

HEATHER M. STEPHENS, PH.D.

Professor and Director, Regional Research Institute (RRI)

West Virginia University

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

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RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

West Virginia University (WVU):

Director, Regional Research Institute (RRI), 2023 – Present

Professor, Community and Economic Development, *Adjunct Professor*, Economics, 2024 – Present

Associate Professor, Resource Economics and Management, 2020 – 2024

Faculty Research Affiliate, Regional Research Institute, 2015 – 2022

Assistant Professor, Resource Economics and Management, 2015 – 2020

Brookings Institution, *Nonresident Senior Fellow*, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), 2025 – Present.

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB):

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, 2012 – 2015

Director, Office of Economic Research (OER), 2012 – 2015

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Agricultural, Environmental and Development (AED) Economics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2012.

- Dissertation Title: “Three Essays in Regional Economics.”
- Member of the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society.

M.B.A., Finance and Marketing, The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business, Columbus, OH, 2000.

- Graduated in top 5% of Class.
- Member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society and the Fisher College Pace Setters.
- Financed by the Moritz Family MBA Fund Scholarship, the W. Arthur Cullman MBA Fellowship for Excellence in Marketing, and a Fisher College Graduate Assistantship.

B.A., Public Policy Studies and Economics, Duke University, Durham, NC, 1994.

- Graduated with Honors: Cum Laude.
- Studied at London School of Economics, Spring Semester 1993.

RESEARCH

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Stephens Chen, Zhongfei, Fanglin Chen, **Heather M. Stephens**, Mark D. Partridge, and Anping Chen. 2025. “Heterogeneity in Air Pollution’s Influence on Health.” *China Economic Journal*, 1-29.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17538963.2025.2482490>

- Cary, Michael Cary (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2024. "How COVID-19 Affected Participation in Ultramarathons: Gender, Risk Aversion, and Travel." *Journal of Sports Economics*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15270025241279231>
- Cary, Michael (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2024. "Economic, Environmental, and Technical Gains from the Kyoto Protocol: Evidence from Cement Manufacturing." *Resources Policy* 91.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2024.104926>
- Patrick, Carlianne, **Heather M. Stephens**, and Amanda Weinstein. 2024. "Born to Care (or Not): How Gender Role Attitudes Affect Occupational Sorting." *Labour* 38(2), 203–229.
<https://doi.org/10.111/labr.12261>
- Keeler, Zachary (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2023. "What Matters for Lagging Regions? The Role of Self-employment and Industrial Diversity in Distressed Areas." *Growth and Change* 54(4), 962–1001.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.12686>
- Hodges, Collin D. (PhD graduate), **Heather M. Stephens**, and Cara Sedney. 2023. "Individual and Community Characteristics of the Opioid Crisis in West Virginia." *Journal of Drug Issues*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00220426231179211>
- Keeler, Zachary T. (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2023. The Capitalization of Metro Rail Access in Urban Housing Markets. *Real Estate Economics* 51: 686– 720.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1540-6229.12411>
- Cary, Michael (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2023. "Gendered Consequences of COVID-19 Among Professional Tennis Players." *Journal of Sports Economics* 24(2): 241–266.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15270025221120591>
- Stephens, Heather M.**, Elizabeth A. Mack, and John Mann. 2022. "Broadband and Entrepreneurship: An Empirical Assessment of the Connection between Broadband Availability and New Business Activity across the United States." *Telematics and Informatics*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tele.2022.101873>
- Haggerty, Treah, **Heather M. Stephens**, Shaylee A. Peckens, Erika Bodkins, Michael Cary (PhD graduate), Geri A. Dino, and Cara L. Sedney. 2022. "Telemedicine Versus In-Person Primary Care: Impact on Visit Completion Rate in a Rural Appalachian Population with Significant Health Disparities." *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* 35(3): 475-484. <https://doi.org/10.3122/jabfm.2022.03.210518>
- Taylor, Samuel (PhD graduate), **Heather M. Stephens**, and Daniel Grossman. 2022. "The Opioid Crisis and Economic Distress: Consequences for Population Change." *Journal of Regional Science* 62: 541–577.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12576>
- Hodges, Collin (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2022. "Does Municipal Incorporation Always Increase Property Values?" *Growth and Change* 3(1): 200-220. <https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.12581>
- Keeler, Zachary (PhD graduate), **Heather M. Stephens**, and Brad Humphreys. 2021. "The Amenity Value of Sports Facilities: Evidence from the Staples Center in Los Angeles." *Journal of Sports Economics* 22(7): 799-822.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15270025211018258>
- Barrett, Craig F., Joshua Lambert, Mathilda V. Santee, Brandon T. Sinn, Samuel V. Skibicki, **Heather M. Stephens**, and Hana Thixton. 2021. "Genetic, Morphological, and Niche Variation in the Widely Hybridizing *Rhus Integrifolia*-*Rhus Ovata* Species Complex." *Plant Species Biology* 36 (1), 17-35.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1442-1984.12293>
- Keeler, Zachary (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2020. "Valuing Shale Development in Resource-Dependent Communities." *Resources Policy* 69: 101821.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2020.101821>

