Robert Kelchen

Curriculum Vitae
Last updated November 9, 2026

Professor and Department Head
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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Employment History

Professor and Department Head, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2021-.
Associate Professor and Department Chair, Seton Hall University, 2019-2021.
Assistant Professor, Seton Hall University, 2013-2019.

Educational History

Ph.D., Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2013.
M.S., Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009.
B.S., Economics and Finance, Truman State University, 2007.

Research Interests

Higher education finance, accountability policies, student financial aid

Book

Kelchen, R. (2018). *Higher Education Accountability*. Johns Hopkins University Press. (JHU Press, Amazon)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

57. Rosinger, K., Choi, J., Ortagus, J., Kelchen, R., Everett, A., & Kara, M. (accepted). Does Performance-Based Funding Increase State Appropriations for Public Colleges? *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis.* (working version)
56. Zahran, W., Ortagus, J., Allchin, H., Choi, J., Rosinger, K., & Kelchen, R. (2026). The Impact of Workforce-Oriented Performance Based Funding on Students' Return on Investment. *American Educational Research Journal*. (open access link)
55. Kelchen, R. (2026). Do Responsibility Center Management Budget Models Encourage Entrepreneurship? Evidence from Master's Programs at Public Universities. *Education Finance and Policy.* (link, accepted version)
54. Choi, J., Zahran, W., Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., Allchin, H., & Kelchen, R. (2026). Examining the Impact of Performance-Based Funding Policy Designs on College Completion by Field of Study. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis.* (link, working version)

53. Kelchen, R., & Barrett, F. (2026). Return on Investment or Ripoff? Examining Debt and Repayment Outcomes of New Master's Degree Programs. *The Review of Higher Education*. (open access link)
52. Hu, X., Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., Baker, D., & Kelchen, R. (2026). The Varying Impacts of Merit-Aid Policy Design on Enrollment, Retention, and Graduation and Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities. *Educational Policy.* (link)
51. Kelchen, R. (2026). Do Tuition Controls Freeze Student Debt? *Educational Policy, 40*(6), 771-802. (link, accepted version)
50. Smith-Onyewu, Z., Ortagus, J., Peters, A., Kara, M., Rosinger, K., Kelchen, R., & Baker, D. (2025). Variations in Local Funding Sources for Community Colleges and Their Relationship to Institutional Characteristics. *Education Finance and Policy.* (link, working version)
49. Kelchen, R. (2025). Can New Presidents Improve Colleges' Financial Health? *Innovative Higher Education*. (link, pre-publication version)
48. Kelchen, R. (2025). Examining the Effects of Differential Tuition Policies on Bachelor's Degree Completions. *AERA Open, 11*(1). (open access link)
47. Kelchen, R. (2025). Examining the Relationship between Institutional Financial Stress and Student Enrollment. *Journal of Postsecondary Student Success, 4*(3). (open access link)
46. Ortagus, J., Baker, D., Rosinger, K., Morales, O., & Lingo, M. (2024). The Revenue Implications of Community Colleges' Reliance on Local Funding. *AERA Open, 10*(1). (open access link)
45. Everett, A., Rosinger, K., Baker, D., Kim, H., Kelchen, R., & Ortagus, J. (2024). Tennessee's Burden: How Students Apply for Financial Aid Within One Southern State. *Research in Higher Education, 65*(8), 1826-1852. (link, working version)
44. Kelchen, R., Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., Baker, D., & Lingo, M. (2024). The Relationships between State Higher Education Funding Strategies and College Access and Success. *Educational Researcher, 53*(2), 100-110. (link, accepted version)
43. Kelchen, R., Lingo, M., Rosinger, K., Baker, D., Ortagus, J., & Wu, J. (2024). A Typology and Landscape of State Funding Formulas for Public Colleges and Universities from 2004 to 2021. *The Review of Higher Education, 47*(3), 281-314. (link, accepted version)
42. Kelchen, R., & Pingel, S. (2024). Examining the Effects of Tuition Controls on Student Enrollment. *Research in Higher Education, 65*, 70-91. (link, accepted version)
41. Kelchen, R., Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., & Cassell, A. (2024). Investing in the Workforce: The Impact of Performance-Based Funding on Student Earnings Outcomes. *The Journal of Higher Education, 95*(2), 172-199. (link, accepted version)
40. Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., Kelchen, R., Voorhees, N., & Chu, G. (2023). A National Analysis of the Impact of Performance-Based Funding on Completion Outcomes Among Underserved Students. *The Review of Higher Education, 46*(4), 415-452. (link, working version)
39. Rosinger, K., Ortagus, J., Kelchen, R., & Choi, J. (2023). The Impact of Performance Funding Policy Design on College Access and Selectivity. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 45*(4), 655-681. (link, working version)
38. Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., Kelchen, R., Chu, G., & Lingo, M. (2023). The Unequal Impacts of Performance-Based Funding on Institutional Resources in Higher Education. *Research in Higher Education, 64*, 705-739. (link, working version)
37. Li, A. Y., & Kelchen, R. (2023). Policy Diffusion of Performance Funding Equity Metrics: Traditional Neighbor and Dyadic Survival Analyses. *Educational Policy, 37*(4), 875-909. (link)
36. Kelchen, R., Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., & Cassell, A. (2022). The Effects of State Performance Funding Policies on Student Loan Debt. *Economics of Education Review, 91*, Article 102328. (link, accepted version)

