

Erik C. Ness

Professor and Director
Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education, University of Georgia

Education

Ph.D. Vanderbilt University, Education Policy
M.A. Loyola University Chicago, Comparative International Education
B.A. North Carolina State University, Political Science

Academic and Professional Experience

University of Georgia, Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education
 Director, 2024-present
 Professor of Higher Education, 2022-present
 Associate Professor of Higher Education, 2013-2022
 Graduate Coordinator, 2011-2024
 Assistant Professor of Higher Education, 2009-2013
University of Pittsburgh, School of Education
 Coordinator, Higher Education Management program, 2008-2009
 Assistant Professor, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, 2006-2009
Tennessee Higher Education Commission
 Associate Director, Policy, Planning, & Research Division, 2003-2005
 Graduate Research Associate, Academic Affairs Division, 2001-2003
University of Continuing Education, Krems, Austria
 Gastprofessor (visiting professor), 2025-2026 winter term

Scholarly Activities

Publications (* indicates current or former student)

Books

Jungblut, J., Maltais, M., Ness, E., & Rexe, D. (Eds.). (2023). *Comparative Higher Education Politics: Policymaking in North America and Europe*. Higher Education Dynamics series. Springer.
Ness, E.C. (2008). *Merit Aid and the Politics of Education*. New York: Routledge.

Book Chapters

- Ness, E.C., Collins, H.*, & Birač, B.* (2025). Higher education governance and funding. In L. Cohen-Vogel, J. Scott, & P. Youngs (Eds.). *Handbook of Education Policy Research, 2nd Volume*. (pp. 1486-1503). AERA Books.
- Ness, E.C. & Baser, S.* (2023). Interest groups in higher education policy in the U.S. In Jungblut, J., Maltais, M., Ness, E., & Rexe, D. (Eds.). *Comparative Higher Education Politics: Policymaking in North America and Europe*. (pp. 359-389). Higher Education Dynamics series. New York: Springer.
- Jungblut, J., Maltais, M., Ness, E., & Rexe, D. (2023). Same same, but different? Comparing the politics of higher education policy in Western Europe, Canada, and the U.S. In Jungblut, J., Maltais, M., Ness, E., & Rexe, D. (Eds.). *Comparative Higher Education Politics: Policymaking in North America and Europe*. (pp. 519-548). Higher Education Dynamics series. New York: Springer.
- Ness, E.C., Rubin, P.G.*, Gándara, D.*, & Hearn, J.C. (2023). Political Volatility in State Commitment to College Completion Efforts. In J. Delaney, W. Doyle, & D. Tandberg (Eds.), *Volatility in State Spending for Higher Education*. (pp. 173-198). Washington, DC: AERA Books.
- Ness, E.C., Hearn, J.C., & Rubin, P.G.* (2018). The SHEEO and Intermediary Organizations. In D. Tandberg, R. Hanna, & B. Sponsler (Eds.), *The State Higher Education Executive Officer and the Public Good*. New York: Teachers College Press.
- Hearn, J.C. & Ness, E.C. (2017). The ecology of state higher-education policymaking in the U.S. In D. Palfreyman, T. Tapper, & S. Thomas (Eds.), *Toward the Private Funding of Higher Education: Ideological and political struggles*. New York: Routledge.
- Ness, E.C., Tandberg, D.A., & McLendon, M.K. (2015). Interest Groups and State Policy for Higher Education: New conceptual understandings and future research directions. In M. B. Paulsen (Ed.), *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research, Vol. XXX* (pp.151-186). New York: Springer.
- Ness, E.C. (2010). The Role of Information in the Policy Process: Implications for the examination of research utilization in higher education policy. In J.C. Smart (Ed.), *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research, Vol. XXV* (pp. 1-49). New York: Springer.

Monographs and Policy Reports

- Baser, S.*, Maldonado, M.*, Dean, M.*, Walker, W.*, & Ness, E.C. (July 2025). State Postsecondary Authorization: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Reauthorization Processes and Agency Capacity. State Higher Education Executive Officers Association [SHEEO].
- Ness, E.C., Baser, S.*, & Dean, M.* (September 2021). State Authorization Landscape and Process: An inventory, classification, and analysis. State Higher Education Executive Officers Association [SHEEO].
- Toutkoushian, R.K., Sanford, P., Riffe, K.*, & Ness, E.C. (July 2018). How Do Faculty Select between Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Retirement Plans? TIAA Institute.