- Dobis, Elizabeth A., **Heather M. Stephens**, Mark Skidmore, and Stephan F. Goetz. 2020. "Explaining the Spatial Variation in American Life Expectancy." *Social Science and Medicine* 246, 112759. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112759>
- Patrick, Carlianne, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2020. "Incentivizing the Missing Middle: The role of economic development policy." *Economic Development Quarterly* 34(2): 154-170. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0891242420907160>
- Stephens, Heather M.** 2019. "Understanding U.S. College Graduate Migration." *Journal of Geographical Systems* 21(4): 509-531. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10109-019-00310-5>
- Stephens, Heather M.** and Amanda Weinstein. 2019. "Household valuation of energy development in amenity-rich regions." *Growth and Change* 50:1375-1410. <https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.12335>
- Cai, Zhengyu, **Heather M. Stephens**, John Winters. 2019. "Motherhood, Migration, and Self-Employment of College Graduates." *Small Business Economics* 53(3): 611-629. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-019-00177-2>
- Harger, Kaitlyn, Amanda Ross, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2019. "What Matters the Most for Economic Development? Evidence from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund." *Papers in Regional Science* 98: 883– 904. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12396>
- Stephens, Heather M.** and John Deskins. 2018. "Economic Distress and Labor Market Participation." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 100(5): 1336–1356. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aay065>
- Goetz, Stephan, Mark Partridge, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2018. "The Economic Status of Rural America in the President Trump Era and Beyond." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* 40(1): 97–118. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aep/ppx061>
- Spiller, Elisheba, **Heather M. Stephens**, and Yong Chen. 2017. "Understanding the Heterogeneous Effects of Gasoline Taxes Across Income and Location." *Resource and Energy Economics* 50: 74-90. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.reseneeco.2017.07.002>
- Patrick, Carlianne, **Heather M. Stephens**, and Amanda Weinstein. 2016. "Where are all the self-employed women? Push and pull factors influencing female labor market decisions." *Small Business Economics*. 46(3): 365-390. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-015-9697-2>
- Stephens, Heather M.** and Mark D. Partridge. 2015. "Lake Amenities, Environmental Degradation, and Great Lakes Regional Growth." *International Regional Science Review* 38: 61-91. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0160017613496632>
- Spiller, Elisheba, **Heather M. Stephens**, Christopher Timmins, and Allison Smith. 2014. "The Effect of Gasoline Taxes and Public Transit Investments on Driving Patterns." *Environmental and Resource Economics* 59(4): 633-657. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10640-013-9753-9>
- Stephens, Heather M.**, Alessandra Faggian, and Mark D. Partridge. 2013. "Innovative entrepreneurship and economic growth in lagging regions." *Journal of Regional Science* 53(5): 778-812. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12019>
- Stephens, Heather M.** and Mark D. Partridge. 2011. "Do Entrepreneurs Enhance Economic Growth in Lagging Regions?" *Growth and Change* 42(4): 431–465. (Lead Article.) <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2257.2011.00563.x>
- Book Chapters**
- Stephens, Heather M.** 2021. "A Case for Amenity-Driven Growth? The Value of Lake Amenities and Industrial Disamenities in the Great Lakes Region." In Measuring Amenities and Disamenities in the Housing Market: Applications of the Hedonic Method edited by Joshua Hall, Kerianne Lawson, and Jacob Shia. Morgantown: Regional Research Institute, 2021. <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/rri-web-book/32/>

Patrick, Carlianne, Amanda Ross, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2017. “Designing Policies to Spur Economic Growth: How Regional Scientists Can Contribute to Future Policy Development and Evaluation.” In Regional Research Frontiers: The Next 50 Years, edited by R. Jackson and P. Schaeffer. Springer.