35. Rosinger, K., Kelchen, R., Baker, D., Ortagus, J., & Lingo, M. (2022). State Higher Education Funding During COVID-19: Lessons from Prior Recessions and Implications for Equity. *AERA Open, 8*. (open access link)
34. Rosinger, K., Ortagus, J., Kelchen, R., Cassell, A., & Brown, L. (2022). New Evidence on the Evolution and Landscape of Performance Funding for Higher Education. *The Journal of Higher Education, 93*(5), 735-768. (link, working version)
33. Rippon, L., Chen, R., Kelchen, R., & Boergers, R. (2022). A National Study on Relationship between Programmatic Factors and Athletic Training Education BOC Pass Rates. *Athletic Training Education Journal, 17*(1), 37-45. (link)
32. Hu, X., Ortagus, J., Voorhees, N., Rosinger, K., & Kelchen, R. (2022). Disparate Impacts of Performance Funding Research Incentives on Research Expenditures and State Appropriations. *AERA Open, 8*. (open access link)
31. Kelchen, R., & Liu, Z. (2022). Did Gainful Employment Regulations Result in College and Program Closures? *Education Finance and Policy, 17*(3), 454-478. (link, accepted version)
30. Collier, D., Fitzpatrick, D., Dell, S., Sniderman, S., Marsicano, C., Kelchen, R., & Wells, K. (2021). We Want You Back: Uncovering the Effects on In-Person Instructional Operations in Fall 2020. *Research in Higher Education, 63*(5), 741-767. (link)
29. Kelchen, R. (2021). Factors Associated with Parent and Student Debt of Bachelor's Degree Recipients. *Journal of Student Financial Aid, 50*(3), Article 5. (open access link)
28. Kelchen, R. (2021). An Exploration of Nonresident Student Enrollment and Institutional Finances at Public Universities. *Journal of Postsecondary Student Success, 1*(1), 81-105. (open access link)
27. Li, A. Y., & Kelchen, R. (2021). Institutional and State-Level Factors Related to Paying Back Debt Among Public, Private, and For-Profit Colleges. *Journal of Student Financial Aid, 50*(2), Article 2. (open access link)
26. Ortagus, J., Kelchen, R., Rosinger, K., & Voorhees, N. (2020). Performance-Based Funding in American Higher Education: A Systematic Synthesis of the Intended and Unintended Consequences. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 42*(4), 520-550. (link)
25. Anderson, D. M., Broton, K. M., Goldrick-Rab, S., & Kelchen, R. (2020). Experimental Evidence on the Impacts of Need-Based Financial Aid: Longitudinal Assessment of the Wisconsin Scholars Grant. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 39*(3), 720-739. (link)
24. Kelchen, R. (2020). Does the Bennett Hypothesis Hold in Professional Education? An Empirical Analysis. *Research in Higher Education, 61*(3), 357-382. (link, accepted version)
23. Kelchen, R. (2019). Do High Cohort Default Rates Affect Student Living Allowances and Debt Burdens? An Empirical Analysis. *Journal of Student Financial Aid, 49*(1), Article 3. (open access link)
22. Kelchen, R., Rosinger, K., & Ortagus, J. (2019). How to Create and Use State-Level Policy Data Sets in Education Research. *AERA Open, 5*(3). (open access link)
21. Kelchen, R. (2019). Exploring the Relationship between Performance-Based Funding Design and Underrepresented Student Enrollment at Community Colleges. *Community College Review, 47*(4), 382-405. (link, accepted version)
20. Kelchen, R. (2019). An Empirical Examination of the Bennett Hypothesis in Law School Prices. *Economics of Education Review, 73*, Article 101915. (link, accepted version)
19. Twombly, L. A., Rizzolo, D., Chen, R., & Kelchen, R. (2019). Factors That Influence Job Choice at the Time of Graduation for Physician Assistant Students. Journal of Physician Assistant Education, 30(1), 34-40. (link)
18. Kelchen, R. (2019). Do Nonresident Students Affect Prices for In-State Students at Public Colleges? *Teachers College Record, 121*(2), 1-27. (link)