- Ness, E.C., Deupree, M.*, & Gándara, D.* (November 2015). Campus responses to outcomes-based funding in Tennessee: Robust, aligned, and contested. Final report to Tennessee Higher Education Commission & Ford Foundation.
- Ness, E.C. & Nabawanuka, J.W.* (2010). State Capital Spending on Higher Education. In E.A. Houck (Ed.), *2010 Education Policy Papers* (pp. 13-23). Educational Policy and Evaluation Center, College of Education, University of Georgia.
- Tandberg, D. & Ness, E.C. (2009). State Capital Expenditures for Higher Education: Politics and the Economy. University of Houston Law Center, Institute of Higher Education Law and Governance, Monograph Series, 09-10.
- Lips, A.J.A.* & Ness, E.C. (2009). The Diffusion of the Bologna Process to the American States. *International Studies in Education*, 10(2), 45-50. (Institute for International Education Studies, University of Pittsburgh)
- Ness, E.C. (2007). Class of 2007 Senior Opinions Survey: Implications for College Access, College Choice, and the PROMISE Scholarship Program. Charleston, WV: West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.
- Ness, E.C. & Mistretta, M.* (2007). Policy Adoption in North Carolina and Tennessee: A comparative case study of lottery-funded education programs. University of Houston Law Center, Institute of Higher Education Law and Governance, Monograph Series, 07-11.
- Ness, E.C. (2005). Overview of Fall 2004 Recipients of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program. Nashville, TN: Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Toutkoushian, R., Riffe, K.*, Sanford, P., & Ness, E. (2022). How do faculty select between defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans? A qualitative investigation. *Journal of Education Finance*, 47(3), 250-274.
- Hammond, L.D.*, Adams, P.*, Rubin, P.G.*, & Ness, E.C. (2022). A rhetorical analysis of intermediary organization documents on college completion policy. *Educational Policy*, 36(2), 377-406.
- Ness, E.C., Rubin, P.G.*, & Hammond, L.D.* (2021). Becoming a “game changer”: Complete College America’s role in U.S. higher education policy fields. *Higher Education*, 82(1), 1-17.
- Rubin, P.G.* & Ness, E.C. (2021). State Higher Education Governing Agencies and the Knowledge Brokering Process: Investigating their role as multi-facing organizations in the United States. *Higher Education Policy*, 34(3), 643-663.
- Tiller, L.* & Ness, E.C. (2020). Georgia Leads: Exploring a Statewide Leadership Engagement Effort. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 24(1), 1-15.
- Gándara, D.* & Ness, E.C. (2019). Ideological Think Tanks and the Politics of College Affordability in the States. *Journal of Higher Education*, 90(5), 717-743.

- Gándara, D.*, Rippner, J.A.*, & Ness, E.C. (2017). Exploring the ‘How’ in Policy Diffusion: National Intermediary Organizations’ Roles in Facilitating the Spread of Performance-Based Funding Policies in the States. *Journal of Higher Education*, 88(5), 701-725.
- Ness, E.C. & Gándara, D.* (2014). Ideological Think Tanks in the States: An inventory of their prevalence, networks, and higher education policy activity. *Educational Policy*, 28(2), 258-280.
- Ness, E.C. & Tandberg, D.A. (2013). The Determinants of State Capital Expenditures for Higher Education: How capital project funding differs from general fund appropriations. *Journal of Higher Education*, 84(3), 329-362.
- Ness, E.C. & Lips, A.J.A.* (2011). Marketing Merit Aid: The response of flagship campuses to state merit aid programs. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 41(1), 4-17.
- Tandberg, D.A. & Ness, E.C. (2011). State Capital Expenditures for Higher Education: “Where the politics really happens.” *Journal of Education Finance*, 36(4), 394-423.
- Ness, E.C. & Mistretta, M.A.* (2010). Merit Aid in North Carolina: A case study of a “non-event.” *Educational Policy*, 24(5), 703-734.
- Zhang, L. & Ness, E.C. (2010). Does State Merit-based Aid Stem Brain Drain? *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 32(2), 143-165.
- Ness, E.C. (2010). The Politics of Determining Merit Aid Eligibility Criteria: An analysis of the policy process. *Journal of Higher Education*, 81(1), 33-60.
- Ness, E.C. & Mistretta, M.A.* (2009). Policy Adoption in North Carolina and Tennessee: A comparative case study of lottery beneficiaries. *Review of Higher Education*, 32(4): 489-514.
- Ness, E.C. & Tucker, R. (2008). Eligibility Effects on College Access: Perceptions of Tennessee’s Merit Aid Program. *Research in Higher Education*, 49(7), 569-588.
- Ness, E.C. & Noland, B.E. (2007). Targeted Merit Aid: Implications of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 37(1), 7-17.
- McLendon, M.K. & Ness, E.C. (2003). The Politics of State Higher Education Governance Reform. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 78(4), 66-88.

Book Reviews

- Dean, M.* & Ness, E.C. (2023). [Review of the book *The Future of American Higher Education*]. *Teachers College Record*, March 6, 2023. Published electronically at https://journals.sagepub.com/page/tcz/collections/bookreviews_2022
- Ness, E.C. (2011). [Review of the book *Privatizing the Public University: Perspectives from across the Academy*]. *Higher Education*, 61(1), 219-221.
- Ness, E.C. (2008). [Review of the book *Higher Education at a Crossroads*]. *Teachers College Record*, August 25, 2008. Published electronically at <http://www.tcrecord.org/content.asp?contentid=15352>.

