

M. KATHLEEN THOMAS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS • P.O. BOX 9580
MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS 39762 • MOBILE PHONE: (662) 769-2410 • KTHOMAS@BUSINESS.MSSTATE.EDU

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Georgia State University, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, December 2000
M.A., Economics, University of Alabama, December 1995
B.S., Economics, Birmingham-Southern College, Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude*, May 1992

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

Mississippi State University
Associate Professor of Economics, Department of Finance and Economics, 2009 to present
Assistant Professor of Economics, Department of Finance and Economics, 2002 to 2009

The University of Texas at Dallas
Researcher, Texas Schools Project, UTD Educational Research Center, 2002 to present
Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Texas Schools Project, September 2000 to June 2002

Georgia State University
Research Associate, Fiscal Research Program, October 1999 to August 2000

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS: Total to Date: \$354,756

\$15,000 The Causal Impact of Music Education on Student Outcomes: A Program Evaluation of Little Kids Rock. National Endowment for the Arts. September 2014 – August 2015.

\$312,900 High School Arts Education and Academic Success: The Access of At-Risk Students and the Impact of Participation. Principal Investigator. Spencer Foundation. July 2011 - September 2013.

\$22,856 The Impact of Education Histories on the Decision to Become Self-Employed: A Study of Young, Minority Business Owners. Principal Investigator. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. 2005.

\$4,000 Do Teacher Attitudes Become More Pro-Market After Teachers Participate in Training Programs In Transition Economies? Principal Investigator. Council for Economic Education. 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Monetary Incentives Versus Class Credit: Evidence From a Large Classroom Trust Experiment. 2014.
With R. Andrew Luccasen. *Economics Letters*, 123 (2014): 232-235.

Access to High School Arts Education: Why Student Participation Matters as Much as Course Availability. 2013. With Priyanka Singh, Kristin Klopfenstein and Thomas C. Henry.
Education Policy Analysis Archives, 21 (83). <http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/1224>.

Teaching Macroeconomic Principles Using Animated Cartoons. With R. Andrew Luccasen and Michael Hammock. 2011. *The American Economist*, 56 (1): 38-47.

- Testing the Economic Literacy of K-12 teachers: A Statewide Baseline Analysis. With Paul W. Grimes and Meghan Millea. 2010. *American Secondary Education*, 38 (3): 4-20.
- Simpsonomics: Teaching Economics Using Episodes from the Television Show *The Simpsons*. With R. Andrew Luccasen. 2010. *Journal of Economic Education*, 41(2): 136-149.
- The Link Between Advanced Placement Experience and Early College Success. 2009. With Kristin Klopfenstein. *Southern Economic Journal*, 75 (3): 873-91.
- The Impact of Educational Histories on the Decision to Become Self-Employed: A Study of Young, Aspiring, Minority Business Owners. 2009. *Small Business Economics*, 33 (4): 455-466.
- District Level Mandates and High School Students' Understanding of Economics. 2008. With Grimes and Millea. *Journal of Economics and Economic Education Research*, 9 (2): 3-16.
- Developing an Intervention Bridging Program for At-Risk Students Before the Traditional Pre-Freshman Summer Program. With Grimes, Moore, Moore, Millea, Lehman, Pearson, and Liddel. 2007. *College Student Journal*, 41 (1): 151-59.
- Teacher Training and Market Attitudes in Transitioning Economies. 2006. With Randall C. Campbell. *The American Economist*, L (2): 32-41.
- The SAT II: Majority/Minority Test Score Gaps and What They Could Mean for College Admissions. 2004. *Social Science Quarterly*, 85 (5), *A Special Issue: Social Science Examines Education*: 1318-34.
- Where College-Bound Students Send Their SAT Scores: Does Race Matter? 2004. *Social Science Quarterly*, 85 (5), *A Special Issue: Social Science Examines Education*: 1374-89.
- Seeking Every Advantage: The Phenomenon of Taking Both the SAT and ACT. 2004. *Economics of Education Review*, 23 (2): 203-08.
- The Mississippi Budget: An Overview of Selected Revenue and Expenditure Patterns. 2003. With Charles A. Campbell. *State Tax Notes*, 30 (11): 849-66.

Book Chapters

- Advanced Placement Participation: Evaluating the Policies of States and Colleges. With Kristin Klopfenstein. 2010. In *AP: A Critical Examination of the Role of the Advanced Placement Program in Education*. Sadler, P., Tai, R., Klopfenstein, K. and Sonnert, G. eds. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.

