

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
The University of Texas at Dallas
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Languages: Bilingual (English & Spanish)

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Economics, The University of Texas at Dallas	2020 – present
Research Director, Texas Schools Project and UT Dallas Education Research Center	2023 – present
Faculty Affiliate, Georgia Policy Labs, Georgia State University	2020 – present
Postdoctoral Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)	2026 – 2027
Visiting Fellow, School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University	2022 – 2024

EDUCATION

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA	
Ph.D. in Economics (Chair: Tim Sass)	2020
B.S. in Economics (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>)	2013

RESEARCH FIELDS

Education Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Immigration

PUBLICATIONS

- [Unlocking Occupational Opportunity: The Labor Market Effects of DACA](#). *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 2026. (with Aimee Chin and Kalena Cortes).
- [Distance to Degrees: How College Proximity Shapes Students' Enrollment Choices and Attainment Across Race and Socio-economic Status](#). *Economics of Education Review*, forthcoming. (with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, and Lois Miller).
- [Distance to Opportunity: Higher Education Deserts and College Enrollment Choices](#). In: *Financing Institutions of Higher Education* (John Campbell Kaye Husbands Fealing, Eds.), 2026. National Bureau of Economic Research. (with Riley Acton and Kalena Cortes).
- [The “Missing English Learner” in Higher Education: How Identification, Assessment, and Placement Shape the Educational Outcomes of English Learners in Community Colleges](#). In: *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research* (Laura Perna, Eds.), 2024. (with Holly Kosiewicz and Kalena Cortes).
- [The Effects of a Newcomer Program on the Academic Achievement of English Learners](#). *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2024. (with Monica Mogollon).
- [Immigration Enforcement and Labor Supply: Hispanic Youth in Mixed-Status Families](#). *Journal of Population Economics*, 2024. (with Joaquin Rubalcaba and Jose Bucheli).
- [Dual Language Immersion Programs and Student Achievement in Early Elementary Grades](#). *Educational Evaluation & Policy Analysis*, 2024.
- [Do Refugee Students Affect the Academic Achievement of Peers? Evidence from a Large Urban School District](#). *Economics of Education Review*, 2022.

WORKING PAPERS

[The Labor Market Value of Community College Bachelor's Degrees: Initial Evidence from a Resume Audit Study in Early Childhood Education](#) (with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Julia Turner, & Lois Miller). NBER Working Paper No. 35404.

[Community College Bachelor's Degrees: How CCB Graduates' Earnings Compare to AAs and BAs](#) (with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Julia Turner, & Lois Miller). NBER Working Paper No. 34684; EdWorkingPaper: 26-1397.

SELECT WORKS IN PROGRESS

Exploring the Long-Term Outcomes of Students in Bilingual Education Programs (with Trey Miller, Gema Zamarro, and Lynn Morgan) [[IES Grant Proposal](#)]

Delayed but not Derailed? English Learners' Pathways Through Postsecondary Education. (with Holly Kosiewicz and Lynn Morgan)

Estimating the Value of a New Postsecondary Credential: An Audit Study of Community College Bachelor's Degrees (with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Lois Miller, and Julia Turner) [[AEA RCT Registry](#)]

Distance to College as a Barrier to Application: Documenting Evidence and Exploring Solutions (with Riley Acton, Emily Cook, Kalena Cortes, and Lois Miller)

Gendered Returns to Community College Access (with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Emileigh Harrison, and Lois Miller)

GRANTS & SPONSORED RESEARCH

Ascendium Education Philanthropy. \$739,700. "Assessing Returns to Community College Bachelor's Degrees." Co-PI, with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Lois Miller and Julia Turner.

Strada Foundation. \$199,686. 2026-2027. "Phase 2: Understanding Enrollment in and Returns to Community College Bachelor's Degrees." Co-PI, with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Lois Miller and Julia Turner.

Strada Foundation. \$49,680. 10/01/2025-07/31/2026. "Planning Grant: Understanding Enrollment in and Returns to Community College Baccalaureate Degrees." Co-PI, with Riley Acton, Kalena Cortes, Lois Miller and Julia Turner.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES). \$390,400. 09/01/2024-08/31/2027. "Long-term Outcomes Associated with Participation in Dual Language Education." Principal Investigator. CO-PIs: Trey Miller and Gema Zamarro.

Texas Higher Education Foundation. \$15,000. 2025. "PSEO Research Grant." Role: Co-PI with Riley Acton, Lois Miller, Kalena Cortes, and Julia Turner.

J-PAL North America. \$44,575 plus Research Management Support of \$28,805. 2025-2026. "Estimating the Value of a New Postsecondary Credential: An Audit Study of Community College Bachelor's Degrees." Role: Co-PI with Riley Acton, Lois Miller, Kalena Cortes, and Julia Turner.