Other Publications

Pipa, Anthony F., **Heather M. Stephens**, David Nason, and Zoe Swarzenski. 2025. “Unlocking Investment in Distressed Rural Places.” The Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/unlocking-investment-in-distressed-rural-places/>

Li, Xiaoyin, **Heather M. Stephens**, and Stephan J. Goetz. 2024. “Minority-Owned Businesses: Insights from States in the Northeastern Region,” Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development Data Brief. <https://nercrd.psu.edu/pubs/minority-owned-businesses-insights-from-states-in-the-northeastern-region/>.

Pipa, Anthony F., **Heather M. Stephens**, and Natalie Geismar. 2022. “Defining Distress: Lessons from the Federally Chartered Regional Commissions.” The Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/defining-distress-lessons-from-the-federally-chartered-regional-commissions/>

Stephens, Heather M. and Beia Spiller. 2022. “Gas Prices 101.” and “Gas Prices 102: Policy Solutions.” Resources for the Future Explainers. <https://www.rff.org/publications/explainers/gas-prices-101/>
<https://www.rff.org/publications/explainers/gas-prices-102-policy-solutions/>

Stephens, Heather M. and Zachary T. Keeler. 2021. “Self-Employment, Industrial Diversity, and Growth in Appalachia.” Appalachian Regional Commission Research Report. <https://www.arc.gov/report/self-employment-industrial-diversity-and-growth-in-appalachia/>

Rae, Alasdair, Stephen Hincks, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2017. “The Role of Open Access in a Changing Academy: Reflections on a New Publishing Paradigm.” *Regional Studies, Regional Science* 4(1): 42-48. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21681376.2017.1308063>

Total citations based on Google Scholar (August 2025): 1223.

Revise and Resubmit

Li, Xiaoyin, Jason Entsminger, and **Heather M. Stephens**. “Perspectives on Rural Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Women’s Venturing: An Analysis of Local Factors Associated with Female Self-Employment in Non-Metro U.S. Counties.” *Small Business Economics*.

Stephens, Heather M., Elena Irwin, and Mark D. Partridge. “How do pollution and other environmental disamenities affect business location?” *Land Economics*.

Under Review

Cary, Michael (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. “Air Pollution and Physical Productivity: Evidence from Ultramarathons.”

Cary, Michael (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. “Road Network Structure and Air Pollution: Moving Beyond the Fundamental Law of Road Congestion.”

Nason, David (PhD candidate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. “The Spatial Distribution of Skills and Local Labor Market Impacts from the COVID-19.”

Working Papers

Centuriao, Daniel (PhD candidate), Brad Humphreys, and **Heather M. Stephens**. “The effect of construction sites on the occurrence of motor vehicle accidents in cities: The case of New York City.”

Dobis, Elizabeth and **Heather M. Stephens**. “Do Urban-Rural Interactions Matter for Economic Vitality in the United States?”

Patrick, Carlianne, and **Heather M. Stephens**. “How Economic Development Incentives affect Racial and Gender Segregation of Employment and Wages.”

Stephens, Heather M., Zachary Keeler (PhD graduate), and Mark D. Partridge. “New Business Opportunities from COVID-19.”

Taylor, Samuel (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. “Impact of Large Scale Water Contamination on Population Change.”

Wadsworth, Allyssa (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. “The Attraction of Health Care and Urban and Natural Amenities: Is it really retirees who move for these benefits?”

Works in Prep

Research on how a spouse’s employment risk affects women entrepreneurs (with Sisi Zhang).

Research on the spatial distribution of labor force participation (with Steven C. Deller).

Research on the impact of property tax limitation laws on housing values (with Zachary Keeler and Michael Cary, both PhD graduates).

Research on gender and competitiveness (with Michael Cary and Allyssa Wadsworth, both PhD graduates).

