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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2019
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2016
B.S. Economics, North Carolina State University, 2013

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Public, Labor
Secondary: Economics of Education

DISSERTATION

Essays on Targeted Programs in Higher Education
Committee: Prof. Lesley J. Turner (Chair), Prof. Melissa Kearney, Prof. Sergio Urzua

JOB MARKET PAPER

“The Effect of Need-based Grants on Postsecondary Student Attainment”

In the United States, federal and state governments devote substantial resources to grant aid for postsecondary students. A key goal of such programs is to increase graduation rates. Previous studies have found positive effects of grant aid of widely varying magnitudes. In this paper I provide additional evidence of the effectiveness of need-based aid and investigate aspects of grant program design that may explain why existing evidence is mixed. Using a regression-discontinuity design that takes advantage of a discrete break in eligibility based on financial need, I estimate the causal effect of Maryland’s largest need-based grant aid program on persistence and graduation. A renewable award of approximately \$3,000 per academic year increases persistence to the student’s fourth year by 10%, with similar sized effects on bachelor’s degree receipt. Furthermore, I provide suggestive evidence that other aspects of a program’s design may play an important role in its effectiveness, such as whether the program is targeted towards lower-income students, renewable once a student is eligible, and providing aid earlier in a student’s academic career.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

“Can Dual Enrollment Increase Postsecondary Enrollment? Evidence from a Maryland Tuition Subsidy”, working paper

“What is the Causal Effect of Dual Enrollment on Long-term College and Career Outcomes and do Effects Vary for Under-Represented Students?”, working paper, with Angela Henneberger

“The Effect of High School Career and Technical Education on Postsecondary Enrollment and Early Career Earnings: New Evidence from Maryland”, working paper

“How Effective Are Loan Repayment Programs at Drawing Physicians to Underserved Areas?”, work in progress

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Thinking Like Economists (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2018

Instructor, Public Finance and Public Policy (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Winter 2017
Teaching Assistant, Thinking Like Economists (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, September 2016 – present

Graduate Assistant, Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment (IRPA), University of Maryland, September 2015 – July 2016

Research Assistant, Prof. Lesley J. Turner, University of Maryland, January 2015- August 2015

GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award, 2018

Graduate Assistantship, 2014-2018

Department of Economics Summer Fellowship, 2014

University of Maryland Department of Economics Graduate Fellowship, 2013

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2018: APPAM Fall Research Conference (scheduled), AEFPP 43rd Annual Conference, Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center Research Series

2017: APPAM Student Regional Conference, Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center Research Series

REFERENCES

Prof. Lesley Turner	University of Maryland	turner@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-8325
Prof. Melissa Kearney	University of Maryland	kearney@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-6202
Prof. Angela Henneberger	UM, Baltimore	ahenneberger	(410) 706-6341