Grants & Contracts

Georgia College Advising Corps (GCAC), (PI) 2024-2026

National College Advising Corps (\$903,965-FY25, \$845,370-FY26)

State AmeriCorps Grant (\$124,461-FY26)

MOUs with six local school districts (\$393,500-FY25, \$266,444-FY26)

U.S. Department of State & UGA Office of Global Engagement (Co-PI), 2020-2025

Ivory Coast University Partnership Initiative, Phase II (\$200,000)

Ivory Coast University Partnership Initiative, Phase I (\$250,000)

Arnold Ventures & State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), 2023-2024

State Authorization Renewal Policy Inventory (sub-award, \$40,000)

Lumina Foundation for Education & State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), 2023-2024. *State Authorization Capacity Research* (sub-award, \$40,000)

RAND Corporation & U.S. Department of Defense, 2021-2023

National Guard Youth ChalleNGe and Job ChalleNGe: Metrics for Success (sub-award \$33,506)

Arnold Ventures & State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) (PI, with Sean Baser Co-PI), 2020-2021

State Authorization Landscape and Process: An inventory and examination (\$23,312)

William T. Grant Foundation (PI, with J.C. Hearn Co-PI), 2013-2017

The Distinct Role of Intermediary Organizations in Fostering Research Utilization for State College Completion Policy (\$350,000)

Ford Foundation & Tennessee Higher Education Commission (PI, with D. Gándara, M. Deupree), 2013-2015

Campus responses to outcomes-based funding in Tennessee (sub-contract, \$100,000)

University of Georgia, Office of the Vice President for Research, Faculty Research Grants Program (FRG), 2010-2011

Use of Research Evidence in State Higher Education Finance Policy (\$10,302)

Spencer Foundation, 2009-2010

Research Utilization in the Adoption of State Merit Aid Programs (\$39,626)

Falk Foundation (Co-PI, with R. Bangs, L. Davis, W. Elliot), 2008

Forecasted outcomes and costs of three basic options for the Pittsburgh Promise
University of Pittsburgh, Center on Race and Social Problems (\$25,000)

The Pittsburgh Foundation (Co-PI, with R. Bangs, L. Davis, W. Elliot), 2008

Pittsburgh Promise eligibility rates by race, gender, and income
University of Pittsburgh, Center on Race and Social Problems (\$25,000)

Lumina Foundation for Education, 2005-2006

ASHE/Lumina Dissertation Fellowship (\$14,000)

Refereed Conference Presentations (2013-present)

- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Grace Bagwell Adams, Katherine Rose Adams, Imani Callan, David Meyers, Lori Tiller, and Renni Turpin). (November 2025). Bridging Research and Practice: Insights from a Decade of Work Supporting Students Experiencing Foster Care. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO.
- Ness, E.C. (Presentation with Imani Callan, Jenny Trinh, Jordan Kramer, Lori Tiller, and Renni Turpin). (October 2025). Basic Needs Access across University System of Georgia Schools: A landscape analysis. Embark Georgia Leadership Conference, Athens, GA.
- Baser, S., Maldonado, M. & Ness, E.C. (November 2024). A Systematic Inventory and Typology of State Reauthorization Policies. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, Minneapolis, MN.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Ben Cecil, Angela Kuefler, Xiaodan Hu, and Barrett Taylor). (November 2024). Think Like a Policymaker: Connecting Academic Research to Higher Education Policymaking Using Public Opinion Research. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, Minneapolis, MN.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Grace Bagwell Adams, Katherine Rose Adams, David Meyers, Lori Tiller, and Renni Turpin). (November 2024). Bridging Research and Practice: Insights from a Decade of Work Supporting Students Experiencing Foster Care. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Minneapolis, MN.
- Weeden, D., Baser, S., Maldonado, M., Ness, E.C., & Lane, J. (August 2024). Improving State Consumer Protections through State Authorization Capacity Building and Research. State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Policy Conference, Washington, DC.
- Ness, E.C., & Baser, S. (June 2023). Policymaking Dynamics of U.S. Higher Education Interest Groups and Intermediaries. International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP 6), Toronto, Canada.
- Ness, E.C., Baser, S., & Dean, M. (November 2022). State Authorization of Postsecondary Education: An inventory of stringency and centralization. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, Las Vegas, NV.
- Ness, E.C., Baser, S., & Dean, M. (April 2022). State Authorization Landscape and Process: An inventory, classification, and analysis. Annual Conference of the Association of Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO. (virtual)
- Ness, E.C., Baser, S., & Dean, M. (November 2020). State Authorization Landscape and Process: An inventory and examination. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, New Orleans, LA.
- Ness, E.C., Baser, S., & Hammond, L.A. (March 2020). “It’s obvious they’re trying to dictate behavior”: Advocacy Philanthropy & College Completion. Annual Conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Fort Worth, TX.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Sean Baser, Denisa Gándara, Chris Marsicano, & Sam Snideman). (November 2019). Lobbying and political action. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, Portland, OR.