17. Kelchen, R. (2018). Do Financial Responsibility Scores Affect Institutional Behaviors? *Journal of Education Finance, 43*(4), 417-439. (link) (JEF's article of the year, 2018)
16. Kelchen, R. (2018). Do Performance-Based Funding Policies Affect Underrepresented Student Enrollment? *The Journal of Higher Education, 89*(5), 702-727. (link, accepted version)
15. Kelchen, R., & Webber, D. A. (2018). Examining the Interstate Mobility of Recent College Graduates. *Educational Researcher, 47*(3), 213-215. (link)
14. Kramer II, D. A., Holcombe, M. R., & Kelchen, R. (2018). The Costs and Consequences of Excess Credit Hours. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 40*(1), 3-28. (open access link)
13. Kelchen, R., Goldrick-Rab, S., & Hosch, B. (2017). The Costs of College Attendance: Examining Variation and Consistency in Institutional Living Cost Allowances. *The Journal of Higher Education, 88*(6), 947-971. (link, accepted version)
12. Kelchen, R., & Li, A. Y. (2017). Institutional Accountability: A Comparison of the Predictors of Student Loan Repayment and Default Rates. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 671*, 202-223. (link, accepted version)
11. Kelchen, R. (2017). The Distributional and Cost Implications of Negative Expected Family Contributions. *Journal of Student Financial Aid, 47*(1), 4-24. (open access link)
10. Kelchen, R. (2017). Campus-Based Financial Aid Programs: Trends and Alternative Allocation Strategies. *Educational Policy, 31*(4), 448-480. (link, accepted version)
9. Kelchen, R. (2016). An Analysis of Student Fees: The Roles of States and Institutions. *The Review of Higher Education, 39*(4), 597-619. (link, accepted version)
8. Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., Harris, D. N., & Benson, J. (2016). Income Inequality in Higher Education: Experimental Evidence on the Impact of Financial Aid on College Completion. *American Journal of Sociology, 121*(6), 1762-1817. (link)
7. Kelchen, R. (2016). Who Enrolls in Competency-Based Education? An Examination of the Demographics and Finances of CBE Programs. *The Journal of Competency-Based Education, 1*(1), 48-59. (link)
6. Kelchen, R., & Stedrak, L. J. (2016). Does Performance-Based Funding Affect Colleges' Financial Priorities? *Journal of Education Finance, 41*(3), 302-321. (link)
5. Magnuson, K., Kelchen, R., Duncan, G., Schindler, H., Shager, H., & Yoshikawa, H. (2016). Do the Effects of Early Childhood Education Programs Vary by Gender? A Meta-Analysis. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 36*, 521-536. (link)
4. Kelchen, R. & Goldrick-Rab, S. (2015). Accelerating College Knowledge: A Fiscal Analysis of a Targeted Early Commitment Pell Grant Program. *The Journal of Higher Education, 86*(2), 199-232. (link)
3. Kelchen, R. & Jones, G. (2015). A Simulation of Pell Grant Awards Using Prior Prior Year Financial Data. *Journal of Education Finance, 40*(3), 253-272. (link)
2. Kelchen, R. (2015). Financial Need and Income Volatility among Students with Zero Expected Family Contribution. *Journal of Student Financial Aid, 44*(3), 179-201. (open access link)
1. Kelchen, R. (2014). Federal College Ratings: A Primer and Potential Implications. *Journal of College Admission, 225*, 12-15. (link)