Reports and Other Publications

- What Constitutes an Arts-Rich School? 2014. Blog post for *Policy Analysis for California Education*. <http://www.edpolicyinca.org/blog/what-constitutes-arts-rich-school>.
- Ask an Economist: How important is more education/skill development if I want to avoid unemployment? 2009. With R. Andrew Luccasen. *Economy Watch*. 1(2): 12-13.
- Profile of Georgia State Revenues: 1974-1999. *Fiscal Research Program Report No. 48*, October 2000: 1-24.

An Analysis of Georgia's Economic Development Tax Credit Incentives. *Fiscal Research Program Report No. 42* with Dagny Faulk, Keith R. Ihlanfeldt, David L. Sjoquist, William J. Smith, Jeanie Thomas, January 2000: 1-59.

A Profile of Georgia's Economic Performance and Competitiveness. *Fiscal Research Program Report No. 41* with David L. Sjoquist, William J. Smith, January 2000:1-62.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Arts Education and the High School Dropout Problem. 2013. With Priyanka Singh and Kristin Klopfenstein. Under review.

The Effects of Algebra and Geometry Skills on Performance in Economics. 2013. With Brent Evans and John Swinton.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

2013 *Invited*. 13th Annual Economics Teaching Workshop sponsored by the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Using Active Learning Lessons Developed for High School Students in the College Classroom.

2013 *Invited*. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Research Seminar Series, Center for Human Capital Studies, Arts Education and the High School Dropout Problem. With Priyanka Singh and Kristin Klopfenstein.

2011 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Access to High School Arts Education: Creating an Index to Identify Arts-Rich Schools. With Priyanka Singh, Kristin Klopfenstein and Thomas Henry.

2010 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Access to High School Arts Education. With Priyanka Singh.

2008 *Invited*. Research Conference on Entrepreneurship among Minorities and Women, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Impact of Educational Histories on the Decision to Become Self-Employed: A Study of Young, Aspiring, Minority Business Owners.

2007 *Invited*. Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, AP Participation: Evaluating the Emerging Policies of States and Colleges. with Kristin Klopfenstein.

2006 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, The Impact of Educational Histories on the Decision to Become Self-Employed: A Study of Young, Aspiring, Minority Business Owners.

2005 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Sciences Association, The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? with Kristin Klopfenstein.

2004 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? with Kristin Klopfenstein, and "Do Teacher Attitudes Become More Pro-Market After Teachers Participate in Training Programs in Transition Economies?"

2004 *Invited*. Georgia State University, Department of Economics, The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? with Kristin Klopfenstein.

2004 *Invited*. The University of Mississippi, Department of Economics, The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? with Kristin Klopfenstein.

2003 *Invited*. University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Where College-Bound Students Send Their SAT Scores: Does Race Matter?

2002 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Playing the Game: Do College-Bound Students Engage in Strategic Behavior When Deciding to Take the SAT, the ACT, or Both Exams?

2002 Annual Meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Where College-Bound Texas Students Send Their SAT and ACT Scores: Does Race Matter?

GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND AWARDS: Total to date: \$407,968

The Mississippi Delta: Second Steps in Preparing for the High School Economics Mandate. (With Millea, Thomas, and Highfield) National Council on Economic Education. Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement: November 2007. (\$15,000).

Buildings Opportunities to Succeed School. (With Grimes, Millea, et al). Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), United States Department of Education. Awarded through the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. 2007. (\$50,000).

The Mississippi Delta: An Initial Step in Preparing for the High School Economics Mandate. (With Grimes and Millea). National Council on Economic Education. Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement: December 2006. (\$7,198).

District Level Mandates and High School Students' Understanding of Economics. (With Grimes). National Council on Economic Education Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement: December 2005. (\$25,000).

Establishing a Baseline Measure of Teacher Economic Literacy in Mississippi. (With Grimes). National Council on Economic Education Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. 2005. (\$13,607).

Economics Camp for At-Risk High School Students in Rural Mississippi. (With Grimes and Millea) National Council on Economic Education Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. 2005. (\$9,999).

Business Opportunities for Success School: Career Exploration, Sessions One and Two. (With Grimes, Millea, et al). Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), United States Department of Education. Awarded through the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. 2005. (\$50,000).