- Hammond, L. & Ness, E.C. (November 2019). “There is No Equal”: A Comparative Case Study of Completion Policy Non-adoptions in the Carolinas. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Council of Public Policy & Higher Education, Portland, OR.
- Jungblut, J., Ness, E.C., & Rexe, D. (June 2019). Comparative Higher Education Politics - Policymaking in North America and Western Europe. International Conference on Public Policy, Montréal, Canada.
- Ness, E.C., Rubin, P.G., Hammond, L.A. (April 2018). Becoming a “Game Changer”: Complete College America’s Evolving Network and Growing Role in Higher Education. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.
- Gándara, D., & Ness, E.C. (November 2017). Framing college affordability across the ideological divide. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX.
- Hammond, L.D., Adams, P., Rubin, P.G., & Ness, E.C. (November 2017). A bridge to somewhere: A rhetorical analysis of intermediary organization documents on college completion policy. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX.
- Rubin, P.G., Ness, E.C., Hearn, J.C., & Rippner, J. (November 2017). Governors and higher education: Investigating their role in the statewide college completion policy process. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX.
- Ness, E.C., Rubin, P.G., Hammond, L.D. (November 2017). Complete College America and the evolution of a policy network. Fall Research Conference of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management [APPAM], Chicago, Illinois.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Deanna Rexe, Jens Jungblut, Theresa Shanahan, Martin Maltais, & Glen Jones). (May 2017). The politics of higher education policy – A transatlantic comparison. Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education, Toronto, Canada.
- Ness, E.C., Hearn, J.C., & Rubin, P.G. (May 2017). Intermediaries in state higher education: A typology of organizations influencing college completion efforts. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, Texas.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Deanna Rexe, Jens Jungblut, Theresa Shanahan, Martin Maltais). (May 2016). Energizing Higher Education Policy Research: Unpacking actors and institutions in the policy process. Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education, Calgary, Canada.
- Rubin, P., Ness, E.C., Hagood, L., & Linthicum, K. (April 2016). Reconceptualizing State Higher Education Agencies as Multi-facing Organizations: A principal-agent perspective. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC.
- Ness, E.C., Hearn, J.C., Rubin, P., Gándara, D., Spencer, T., Hagood, L., & Linthicum, K. (November 2015). State Policy Cultures as a Mediating Factor in Higher-Education Policy Debates: An Examination of College-Completion Policies in Five States. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Jim Hearn, Denisa Gándara, David Longanecker, David Tandberg, and Brian Sponsler). (November 2015). Scholars, Intermediaries, and State College Completion

- Policy: An interactive discussion of research-policy connections. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, Denver, CO.
- Ness, E.C., Rubin, P., Gándara, D., & Spencer, T. (April 2015). Intermediary organizations and state college completion policy: Examining the supply and demand of research use. SIG: Research Use. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Gándara, D., Rippner, J., & Ness, E.C. (April 2015). Exploring the “how” in policy diffusion: A national intermediary organization’s role in the spread of college completion policies in the states. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Ness, E.C., Deupree, M., & Gándara, D. (April 2015). Campus responses to outcomes-based funding in Tennessee: Robust, aligned, and contested. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Ness, E.C., Gándara, D., & Deupree, M. (April 2015). Inputs matter: An exploration of outcomes funding impacts on two community colleges. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Ness, E.C., Gándara, D., Rubin, P., & Spencer, T. (April 2015). The distinct role of intermediary organizations in fostering research utilization in state college completion policy. Institutional Design Frontiers Summit, Arizona State University, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Gándara, D., Ness, E.C., & Deupree, M. (April 2015). Investigating campus responses to outcomes-based funding in Tennessee. Institutional Design Frontiers Summit, Arizona State University, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Jennifer Delaney, Kevin Dougherty, Denisa Gándara, Nicholas Hillman, Alicia Kinne, Amy Li, Trey Miller, and Travis Reindl). (November 2014). The State of Performance Funding in the States: Origin, Design, Implementation, and Effects. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, Washington, DC.
- Gándara, D. & Ness, E.C. (April 2014). Ideological Think Tanks and the Politics of College Affordability in the States. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Ness, E.C. (Symposium with Lorelle Espinosa, Nicholas Hillman, Zakiya Smith, Brian Sponsler, and David Tandberg). (November 2013). Literature without an audience? Conducting policy-relevant research in higher education. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, St. Louis, MO.
- Warshaw, J. & Ness, E.C. (November 2013). Governors' Perspectives on Higher Education and Economic Development, 2003-2013: "The hinge on which our future swings." Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Public Policy Forum, St. Louis, MO.