External Funding Received

16. Arnold Ventures, $296,348 (PI). *Examining the Effects of Tuition Controls on Student and Institutional Outcomes.* October 1, 2026-July 31, 2028. (Co-PI: Daniel Sparks).
15. Ascendium Education Group, $625,000 (co-PI). *Exploring the Design, Implementation, and Impacts of State Workforce-Oriented Postsecondary Policies.* May 1, 2026-June 30, 2028. (PI: Kelly Rosinger, co-PI: Justin Ortagus).

14. Strada Education Foundation, $100,000 (co-PI). *Implementing Automatic Eligibility for Financial Aid Among SNAP Recipients in Washington State*. December 15, 2025-December 14, 2026. (PI: Kelly Rosinger, co-PIs: Justin Ortagus, Katharine Meyer).
13. Arnold Ventures, $618,971 (co-PI). *Evaluating State Policies to Incentivize High-ROI Degree Programs.* January 1, 2026-December 31, 2027. (PI: Justin Ortagus, co-PIs: Junghee Choi and Kelly Rosinger)
12. HelioCampus, $49,992 (PI). *Examining the Relationship Between Enrollment and Institutional Spending Patterns.* February 1, 2025-December 31, 2025.
11. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, $527,420 (co-PI). *The Effectiveness of State Postsecondary Funding Approaches*. August 1, 2024-July 31, 2026. (PI: Justin Ortagus, co-PIs: Dominique Baker and Kelly Rosinger)
10. Arnold Ventures, $346,420 (co-PI). *Examining the Most Recent OBF Data to Consider the Impact of Updated OBF Policy Designs and ROI*. August 1, 2023-July 31, 2025. (PI: Justin Ortagus, co-PIs: Junghee Choi and Kelly Rosinger)
9. Lumina Foundation, $250,000 (co-PI). *Creating More Equitable State Higher Education Funding Policies*. August 1, 2023-July 31, 2025. (PI: Kelly Rosinger, co-PI: Justin Ortagus)
8. Arnold Ventures, $224,091 (PI). *Examining the Growth of Master's Degree Programs*. May 1, 2023-April 30, 2025.
7. Arnold Ventures, $152,568 (PI). *What Happens to Colleges on Heightened Cash Monitoring?* May 1, 2023-July 31, 2024.
6. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, $406,372 (co-PI). *The Landscape of Local Funding Sources for Community Colleges*. August 1, 2022-July 31, 2024. (PI: Justin Ortagus, co-PIs: Dominique Baker and Kelly Rosinger)
5. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, $549,947 (co-PI). *Equity and Effectiveness of State Higher Education Funding Policies*. August 1, 2020-December 31, 2022. (PI: Kelly Rosinger, co-PIs: Dominique Baker and Justin Ortagus)
4. William T. Grant Foundation, $25,000 (co-PI). *Building New Evidence for Designing Performance-Based Funding Policies to Reduce Inequality*. June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021. (PI: Kelly Rosinger, co-PI: Justin Ortagus)
3. Arnold Ventures ($270,240) and the Joyce Foundation ($103,350) (co-PI). *A Proposal to Analyze the Effects of Variations in Performance-Based Funding Policies on Student Access, Success, and Labor Market Outcomes*. August 1, 2019-July 31, 2021. (PI: Justin Ortagus, co-PI: Kelly Rosinger)
2. William T. Grant Foundation, $204,528 (co-PI). *Examining the Impact of Variations in Performance-Based Funding Policies on Reducing Inequality in Student Outcomes*. December 1, 2018-August 31, 2020. (PI: Justin Ortagus, co-PI: Kelly Rosinger)
1. AccessLex Institute/Association for Institutional Research, $32,322 (PI). *Response to Federal Loan Policy Changes: Examination of the Bennett Hypothesis in Professional School Prices*. March 1, 2017-March 31, 2018.

