</i> Leah Clark, 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	
	<u>Flash Talk Session 1: K-12 Education 3</u> Chair: Adam Kho, University of Kentucky <i>Pre-K Teachers and Elementary Schools: Labor Practices in Complex Organizational Context</i> Angela Cox, Vanderbilt University <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 Jessica Rood, Rice University Anja-Lize van der Merwe, Texas Policy Lab <i>Ground Shakes, Academic Performance Falls? Evidence from Earthquakes in Mexico</i> Xin Jin, University of Tennessee <i>Human Capital Decisions in Resource Booms: Evidence for the Role of Dynamic Complementarities</i> Taylor Jaworski, Colorado University – Boulder Carl Kitchens, Florida State University Luke Rodgers, Florida State University	265

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

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

	<u>Flash Talk Session 3: Higher Education 4</u> Chair: Neal Hutchens, University of Kentucky <i>The Value of Community College Advisors</i> Mark Drozd, Johns Hopkins University Stefanie DeLuca, Johns Hopkins University Brittany Lowe, Johns Hopkins University Nick Papageorge, Johns Hopkins University <i>How Course Characteristics Moderate the Impact of Dual Credit Completion on College Outcomes</i> Christopher Ledford, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education <i>Youth as Bridges: Elevating Disability-Informed Policy</i> Austin Nugent, University of Kentucky Human Development Institute Megan Best, University of Kentucky Johnny Collett, University of Kentucky <i>Evidence on the Returns to Community College Bachelor's Degrees</i> Riley Acton, Miami University Kalena Cortes, Texas A&M University Lois Miller, University of South Carolina Camila Morales, University of Texas-Dallas Julia Turner, Northwestern University, <i>College Quality and Student Education Choices</i> Su Wang, Johns Hopkins University <i>Where are the Young Men?</i> Thomas Verville, University of Tennessee Celeste Carruthers, University of Tennessee	265
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- Paper presenters are in bold.
- Paper sessions contain 4-5 papers each. Presenters will have 15 minutes each, with 15 minutes for discussion led by 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 and sessions are limited to registered guests.