Invited Presentations & Testimony (selected)

Higher education in the U.S. from national and state perspectives. MARIHE Day—Higher Education Governance in a Changing World, University of Continuing Education, Krems, Austria. November 18, 2025.

Promoting the Value of Higher Education. Keynote address, Georgia Southern University, Leadership Development Institute for Department Leaders. September 26, 2025.

Côte d'Ivoire / United State University Collaboration Workshop. Université Jésuite d'Abidjan, Center for Research and Action for Peace, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. August 25-27, 2025.

Leadership Luncheon (invited speaker). University of Georgia. Office of Faculty Affairs, Faculty Leader Series. November 6, 2024.

GradLEAD (panelist). University of Georgia. Office of Student Affairs and Graduate School. October 8, 2024.

Use of Research Evidence in Higher Education. William T. Grant Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting. New York, New York. March 27, 2024.

Active Learning in the First-Year Odyssey Classroom (panelist). University of Georgia. Active Learning Summit. February 14, 2023

Public Perceptions of Higher Education. Annual Meeting of SEC Provosts. University of Georgia. February 8, 2023.

History and Traditions of Land Grant Universities. University of Georgia. Vivian Fisher Public Service and Outreach Leadership Academy. September 28, 2022.

Rigor in Qualitative Methodology. University of Georgia. Public Service and Outreach (PSO) Faculty Leadership Academy. March 1, 2022.

State Authorization Inventory. State Higher Education Executive Officers [SHEEO] Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon. September 29, 2021. [cancelled due to pandemic]

Current Higher Education Policy Landscape and Issues. Georgia College Advising Corp [GCAC] Adviser Training. Athens, Georgia. July 12, 2021.

Documenting and Describing Research Methodology. University of Georgia. Public Service and Outreach (PSO) Faculty Scholarship Academy. February 1, 2021.

Intermediary Organizations and Their Role in Shaping the Use of Research Evidence in a Political Landscape. William T. Grant Foundation, Advancing the Use of Research Evidence meeting. Washington, DC. April 2, 2020. [cancelled due to pandemic]

Major Challenges Facing Higher Education. The Spencer Foundation. Chicago, Illinois. December 12, 2019.

Postsecondary Policymaking in the 21st Century: The role of intermediaries influencing college completion efforts. ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Portland, OR. November 14, 2019.

Higher Education in Georgia & HOPE Scholarship. Zell Miller Leadership Institute, Zell Miller Foundation. Athens, Georgia. January 26, 2019.

The role of intermediaries influencing college completion efforts. ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Tampa, FL. November 14, 2018.

The SHEEO and Intermediary Organizations. State Higher Education Executive Officers [SHEEO] Annual Meeting. Park City, Utah. July 11, 2018.

Postsecondary Policymaking in the 21st Century. ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX. November 8, 2017.

Graduate Student Fireside Chat. Division J: Postsecondary Education. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX. April 28, 2017.

The Political Context for Research Utilization and What It Means for Brokering. William T. Grant Foundation, Advancing the Use of Research Evidence meeting. Washington, DC. February 14, 2017.

Measuring Uses of Research Evidence: Document Analysis. William T. Grant Foundation, Advancing the Use of Research Evidence meeting. Washington, DC. April 21, 2016.

Intermediaries as Active Players in the Use of Research Evidence: Advocacy groups and coalitions as intermediaries. William T. Grant Foundation, Advancing the Use of Research Evidence meeting. Washington, DC. April 21, 2016.

Campus Responses to Outcomes-Based Funding in Tennessee. Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Work Session, Fall 2015 THEC Commission Meeting, November 18, 2015.

Campus Responses to Outcomes-Based Funding in Tennessee. Formula Review Committee, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. June 4, 2015.

State and Federal Higher Education Policy. Peabody Professional Institute for Senior Professionals in Academic and Enrollment Services. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. June 26, 2014.

Performance Funding: An Opportunity to Improve Student Outcomes (panelist with Russ Deaton and Ken Kincaid). Georgia Policy & Budget Institute, 2014 GPBI Policy Conference. January 8, 2014.

State and Federal Higher Education Policy. Peabody Professional Institute for Senior Professionals in Academic and Enrollment Services. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. June 27, 2013.

The Research-Policy Connection in the Statehouse: Understanding the impact of information in higher education finance policy. Higher Education Collaborative Seminar Series. Department of Education Policy, Organization, & Leadership. College of Education, University of Illinois. February 21, 2013.

Use of Information in State Higher Education Finance and Accountability Policy. Dean's Symposium, Shared Dreams, Separate Interests: Higher Education Finance & Accountability. College of Education, Florida State University. October 11, 2012.