Book Chapters

9. Kelchen, R. (2026). College Closures. In D. Harris (Ed.), *Live Handbook of Education Policy Research*. (link)
8. Kelchen, R., Ritter, D., & Webber, D. A. (2026). Predicting College Closures and Financial Distress. In J. Y. Campell & K. H. Fealing (Eds.), *Financing Institutions of Higher Education.* National Bureau of Economic Research. (also available as NBER Working Paper 33216)

7. Kelchen, R. (2023). Do Changes in State Higher Education Appropriations Affect Public Research University Productivity? P. 279-304 in J. A. Delaney (Ed.), *Volatility in State Spending for Higher Education*. American Educational Research Association.
6. Kelchen, R., & Natow, R. (2023). Federal Policy and Policy Making for Higher Education. P. 235-259 in M. N. Bastedo, P. G. Altbach, & P. J. Gumport (Eds.), *American Higher Education in the 21st Century: Social, Political, and Economic Challenges (5th Ed.)*. Johns Hopkins University Press.
5. Kelchen, R. (2021). University Rankings and the Third Mission of Higher Education. P. 163-170 in E. Hazelkorn & G. Mihut (Eds.), *Research Handbook on University Rankings: Theory, Methodology, Influence and Impact.* Edward Elgar Publishing.
4. Finkelstein, M., & Kelchen, R. (2017). Higher Education Systems and Institutions, United States of America. In P. N. Texeira & J. Shin (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of International Higher Education Systems and Institutions*. Springer.
3. Kelchen, R. (2016). Federal Mechanisms for Improving College Match: Information, Aid, and Accountability. P. 179-198 in A. P. Kelly, J. S. Howell, & C. Sattin-Bajaj (Eds.), *Matching Students to Opportunity: Expanding College Choice, Access, and Quality*. Harvard Education Press.
2. Kelchen, R. (2016). Student Loans: A Brief History, the Current Landscape, and Impacts on Society. P. 173-198 in J. L. DeVitis & P. A. Sasso (Eds.), *Higher Education and Society*. Peter Lang.
1. Goldrick-Rab, S., & Kelchen, R. (2015). Making Sense of Loan Aversion: Evidence from Wisconsin. P. 307-371 in K. Hollenbeck & B. Hershbein (Eds.), *Student Loans and the Dynamics of Debt*. W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

Invited Contributions

4. Kelchen, R. (2025). Understanding and Responding to the Changing Financial Landscape of Higher Education. *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning, 57*(6), 48-55. (link, pre-publication version)
3. Kelchen, R., Ritter, D., & Webber, D. (2025). Colleges are Closing. Who Might Be Next? *Education Next, 25*(4). (link)
2. Kelchen, R. (2020). Performance-Based Funding Produces Mixed Results. *Education Next, 20*(1), 68-75. (link)
1. Kelchen, R. (2019). Merging Data to Facilitate Analyses. *New Directions for Institutional Research, 181*, 59-72. (link, originally submitted version).