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (FUNDED)

“Navigating the Natural Resource Curse: Local Public Finance and Economic Outcomes in Rural America.” Resilient Energy Economies (REE) grant. Principal Investigator. Funding: \$100,000. Timeframe: January 2025 to March 2026.

“The West Virginia Community-driven Outdoor Recreation Economy Initiative (WV CORE).” Appalachian Regional Commission POWER grant. Co-Investigator. Funding: \$1.23 million. Timeframe: October 2024 to September 2027.

“Data-Driven Approaches to Support Skills Matching and Resilient Careers in Appalachia.” Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE grant. Subaward from Carnegie Mellon University. WVU Principal Investigator. WVU Funding: \$250,000. Timeframe: January 2025 to February 2026.

“The Rural Tourism Institute: Leveraging Land-Grant Universities to Support Sustainable Rural Tourism Development in Appalachia.” Co-Investigator. Total Funding: \$485,807. Timeframe January 2025 to December 2025.

“Realigning Skills for the Workforce of the Future.” Benedum Foundation grant. Principal Investigator. Funding: \$100,000. Timeframe: July 2024 to July 2026.

“EnergyWise West Virginia Plan.” Subaward to EPA grant to West Virginia Department of Energy. WVU Principal Investigator. WVU Funding: \$895,415. Timeframe: October 2023 to September 2027.

“Factors affecting the success of female and minority rural entrepreneurs and rural economic vitality.” USDA NIFA grant. Principal Investigator. Funding: \$649,913. Timeframe: May 2023 to May 2026.

“NE2249: Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Economic Development to Enhance Housing, Health, Entrepreneurship, and Equity.” Official Station Representative, Multi-State Hatch Project, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2022–2027.

Research contract with the Brookings Institution to examine the impact of U.S. regional commissions. Funding: \$15,000. Timeframe: May to November 2021.

“ARC Coal Industry Ecosystem (CIE) Analysis Extensions.” Appalachian Regional Commission. Co-Investigator. Funding: \$499,913. Timeframe: 2019–2021.

“City Transportation and Air Pollution in China.” International Cooperation Grant, Jinan University, 2018-XJCG030. Funding: 30,000 RMB. Timeframe: 2018.

Big XII Faculty Fellowship. Provided funding for collaboration with faculty at Oklahoma State University. Funding: \$2500. Timeframe: 2017–2018.

“Rural America and the Economic Impacts of Energy, the Environment, Entrepreneurship, and Health Care.” Hatch Project, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Timeframe: 2017–2022.

“NE1749: Enhancing Rural Economic Opportunities, Community Resilience, and Entrepreneurship.” Official Station Representative, Multi-State Hatch Project, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2017–2022.

“NE1049: Community Health and Resilience.” Official Station Representative, Multi-State Hatch Project, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2017.

USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) Visiting Scholar. Worked with USDA economists on research and gained access to data worth approximately \$200,000. Timeframe: 2016–2017.

“Understanding U.S. College Graduate Migration.” Early Career Grant Scheme, Regional Studies Association (a UK-based international membership organization). Principal Investigator. Funding: \$15,000. Timeframe: 2013–2015.

“Leveraging natural amenities for sustainable development in the Great Lakes region.” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ohio Sea Grant Program. Co-Principal Investigator with Mark Partridge and Elena Irwin. Funding: \$180,000, plus match. Timeframe: 2010–2013.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (NARSCI): 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (virtual), 2023, 2025 (forthcoming).

Association of University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) Meeting: 2024, 2025 (forthcoming).

Community Development Society Conference, 2025.

Snowmass Energy Modeling Forum, an invite-only forum consisting of leading energy and environmental modelling experts and economists, 2025.

C2ER Annual Conference, 2025.

Southern Regional Science Association Meeting (SRSA): 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (canceled), 2021 (virtual), 2023, 2024, 2025.

Federal Reserve Conference on Uneven Labor Market Outcomes: 2024.

Western Economic Association International Conference: 2015; 2022.

European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Annual Congress, 2021 (virtual).

Regional Science Association International (RSAI): 2020 (postponed), 2021 (virtual).

Applied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting: 2018, 2021 (session organizer: virtual).