William L. Boyd National Educational Politics Workshop (mentor/panel moderator). Sponsored by Politics of Education Association (PEA), Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada. April 13, 2012.

Overview of IHE Graduate Programs for Croatian Higher Education Administrators. Visitors from Croatian Ministry of Education and University of Zagreb. April 10, 2012.

College Affordability in Pennsylvania: The impact of student borrowing and rising student debt. Testimony before the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Board of Education & Council of Higher Education. Public Hearing on Affordability of Post-secondary Education. Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Campus. Monroeville, PA. October 29, 2008.

Invited Panelist, Track Discussion on Governance and Leadership. Annual Forum of the European Association of Institutional Research, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 27, 2008.

The Evolution of Merit Aid: Manifestations of state investments and priorities. Higher Education Finance Roundtable, Institute of Higher Education Law and Governance, University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX. May 19, 2008.

Class of 2007 Senior Opinions Survey: Implications for College Access, College Choice, and the PROMISE Scholarship Program. West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Charleston, WV. January 25, 2008.

Job Search Strategies for ASHE/Lumina Fellows. ASHE/Lumina Foundation for Education Summer Education Policy Colloquium. Bolger Conference Center, Potomac, MD. June 18, 2007.

Preparation for and Admission to Colleges and Universities in the United States. Vivian Fowler Memorial College for Women, Lagos, Nigeria. April 27, 2007.

Deciding Who Earns HOPE, PROMISE, and SUCCESS: Toward a comprehensive model of the merit aid eligibility policy process. University of Pittsburgh, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies. March 30, 2006.

Update on Lottery Scholarship Program. Annual Conference of the Tennessee Association of Institutional Research, Nashville, TN. August 4, 2005.

Review of the Lottery Scholarship Program: Lottery Scholarship Projections and Utilization. Testimony before the Fiscal Review Committee, State of Tennessee. December 14, 2004.

Teaching

University of Georgia, Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education, 2009-present
Applied Project: Public Perception and Value of Higher Education (EDHI 7650)
Applied Project: Proposal Writing & Professional Development (EDHI 7650)
Applied Project: State Postsecondary Education Authorization (EDHI 7650)
Applied Project: Master's Capstone (EDHI 7650)
Higher Education in the United States (EDHI 8010)

State Systems in Higher Education (EDHI 8700)
 Washington DC Seminar in Higher Education (EDHI 8890)
 Qualitative Research in Higher Education (EDHI 8930)
 Advanced Qualitative Research in Higher Education (EDHI 8940)
 Introduction to Research in Higher Education (EDHI 8990)
 Critical Issues: Theories of the Public Policymaking Process (EDHI 9020)
 Strategy and Management in Higher Education (EDHI 9210)
 Policy Studies in Higher Education (EDHI 9500)
 HOPE and Higher Education (First Year Odyssey Seminar)
 Research Use, Alternative Facts, & Fake News (First Year Odyssey Seminar)
 AI and the Modern University (First Year Odyssey Seminar)

University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, 2006-2009

Introduction to Higher Education Administration (ADMPS 2131)
 Special Topics: State Higher Education Policy (ADMPS 3089)
 Higher Education Academic Program Management (ADMPS 3130)

Student Advising

University of Georgia, Institute of Higher Education, 2009 – present

Ph.D. Dissertation/Comprehensive Exam Committees: * Major Professor/Advisor, (year graduated)

* Ricky Kirby (2025)	Dori Pap (2025)
* Sean Baser (2024)	Tori Tanner (2025)
* David Tanner (2024)	Renni Turpin (2025)
* Rob Clark (2023)	Phil Adams (2024)
* Stan Jackson (2023)	Ijaz Ahmad (2024)
* Jillian Morn (2023)	Matt Grandstaff (2024)
* Lori Tiller (2022)	Erin Leach (2024)
* Nathan Moore (2020)	Kelly Slaton (2024)
* Lindsey Hammond (2020)	Ben Cecil (2022)
* Dominique Quarles (2019)	Stephen Mayfield (2022)
* Paul Rubin (2017) – AERA Congressional Fellow	Maggie Parker (2022)
* Tiffanie Spencer (2017)	Charles Sanchez (2022)
* Denisa Gándara (2016) – Ford Foundation	Hyejin Choi (2021)
Dissertation Fellowship and AERA Minority	Derek Finke (2021)
Dissertation Fellowship	Hee Jung Gong (2021)
* Morgan Jones (2016)	Justin Jeffery (2021)
* Michael Trivette (2015)	Julia Butler-Mays (2020)
* Rob Anderson (2014)	Andrew Crain (2020)
* Mary Deupree (2013) – Politics of Education	Josh Patterson (2020)
Association Dissertation Award Runner-up	Anthony Jones (2019)
* Heidi Leming (2013)	Adrian Klemme (2019)
* Wes Fugate (2012) – CASE Alice Beeman	Rebecca Perdomo (2019)
Dissertation Award Winner	Rachel Burns (2018)
* Jaynefrances Nabawanuka (2011)	Noble Jones (2018)
* Adam Wyatt (2011)	Kristen Linthicum (2018)
Pearson Brown (2025)	Erin Ciarimboli (2017)
Brian Garsh (2025)	Lori Prince Hagood (2017)
Emily Jarvis (2025)	Jeffrey Harding (2017)
Ty Kunzman (2025)	Xuelai Qiu (2017)