Research Reports (not published later in other forms)

36. Zahran, W., Ortagus, J., Allchin, H., Choi, J., Rosinger, K., & Kelchen, R. (2025). *The Impact of Workforce-Oriented Performance-Based Funding on Students' Return on Investment.* InformEd States. (link)
35. Kelchen, R., & Barrett, F. (2024). *Exploring the Growth of Master's Degree Programs in the United States*. Postsecondary Equity & Economics Research Project. (link)
34. Levin, J., Baker, B., Lee, J., Atchison, D., & Kelchen, R. (2022). *An Examination of the Costs of Texas Community Colleges*. Regional Education Laboratory Southwest. (link)
33. Kelchen, R. (2022). *State Funding Approaches for Public Colleges and Universities in the Midwest*. Midwestern Higher Education Compact. (link)
32. Kelchen, R. (2022). *The Need for Better Data on Online Program Outcomes*. (link)
31. Kelchen, R., Ritter, D., & Webber, D. *The Lingering Fiscal Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Higher Education*. Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Consumer Finance Institute. (link)

30. Rosinger, K., Shamekhi, Y., Choi, J., Voorhees, N., Ortagus, J., & Kelchen, R. (2021). *Performance Funding for Higher Education: Current Evidence, Unanswered Questions, and How New Data Can Inform Policy*. InformEd States. (link)
29. Conroy, E., Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., Welton, C., & Huelsman, M. (2021). *The Real Price of College: How Using the Negative Expected Family Contribution Can Better Support Students*. The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice. (link)
28. Blagg, K., Blom, E., Kelchen, R., & Chien, C. (2021). *The Feasibility of Program-Level Accountability in Higher Education*. Urban Institute. (link)
27. Rosinger, K., Ortagus, J., Baker, D., Kelchen, R., Lingo, M., Choi, J., & Wu, J. (2020). *State Snapshots of Funding for Public Colleges and Student Financial Aid: California, Florida, and Texas*. InformEd States. (link)
26. Kelchen, R. (2020). *Using Earnings Metrics for Accountability*. Higher Learning Advocates. (link)
25. Kelchen, R. *Examining the Feasibility of Empirically Predicting College Closures*. Brookings Institution. (link)
24. Baker, D., Rosinger, K., Ortagus, J., & Kelchen, R. (2020). *Trends in State Funding for Student Financial Aid*. InformEd States. (link)
23. Kelchen, R., Ortagus, J., Baker, D., & Rosinger, K. (2020). *Trends in State Funding for Public Higher Education*. InformEd States. (link)
22. Kelchen, R. (2020). *Examining the Distribution of Negative Expected Family Contributions*. National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. (link)
21. Blom, E., Washington, K., Rainer, M., Chien, C., & Kelchen, R. (2020). *IPEDS Finance User Guide*. Urban Institute. (link)
20. Rosinger, K., Ortagus, J., Kelchen, R., Cassell, A., & Voorhees, N. (2020). *The Landscape of Performance-Based Funding in 2020*. InformEd States. (link)
19. Kelchen, R., Ortagus, J., Rosinger, K., Brown, N., & Voorhees, N. (2019). *Profiles of State Performance-Based Funding Policies: Missouri, New York, and Tennessee*. InformEd States. (link)
18. Kelchen, R. (2018). *Exploring Key Questions: Program-Level Repayment for Higher Education Accountability*. Higher Learning Advocates. (link)
17. Kelchen, R. (2018). *Adjusting COA and EFC for Living Costs*. The Institute for College Access and Success. (link)
16. Kelchen, R., & Pingel, S. (2018). *Postsecondary Tuition Capping and Freezing*. Education Commission of the States. (link)
15. Espinosa, L. L., Kelchen, R., & Taylor, M. (2018). *Minority Serving Institutions as Engines of Upward Mobility*. American Council on Education. (link)
14. Kolbe, T., & Kelchen, R. (2017). *Identifying New Metrics Using IPEDS Finance Data*. National Postsecondary Education Cooperative. (link)
13. Kelchen, R. (2017). *Higher Education Accreditation and the Federal Government*. Urban Institute. (link)
12. Kelchen, R. (2017). *Tuition Control Policies: A Challenging Approach to College Affordability*. Midwestern Higher Education Compact. (link)
11. Kelchen, R. (2017). *A Review of College Promise Programs: Evidence from the Midwest*. Midwestern Higher Education Compact. (link)
10. Kelchen, R. (2015). *Proposing a Federal Risk-Sharing Policy*. Lumina Foundation. (link)
9. Kelchen, R. (2015). *Exploring the Topic of Indirect Costs to Today's Higher Education Students*. American Council on Education. (link)

8. Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., & Hosch, B. (2015). *Information, Accountability, and College Costs: The Need for Standardized Living Cost Calculations in Higher Education*. Wisconsin HOPE Lab. (link)
7. Kelchen, R. (2015). *The Landscape of Competency-Based Education: Enrollment, Demographics, and Affordability*. American Enterprise Institute. (link)
6. Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., & Houle, J. (2014). The Color of Student Debt: *Implications of Federal Loan Program Reforms for Black Students and Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. Wisconsin HOPE Lab. (link)
5. Kelchen, R. (2014). *Moving Forward with Federal College Ratings: Goals, Metrics, and Recommendations*. WISCAPE. (link)
4. Kelchen, R., & Jones, G. (2013). *A Tale of Two Income Years: Comparing Prior-Prior Year and Prior-Year Through Pell Grant Awards*. NASFAA. (link)
3. Goldrick-Rab, S., & Kelchen, R. (2013). *No Money Left Behind: Loan Aversion and College Success among Pell Recipients*. HCM Strategists. (link)
2. Hillman, N., Kelchen, R., & Goldrick-Rab, S. (2013). *Recommendations for the Effective and Equitable Implementation of Performance-Based Funding for Wisconsin Higher Education*. WISCAPE. (link)
1. Kelchen, R. & Harris, D. (2012). *Can "Value Added" Methods Improve the Measurement of College Performance? Empirical Analyses and Policy Implications*. HCM Strategists. (link)

Public Writing and Media Coverage

I am regularly quoted by national media outlets and occasionally write pieces for outlets such as *The Washington Monthly* (where I have been the College Guide's data editor since 2012) and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. A summary of recent coverage can be found here. I also blog occasionally at Kelchen on Education.

Presentations and Panels

2026 Alliance for Higher Education, American Council on Education, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association of Research Libraries, Chronicle of Higher Education, Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, Council of Independent Colleges, Data xUTK, Education Writers Association, HelioCampus, North Carolina Central University, P3EDU MAP Conference, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Re:University, Saint Louis University, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association Policy Conference, Stetson Higher Education Law Conference, Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, Student Financial Aid Research Network, Tennessee Society of CPAs, Universities Research Association Policy Forum, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee Alumni Association, University of Tennessee Alumni Board, University of Tennessee System Executive Leadership Institute

2025 American Academy of Arts and Sciences Higher Education Forum, American Enterprise Institute, American Institute of Certified College Financial Consultants, Association for Education Finance and Policy, California State University-San Marcos, Chronicle of Higher Education, Coalition of State University Aid Administrators, Colorado Funding Formula Review Working Group, Education Writers Association, Future Trends Forum, Inside Higher Ed, Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Michigan State University, National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools, National Association of College and University Business Officers, National Association of System Heads, National Bureau of Economic Research

Economics of Education Seminar, New America, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Salesforce Education Summit, Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Student Financial Aid Research Network, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Whiteboard Advisors

2024 Association for Education Finance and Policy, Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Truman State University

2023 Association for the Study of Higher Education, Chronicle of Higher Education, Council of Graduate Schools, IPEDS State Data Conference, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Legislative Advisory Council