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting: 2011, 2018, 2019, 2020 (session organizer: virtual).

Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference: Renewing the Promise of the Middle Class: 2019. Audience included researchers, policymakers, and community development professionals.

American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association International Conference: 2018.

Regional, Urban, and Spatial Economics (RUSE) Meeting: 2018.

National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation: 2015.

US Association for Energy Economics (USAEE)/International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) North American Conference: 2015. (Attendees include academic and non-academic professionals.)

Lincoln Scholars Program, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts: 2014 (Invited Presentation).

Rural Wealth Creation and Livelihoods: A National Conference and Conversation: 2011. Participants included economic development practitioners, researchers, and policymakers.

Invited Seminar Presentations

Colorado State University (2024); Michigan State University (2023); University of Tübingen, Germany (2022); University of Maine (2020); Pennsylvania State University (2019); Regional Research Institute (RRI), West Virginia University (2018); Oklahoma State University (2017); University of Akron (2016, 2012); Jinan University, Guangzhou, PRC (2016); University of Southern California (2014); New Mexico State University (2012); University of Alaska Anchorage (2012); Washington State University (2012); John Glenn School of Public Policy, The Ohio State University (2012); Denison University (2011); Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, Ohio University (2010).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

West Virginia University

ARE 730: Advanced Applied Econometrics, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2023.

ARE 496: Undergraduate Thesis Course. Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Fall 2023.

ECON 761: Advanced Regional Economics, Spring 2022.

ARE 445: Energy Economics, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019 (including honors), Spring 2020 (including honors), Spring 2021.

ARE 150: Agricultural and Agribusiness Economics (Microeconomics), Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 (including honors), Fall 2021.

ECON 201: Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2016.

California State University, Long Beach

ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2013.

ECON 333: Managerial Economics, Fall 2012.

ECON 437: Urban Economics, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015.

ECON 438: Regional Economics, Fall 2014.

ECON 485: Introduction to Econometrics, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014.

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Post-Doctoral Scholar Mentor: Xiaoyin Li, 2023-2025.

PhD Dissertation Committee Chair:

Completed:

David Nason, Ph.D., “Three Essays on Local Labor Markets.” 2025. Currently: Postdoctoral Research Associate, Regional Economic Research Institute, Florida Gulf Coast University.

Michael Cary, Ph.D. “The Economics of Pollution: Policy, Productivity, and the Structure of Road Networks.” 2023. Currently: Research Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech University.

Zachary Keeler, Ph.D. “Three Essays in Regional Economics.” 2021. Currently: Clinical Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University.

Samuel Taylor, Ph.D. “Three Essays in Applied Econometrics: Understanding Population Changes,” 2020. Currently: Director, WVU Institute for Sustainability and Energy Research.

Collin Hodges, Ph.D. “Three Essays in Applied Econometrics,” 2019. Currently: Assistant Professor, University of Central Arkansas.

In progress: Stacia Harper (Expected 2025), Daniel Centuriao (co-chair, Expected 2026).

PhD Dissertation Committee Member: Caroline Welter (Expected 2026), Mustahsin Ul Aziz (Expected 2026), Nabin Khanal (Expected 2026), Munkaila Lambongang (Expected 2026), Eli Kochersperger (2024), Allyssa Wadsworth (2022), Arijit Ray (2020), Caleb Stair (2018), and Brianne Zimmerman (2018).

Undergraduate Advisor and Honors Advisor: West Virginia University, Fall 2015 to Spring 2022.

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Michelle Charochak (2016), Marissa Meltzer (2017), Hannah Lopez (2018), Tatianna Evanisko (2019), Elijah Dempsey (2019), Liam O’Hara (2019), Sullivan Moore (2020), Jack Steketee (2020 – winner of WVU Library’s award for best thesis), Tate Dixon (2020-2021), Annika Emmett (2020-2021), Andrew Lewis (2020-2021), Jude Platz (2020-2021 – winner of WVU Library’s award for best thesis), Sofia Nunez (2021-2022), Jordyn Underkoffler (2022), Cameron Riordan (2022-2023), Abigail Blake (2023), Alfred Leone (2014-2015, CSULB Honors), Stephanie Garcia Marquez (2015, CSULB Honors).