Scott Rizzo (2017)
 Jarrett Warshaw (2016)
 Lucia Brajkovic (2015)
 Doug Chadwick (2015)
 Lindsay Coco (2015)
 Kelly Ochs Rosinger (2015)
 Rebecca Sandidge (2015)
 Andrew Belasco (2014)
 Samaad Keys (2014)
 Dennis Kramer (2014)
 Diane Black (2013)
 Patrick Crane (2013)
 Lisette Montoto (2013)
 Jennifer Rippner (2013)
 Maritza Soto Keen (2013)
 Jennifer Stephens (2013)
 Leasa Weimer (2013)
 Jennifer Nabors (2012)
 David Dial (2012)
 Jennifer Olson (2012)
 Barrett Taylor (2012)

Austin Lacy (2011)
 Theresa Wright (2011)
 Janea Johnson (2010)
 * Abigail Affolter
 * Yadira Castillo
 * Matt Dean
 * Sayge Medlin
 * Will Richardson
 Imani Callan
 Kate Collier
 Carlie Cooper
 Rod Guajardo
 James Hataway
 Mónica Maldonado
 Jaden Mikoulinskii
 William Redding
 Ursula Reynolds
 Robert Stolberg
 William Walker
 Annie Carson Welch

Ed.D. Dissertation/Comprehensive Exam Committees: * Major Professor, (year graduated)

* David Meyers (2025)
 * Nick Everage (2023)
 * Marti Brick (2021)
 * Kallan Williams (2021)
 * Kate Maine (2019)
 * Torie Johnson (2017)
 * Mumbi Okundaye (2017)
 * Jeff Stein (2017)
 * Daniel Thompson (2015)
 * Beverly Cormican (2013)
 * Jacqueline Parrill (2013)
 * David Snow (2013)
 * Marilyn DeLaRoche (2011)
 * Wendy Hoffman (2011)
 * Ron Newcomb (2011)
 * Danny Sniff (2011)
 Andrew Darley (2025)
 Ginger Fay (2025)
 Justin Haynes (2025)
 Anna Miller (2025)
 Brian Mitchell (2023)
 Lesley Netter-Snowden (2023)
 Melissa Rapp (2023)

Scott Rembold (2023)
 Marion Fedrick (2021)
 Julie Staggs (2020)
 Ashley Burnside (2019)
 Lady Cox (2019)
 Rebecca Gunter (2019)
 Glen Spencer (2019)
 Juanita Hicks (2018)
 Ed Lee (2017)
 Steve McLeod (2017)
 Kerr Ramsay (2016)
 Raymond Carnley (2015)
 Lynn Labuda (2015)
 Michael Sacco (2015)
 Ryan Foley (2013)
 Michael Horan (2013)
 Makeba Morgan Hill (2013)
 Chad Puls (2013)
 Larry Christenson (2011)
 Stuart Evans (2011)
 Kathy Pharr (2011)
 * Kike Ehigiator

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies
 Dissertation Committees: * Dissertation Chair, (year graduated)

* Adam Lips (2009)
Rudolph Lurz (2017)
Molly Mistretta (2013)
Joseph Dietrich (2010)
Jim Earle (2009)

Michael Giazsoni (2009)
Bruce Neimeyer (2009)
Shari Payne (2009)
David Hornyak (2007)
Tom Riley (2007)

Additional Dissertation Committees:

Jens Jungblut (2016), University of Oslo, Norway (second opponent)
Stephen Owens (2017), UGA, EDAP
Christopher Marsicano (2019), Vanderbilt University
Neoma Mullens (2020), UGA, EDAP

Professional Service

Service to governmental and non-governmental agencies

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), 2019
Consultant for curricular review of State Higher Education Policy Institutes

TIAA Institute, Research Grant on faculty retirement decision-making, 2017
Sub-contracted for qualitative data collection and analysis (PI: Rob Toutkoushian)

Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia, 2014-15
Consultant on data demonstration project for University System of Georgia

Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia, 2013
Consultant on needs assessment project for graduate programs at Middle Georgia State College

U.S. Speaker and Specialist Grant, University Management and Administration, May 2011
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs
University of Rijeka, Croatia

The Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education, et al. v. Maryland Higher Education Commission, et al. (2010)
Sub-contracted for research and analysis on behalf of the plaintiff (PI: Rob Toutkoushian)