Developing Master Teachers of Economics for the Public Schools of Mississippi. (With Grimes and Millea). Fund for the Improvement of Education, United States Department of Education Appropriation Act of 2005. 2005. (\$100,000).

Business Opportunities for Success School: BOSS Camp I and II. (With Grimes, Millea, et al). Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), United States Department of Education. Awarded through the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. 2005. (\$49,998).

Business Opportunities for Success School: BOSS Camp proposed with Paul W. Grimes, Meghan Millea, Melissa Moore, Rob Moore, Allison Pearson, and Mark Lehman from Gear Up Mississippi. 2004. (\$22,985).

Economics in the Classroom: Professional Development for Teachers in Southern Mississippi. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education. 2003. (\$16,000).

Economics for All Teachers. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education And International Paper Company Foundation. 2002. (\$1,500).

Mathematics and Economics: Connections for Life, Grades 9-12. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education and State Farms Insurance Company. 2002. (\$550).

Economics Challenge. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education And Goldman Sachs Foundation National Economics. 2002. (\$3,000).

Budget Analysis of Mississippi's State Level Revenue and Expenditures. (With Charles A. Campbell). Children's Defense Fund/Kellogg Foundation. 2002. (\$47,131).

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

Economics of Education
Principles of Macroeconomics (online and traditional)
Principles of Microeconomics (online and traditional)
Honors Principles of Microeconomics
Honors Principles of Macroeconomics
Economics of Social Issues
Environmental Economics
State and Local Public Finance
Public Finance

Graduate

Economics of Education (Masters)
Economics for Managers (MBA Program)
State and Local Public Finance (Masters)
Public Finance (Masters)
Economics as a Profession (PhD, 1-hour)

SELECT SERVICE

Presidential Scholars Selection Committee, Mississippi State University, 2014.

Institutional Review Board, Mississippi State University, 2013 to present. Full member.
2011 to 2013. Alternate member.

Chair, University Instructional Improvement Committee, Mississippi State University, 2011 to 2013.
Member 2008 to 2013.

Beta Gamma Sigma Faculty Advisor, Mississippi State University, 2010 to 2013.

Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy (CEEFL), Mississippi State University
Co-Director, 2009 to June 2010; Associate Director of Instruction, 2003 to 2009
Chair, Dissertation Committees, Department of Finance and Economics, Mississippi State
University, 2009 to present
Committee Member, Doctoral Dissertations and Master's Theses, Department of Finance and
Economics, Mississippi State University, 2006 to present
Faculty Awards and Scholarship Committee, MSU College of Business, 2009 to 2011
Chair, Economics Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Finance and Economics,
Mississippi State University, 2009.
United Way Committee, College of Business, Mississippi State University, 2008 to 2010.
Council of Advisors, Society of Scholars in the Arts and Sciences, Mississippi State University,
2002 to present.
Phi Beta Kappa Application Committee, Mississippi State University, 2003 to present.

Referee

Southern Economic Journal
Social Science Quarterly
The American Economist

Economics of Education Review
Journal of Economic Education
Eastern Economic Journal

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

Taylor and Murphy Notable Scholar, Mississippi State University College of Business, 2013
Coggin Notable Scholar, Mississippi State University College of Business, 2012
Qualls and Rouse Notable Scholar, Mississippi State University College of Business, 2011
Beta Gamma Sigma, Mississippi State University, 2010
Honors Faculty, Mississippi State University, 2008
Participant, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, CEMENT, 2004
Winner, University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Emerging Scholars Program, 2003
George J. Malanos Economics Doctoral Scholarship, 2000
Member, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, 1996-97

REFERENCES

Kevin Rogers
Associate Dean of College of Business
Mississippi State University
PO Box 5288
Mississippi State, MS 39762
kevin.rogers@msstate.edu
(662) 325-2580

Paul W. Grimes
Dean of Gladys A. Kelce College of Business
Pittsburg State University
101 Kelce Center
Pittsburg, KS 66762-7539
paul.grimes@pittstate.edu
(620) 235-4590

Michael J. Highfield
Associate Professor of Finance and Department Head
Mississippi State University
PO Box 9580
Mississippi State, MS 39762
m.highfield@msstate.edu
(662) 325-1984

Kristin Klopfenstein
Executive Director, Education Innovation Institute
University of Northern Colorado
Campus Box 106
Greeley, CO 80639
kristin.klopfenstein@unco.edu
(970) 351-2945