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

“Education, workforce subcommittee peers ahead to future.” By Steve Keenan, September 17, 2025. The Register Herald (Beckley, WV).

https://www.register-herald.com/news/state_region/education-workforce-subcommittee-peers-ahead-to-future/article_9d953a2c-a84b-4d69-bb0d-786fcd4f977b.html

West Virginia Metro New Midday, September 22, 2025. Hour 2, 1:08 p.m. Radio interview about workforce efforts in Southern West Virginia. <https://wvmetronews.com/podcast/midday/>

“Researchers studying female, minority challenges.” The Intermountain (Elkins, WV). June 22, 2024. <https://www.theintermountain.com/news/communities/2024/06/researchers-studying-female-minority-challenges/>

“Jobs Are Coming to W.Va., But Will the Workers Follow?” By Eric Douglas. West Virginia Public Broadcasting. August 15, 2023. <https://wvpublic.org/jobs-are-coming-to-w-va-but-will-the-workers-follow/>

“Here’s why West Virginia has struggled to increase labor force participation for decades.” By P.R. Lockhart. Mountain State Spotlight. June 26, 2023. <https://mountainstatespotlight.org/2023/06/26/labor-force-participation-workforce-unemployment-wv/>

“Economist: Gas Tax Holiday Doesn’t Make Sense.” By Eric Douglas. West Virginia Public Broadcasting. June 14, 2022. <https://www.wvpublic.org/economy/2022-06-14/economist-gas-tax-holiday-doesnt-make-sense>

“What’s behind the high gas prices? Three WVU experts talk to The Dominion Post.” By David Beard. The Dominion Post. June 11, 2022. <https://www.dominionpost.com/2022/06/11/whats-behind-the-high-gas-prices-three-wvu-experts-talk-to-the-dominion-post/>

“Raising W.Va. Labor Force Participation to National Average Would Means Thousands More Workers.” By Eric Douglas. West Virginia Public Broadcasting. February 7, 2022. <https://www.wvpublic.org/economy/2022-02-07/raising-w-va-labor-force-participation-to-national-average-would-means-thousands-more-workers>

“Labor Force Participation Continues To Lag In W.Va.” By Eric Douglas. West Virginia Public Broadcasting. October 26, 2021. <https://www.wvpublic.org/government/2021-10-26/labor-force-participation-continues-to-lag-in-w-va>

“West Virginia’s census response rate third lowest in country.” By Anthony Conn. WCHS (online article and local television story, Charleston, WV). May 15, 2020. <https://wchstv.com/news/local/west-virginias-census-response-rate-third-lowest-in-the-country>

“West Virginia Chamber of Commerce release 12-point recovery plan.” By Joe Buchanan. WDTV (online article and local television story, Bridgeport, WV). April 29, 2020. <https://www.wdtv.com/content/news/West-Virginia-Chamber-of-Commerce-release-12-point-recovery-plan-570024361.html>

“Some States’ Unemployment Claims Surged as National Rate Fell.” By Gwynn Guilford. The Wall Street Journal. April 23, 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/some-states-unemployment-claims-surged-as-national-rate-fell-11587681889>

“How long will it take for small businesses to recover from pandemic?” By Suzanne Elliott. The Dominion Post. April 18, 2020. <https://www.dominionpost.com/2020/04/18/how-long-will-it-take-for-small-businesses-to-recover-from-pandemic/>

“WVU economist discusses vulnerabilities that could hinder economic recovery in the state.” By Rodney Lamp. WBOY-TV Online. April 3, 2020. <https://www.wboy.com/news/health/coronavirus/wvu-economist-discusses-vulnerabilities-that-could-hinder-economic-recovery-in-the-state/>

“Tax incentives for businesses could be harmful.” The Dominion Post. March 14, 2020. <https://www.dominionpost.com/2020/03/14/tax-incentives-for-businesses-could-be-harmful/>

“Colorado homes near oil wells face lower values, new study finds.” By Aldo Svaldi. The Denver Post. December 8, 2019. <https://www.denverpost.com/2019/12/08/colorado-homes-near-oil-wells-lower-values/>
(Also ran in The Sacramento Bee, The San Antonio Express News, and The Charleston Gazette.)