Pennsylvania GEAR UP Project, 2009 (resigned mid-term due to relocation to Georgia)
Statewide Advisory Board member

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, 2007
Commissioned report on Class of 2007 Senior Opinions Survey

Service to professional associations

Association for the Study of Higher Education
2013, Annual Conference Program Committee
Co-chair, Policy, Finance, and Economics section
2009, 2010, 2013 Co-Chair, ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar

2008, Early Career Faculty Teaching and Dissertation Advising Workshop, Council for the Advancement of Higher Education Programs (CAHEP)
2007-2015, Annual Conference proposal reviewer

Council on Public Policy in Higher Education (ASHE Council)
2018-2019, Summer Symposium (Boulder, CO), planning committee
2009-2012, Executive Committee, Member-At-Large
2007-2015, Public Policy Forum proposal reviewer

American Educational Research Association
2024, Nominee for Vice President Division J
2011, Annual Meeting Program Committee (Division J)
Co-Chair, Section 5: Policy, Finance, and Economics (Division J)
2006-2015, Annual Meeting proposal reviewer (Divisions J & L)

Politics of Education Association (AERA SIG)
2012, William L. Boyd National Educational Politics Workshop, mentor
2007-2011, Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee (Chair, 2009-2011)
2008-2009, Annual Meetings proposal reviewer

Editorial Board & Referee

Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
2015 – 2018, Principal member, Education Systems and Broad Reform Education Research Scientific Review Panel

American Educational Research Journal (AERJ)
2016 – 2018, Editorial Board member

Education Law & Policy Review
2013 – present, Editorial Board member

Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis (EEPA)
2014 – 2016, Editorial Board member

Pittsburgh Studies in Comparative and International Education
2011 – 2015, International Advisory Board member

Research in Higher Education
2009 – 2014, Consulting Editor

Ad hoc reviewer: *American Educational Research Journal*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, *Educational Policy*, *Educational Researcher*, *Evidence & Policy*, *Higher Education*, *Journal of Higher Education*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Research in Higher Education*, *Urban Education*, ASHE Higher Education Report Series, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) review panel, Routledge

Campus Service

University of Georgia (university-level service)
Academic Leadership Group, 2024-present
New Leader Program, 2024

Graduate Council, 2022-2024
First Year Odyssey Seminar Program Advisory Board, 2022-2024
Office of Instruction, Faculty Advisory Board, 2022-2024
UGA - Ivory Coast University Partnership Initiative, 2020-2025 (Co-PI)
Student Learning Outcomes Steering Committee, 2016-2024
Summer Faculty Leadership Institute, 2019 (nominated & selected)
Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium, 2015, 2019 (invited)

University of Georgia, Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education (department-level service)

Director, 2024-present
Graduate Coordinator, 2011-2024
Graduate Studies Committee, 2010-2024 (Chair, 2012-2024)
Assistant/Associate Professor Search Committee, 2023 (Chair)
Working group on online master's program redesign, 2023-2024 (Chair)
IHE Student Learning Outcomes Coordinator, 2016-2024
IHE SACSCOC representative, 2020-2024
Professional Development Committee, 2021-2024
Faculty Affairs Committee, 2009-2010, 2023-2024
Assistant Professor Search Committee, 2024
Washington DC Seminar, 2017-2019, 2023, 2025 (Created & led)
Business Manager Search Committee, 2023
Working group on diversity and inclusion, 2020-2021 (Chair)
Critical Perspectives on Race (CPR) speaker series, 2020-2021 (Chair)
Coordinator, Education Policy Seminar (EPS) series, 2010-2015, 2018-2019, 2021-2022
Faculty Recruitment Committee, 2018-2019 (Chair)
Assistant/Associate Professor Search Committee, 2017-2018 (Chair)
Assistant Professor Search Committee, 2016-2017
Georgia College Advising Corps Program Director Search Committee, 2013
Assistant/Associate Professor Search Committee, 2012-2013
Assistant Professor Search Committee, 2011-2012
Secretary, 2009-2011
Strategic Planning Committee, 2010-2011
Public Service and Outreach Committee, 2009-2010

University of Pittsburgh, School of Education

Faculty Associate, Center on Race and Social Problems, School of Social Work, 2008-09
Senior Research Associate, Institute for International Studies in Education, 2006-09
Rotary International, Group Study Exchange in Lagos, Nigeria, April-May 2007
Student Oral Presentation Committee, 2007
Discussant, 2007 Annual Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies

Coordinator, Higher Education Management Program, 2008-09
Chair, National Advisory Board for Public Policy Specialization, 2008-09
Chair, Admissions Committee, 2008-09
Executive Committee, 2008-09
Curriculum Committee, 2007-09
Enrollment Management Committee, 2006-07
School Leadership Open Rank Faculty Search Committee, 2007

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