Texas A&M University Bush School Seed Grant. \$11,530. "Estimating the Value of a New Postsecondary Credential: An Audit Study of Community College Bachelor's Degrees." Role: Co-PI with Riley Acton, Lois Miller, Kalena Cortes, and Julia Turner.

Greater Texas Foundation. \$195,091. 2025-2027. "Understanding the Architecture of Policies that Identify, Assess, and Place English Language Learners in the Community College." Role: Co-PI with Holly Kosiewicz.

POLICY BRIEFS AND REPORTS

[English Learner Reclassification Policy Structures and Student Outcomes: A Descriptive Overview across Four States](#). *Center for Educational Efficacy, Excellence, and Equity (E4)*, Northwestern University, 2024.

[English Learner Reclassification Policy Structures and Student Characteristics](#). *Center for Educational Efficacy, Excellence, and Equity (E4)*, Northwestern University, 2024. (with Alonzo Lepper).

[The Changing Landscape of States' English Learner Reclassification Policies](#). *Center for Educational Efficacy, Excellence, and Equity (E4)*, Northwestern University, 2024. (with Alonzo Lepper).

Academic Outcomes of English Learners Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Metro Atlanta Policy Lab for Education, Georgia Policy Labs*, 2024. (with K. Juree Capers).

K-8 Pandemic Learning Trends: Reading & Math. *Center for Educational Efficacy, Excellence, and Equity (E4), Northwestern University*, 2023. (with Sofia Bahena).

The Effect of Dual Language Immersion Programs on Student Outcomes. *Metro Atlanta Policy Lab for Education, Georgia Policy Labs*, 2021. (with Tim Sass).

Effects of an Intensive English Program on Students' Math and English Scores. *Metro Atlanta Policy Lab for Education, Georgia Policy Labs*, 2021. (with Tim Sass).

Refugee Students and Peer Effects. *Metro Atlanta Policy Lab for Education, Georgia Policy Labs*, 2020. (with Tim Sass).

INVITED SEMINARS (INCLUDES SCHEDULED)

- 2024 UT Rio Grande Valley, University of Pennsylvania (GSE)
- 2023 University of Wisconsin-Madison (School of Education), Western Michigan University
- 2022 Northwestern University (School of Education and Social Policy), University of North Texas
- 2020 Williams College Summer Series (virtual)
- 2019 University of Delaware (School of Education), UT Dallas

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (INCLUDES SCHEDULED)

- 2026 ASSA Annual Meetings; AEFP Annual Conference, AERA Annual Conference
- 2025 AEFP Annual Conference; PSEO Coalition Showcase; North Texas Economics Conference (NTxEC)
- 2024 Access, Equity, and Education Conference; AEFP Annual Conference; NBER Financing Higher Education
- 2023 AEFP Annual Conference; SOLE Annual Meeting; APPAM Research Conference
- 2022 APPAM Research Conference; ASHE Monthly Seminar Series; SEA Annual Meeting
- 2021 WEAI Annual Conference; AEFP Annual Conference; NBER Immigrants and the US Economy Conference; ASHE Monthly Seminar Series; SEA Annual Meetings
- 2020 SEA Annual Meetings (virtual); AEFP Annual Conference (virtual); Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics (DITE) Annual Meeting (virtual)
- 2019 APPAM Fall Research Conference; AEA Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference; WEAI Annual Conference; AEFP Annual Conference; ASSA Annual Meetings

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award *Honorable Mention*, Association for Education Finance and Policy
- 2020 New Scholar Award, Association for Education Finance and Policy; Jack Blicksilver Award, Georgia State University; Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics (DITE) Fellow
- 2019 Outstanding Dissertation Award, American Society of Hispanic Economists; Excellence in Teaching Award, Georgia State University
- 2017 AEA Summer Training Program Teaching Fellowship, Michigan State University; AEA Summer Training Program Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Michigan State University; Achievement Award, Georgia State University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at UT Dallas

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Immigration Economics | Spring 2022 |
| Principles of Macroeconomics | Spring 2022, Fall 2025 |
| Graduate Labor Economics | Spring 2021, Fall 2024, Spring 2026 |
| Economic Development | Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2026 |

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

AEA Summer Training Program: Application Review Committee Member (2021, 2023, 2024).

American Society of Hispanic Economists: Hispanic Economic Outlook Committee Member (2024); Scholarships & Awards Committee Member (2025, 2026).

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management: Co-Chair of the Population and Migration Issues sub-Committee (2024, 2025), Program Committee Review Member (2023, 2025), Session Chair, Discussant.

Association for Education Finance and Policy: Editorial Board member (2026 - present), Program Committee member (2022), Session Chair, Discussant.

Referee: *AERA Open*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*(3), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (2), *Economic Inquiry*, *Economics of Education Review* (5), *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* (2), *Education Finance and Policy*, *Educational Researcher*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *Journal of Human Resources* (2), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Population Economics* (2), *Journal of Public Economics* (3), *Journal of Refugee Studies*, *Southern Economic Journal*.