“Study shows shale development adversely affects home values.” The Dominion Post. November 18, 2019. <https://www.dominionpost.com/2019/11/17/wvu-study-shows-shale-development-has-negative-impact-on-home-values/>

“Report: Oil, Gas Drilling Impacts Housing Prices.” By Jess Mancini. The Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register. November 20, 2019. <https://www.theintelligencer.net/news/top-headlines/2019/11/report-oil-gas-drilling-impacts-housing-prices/>

“WVU working to help boost state’s economy.” By Steven Adams. The Weirton Daily Times. October 8, 2019. <https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/news/local-news/2019/10/wvu-working-to-help-boost-states-economy/>

“Analysts want, need legislators’ attention.” By Erin Beck. The Register-Herald (Beckley, West Virginia). October 8, 2019. https://www.register-herald.com/news/state_region/analysts-want-need-legislators-attention/article_04357f90-d17f-5e6d-a9c5-9c418219c75e.html

“The real (surprisingly comforting) reason rural America is doomed to decline.” By Andrew Van Dam. The Washington Post. May 24, 2019.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/05/24/real-surprisingly-comforting-reason-rural-america-is-doomed-decline/>

“Long Beach economy improving — but some challenges loom ahead.” By Andrew Edwards. Long Beach Press-Telegram. April 24, 2015.

<https://www.presstelegram.com/2015/04/24/long-beach-economy-improving-but-some-challenges-loom-ahead/>

“Long Beach’s middle class, then ... and now.” By Tim Grobaty. Long Beach Press-Telegram. February 28, 2015.

<https://www.presstelegram.com/2015/02/28/long-beachs-middle-class-then-and-now/>

“Cal State Long Beach graduations economic boon for businesses.” By Karen Robes Meeks. Long Beach Press-Telegram. May 20, 2014.

<https://www.presstelegram.com/2014/05/20/cal-state-long-beach-graduations-economic-boon-for-businesses/>

“Long Beach’s economy needs to diversify as manufacturing diminishes, economist says.” By Andrew Edwards. Long Beach Press-Telegram. March 21, 2014.

<https://www.presstelegram.com/2014/03/21/long-beachs-economy-needs-to-diversify-as-manufacturing-diminishes-economist-says/>

“CSULB regional economic forum: more gain, some pain ahead.” By Josh Dulaney. Long Beach Press-Telegram.

April 26, 2013. <https://www.presstelegram.com/2013/04/26/csulb-regional-economic-forum-more-gain-some-pain-ahead/>

OUTREACH AND BOARDS

Executive Committee, Commission on Economic and Community Engagement (CECE), Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). 2024 to 2027.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) Advisory Committee, 2021 to 2025. (Discontinued by the Secretary of Commerce in February 2025.)

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA). Representative to the North American Regional Science Council, 2024 to 2027. Executive Council Member, 2018 to 2021. Treasurer/Co-Executive Director, 2016 to 2018.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD), based at Pennsylvania State University. Chair, 2019 to 2024. Member, 2016 to Present.

North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) Ben Stevens Graduate Fellowship Committee, 2021 to Present.

Ohio River Valley Institute, Advisory Council, 2020 to Present.

Media Expert for West Virginia University. October 2016 to Present.

California State University, Long Beach’s Regional Economic Forum. Annual event highlighting the challenges and opportunities in the regional economy. Attendees included business, government, and education leaders. Conducted analysis and presented the keynote address at the event. Responsible for organization of and fundraising for the event. April 26, 2013, March 21, 2014, April 24, 2015.

EDITORSHIPS AND EDITORIAL BOARDS

Reaching Regions, Founding Co-Editor, 2023 to Present.

Journal of Regional Science, Editor, 2024 to Present.

Annals of Regional Science, Editorial Board, 2024 to Present.

Regional Science Policy and Practice, Editorial Board, 2020 to Present.

Growth and Change, Editorial Board, December 2018 to Present.

Regional Studies, *Regional Science*, Associate Editor, January 2014 to March 2015 and September 2019 to 2022.
North American Editor, March 2015 to March 2019.

JOURNAL REFEREE

Annals of Regional Science; *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy*; *Choices*; *Economic Development Quarterly*; *Energy Policy*; *Entrepreneurial Research Journal*; *Growth and Change*; *Information Economics and Policy*; *International Regional Science Review*; *Journal of Economic Studies*; *Journal of Regional Science*; *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*; *Land Economics*; *Papers in Regional Science*; *Real Estate Economics*; *Regional Science Policy and Practice*; *Regional Science and Urban Economics*; *Regional Studies*; *Regional Science*; *Resource and Energy Economics*; *Resources Policy*; *Small Business Economics*; *Telematics and Informatics*; *The Review of Regional Studies*.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

West Virginia University

University Level:

Search Committee, Endowed Chairs, John Chambers College of Business and Economics, 2025.

Advisory Board, Regional Research Institute (RRI), 2021 – 2022.

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Steering Committee, 2020 – 2022.

Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design:

Research Office and Experiment Station Advisory Board, 2021 – 2022.

Advising Task Force, 2020 – 2022.

Faculty Support Committee, 2019 – 2022.

Student Research and Creative Scholarship Committee, 2016 – 2018. Co-Chair: Academic Year 2017 – 2018.

Division of Resource Economics and Management:

Annual Review Committee, 2017 – 2019; 2020 – 2022.

Graduate Committee, 2015 – 2021.

Qualifying Exam Committee, 2019 – 2021.

Second Year Paper Reviewer, 2017 – 2020, 2023.

New Faculty Hiring Committee, Spring 2019.

Seminar Organizer, 2016 – 2019.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Outreach Session Organizer, Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA), 2024, and North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (NARSCI), 2023, 2024.

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA) Undergraduate Poster Session. I created and have organized the undergraduate poster session at the SRSA meetings to introduce students to regional research. 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (canceled), 2023, 2024.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants in Rural and Economic Development, Reviewer, 2021; Panel Manager, 2024.

RSAI 13th World Congress Scientific Committee, 2019 to 2021.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Economic Association (AEA)
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER)
Consortium of University Public Service Organizations (CUPSO)
North American Regional Science Council (NARSC)
Northeastern Regional Science Association (NERSA)
Regional Science Association International (RSAI)
Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)
Urban Economics Association (UEA)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Government Relations and Outreach Associate, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2006–2008.

- Helped manage the Consortium for Energy, Economics, and the Environment (CE3), a university-wide interdisciplinary research consortium.
- Worked with academic researchers and regional, state, and federal officials to organize regional and statewide conferences related to energy and its potential as a tool for economic growth, especially in Appalachian Ohio.
- Wrote successful federal and foundation grant proposals.
- Provided government relations support to the School and the University.
- Mentored and supervised undergraduate and graduate students.

Executive Director, Washakie Development Association (a local non-profit economic development organization), Worland, WY, 2003–2005.

- Led this local economic development organization and managed its projects and budget.
- Wrote successful grant proposals and reports on local economic issues.
- Orchestrated the passage of a local optional sales tax to support regional development.
- Served on various local boards.

Independent Consultant, providing strategic marketing, general business, economic development, and public policy consulting services, 2002–2003.

- Clients included the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce (WY), the State of West Virginia, and Cinergy Corporation.

Business Development Manager, MCI, Arlington, VA, 2000–2002.

- Identified and established new consumer marketing partnerships. Responsibilities included analyzing the financial terms and negotiating the contracts.
- Ensured successful execution of new partnerships by managing: the relationship with the partner company, systems integration, coordinated marketing campaigns, financial transactions and reporting, and the communications and public relations plan strategy.
- Recipient of company leadership award for coordinating internal constituencies for the launch of a new line of business.

Legislative Assistant, Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 1994–1998.

- Senior Advisor to the Congressman. Helped develop and implement the Congressman's legislative agenda. Worked on issues related to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Negotiated on the conference committee for an omnibus job training bill. Legislative successes included passage of the Congressman's health information legislation.
- Wrote and edited legislative summaries, memos, press releases, speeches, newsletters, and letters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Proficient with STATA, ArcGIS, SAS and MATLAB.

Worked as a seasonal Interpretive Park Ranger at Badlands National Park (2005) and on the Blue Ridge Parkway (2006).

Taxicab Driver, Blackboard Transportation, Jackson, WY, 2003.