2022 AccessLex, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Bipartisan Policy Center, Higher Education Financial Wellness Alliance, Hope Center, Opportunity America, Oregon Legislature task force, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2021 Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools, Association of Community College Trustees, Bipartisan Policy Center, Education Writers Association, Hunt-Kean Institute, NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Region II, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, University of Pennsylvania

2020 American Enterprise Institute, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for Institutional Research IPEDS training group, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association of College and University Housing Officers-International, Bipartisan Policy Center, Brookings Institution, Coalition of State University Aid Administrators, Education Writers Association, Future Trends Forum, Higher Education Strategy Associates, Hunt Institute, National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools, New Jersey Association for Institutional Research, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

2019 Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Bipartisan Policy Center, Education Finance Council, Education Writers Association, Hunt- Kean Leadership Fellows Higher Education Summit, IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, New Jersey Affordability Working Group, Old Dominion University, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Real College, Seton Hall University Board of Regents, SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference

2018 American Educational Research Association, Association for Collaborative Leadership, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Brookings Institution, Cooper Union, Education Finance Council, IPEDS State Data Conference, IPEDS technical review panel, Lawlor Group Summer Seminar, Lumina Foundation, NASFAA Forward 50 meeting, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Real College, The Institute for College Access and Success, University of Illinois

2017 AccessLex Legal Education Research Symposium, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for Institutional Research IPEDS training group, Association for the Study of Higher Education, IPEDS State Data Conference, IPEDS technical review panel, National Postsecondary Education Cooperative, Seton Hall University Board of Regents, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association conference

2016 ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for Institutional Research IPEDS training group, Association for

Public Policy Analysis and Management, Education Writers Association, Institute for Enrollment Management, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

2015 American Educational Research Association, American Enterprise Institute, Arizona State University Institutional Design Frontiers Summit, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Business-Higher Education Forum, Education Writers Association, Investigative Reporters and Editors, Louisiana State University, National Association for College Admission Counseling, Student Financial Aid Research Network, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, U.S. Department of Education Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Yes We Must Coalition

2014 American Educational Research Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey, National Center for Education Statistics, New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association, Student Financial Aid Research Network, U.S. Department of Education Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, U.S. Senate HELP Committee staff, Yes We Must Coalition

2013 Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Education Writers Association, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, U.S. Department of Education

2012 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

2011 American Educational Research Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

2010 Association for Institutional Research

Teaching Experience

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

ELPS 207: Foundations and Theories of Leadership Studies (1x)
ELPS 693: Higher Education Accreditation in Theory (1x)
HEAM 650: Finance and Budgeting in Higher Education (4x)

Seton Hall University

ELMP 6101: Introduction to Higher Education (1x)
ELMP 7103: Institutional Research and Planning (3x)
ELMP 8890: Survey Research (1x)
ELMP 8891: Directed Research (2x)
ELMP 9979/9980: Dissertation Seminar I/II (8x)
ELMP 9993: Organization and Governance 8x)
ELMP 9995: Financial Administration (5x)

Dissertation Mentoring (completed)

Dissertation chair (Tennessee): Zachary Hyder (PhD, 2024), Karina Beltran (PhD, 2026), Dale TeGantvoort (PhD, 2026)

Dissertation committee member (Tennessee): Ge Wu (PhD [economics], 2023), Kimberly Hill (PhD, 2024), Blake Weiss (PhD, 2025), Clay Carroll (PhD, 2025), Kim Carney (PhD, 2026), Lucas Chaves Gurgel (PhD [economics], 2026)

Dissertation chair (Seton Hall): Guillermo de Veyga (PhD, 2016), Jonathan Stoessel (PhD, 2016), Tara Abbott (PhD, 2016), Marie Gioiosa (PhD, 2016), Judith Egan (PhD, 2016), Mariel Pagan (PhD,

2018), Kelly Childs (PhD, 2018), Ryan Westman (PhD, 2018), Michael Flanigan (PhD, 2019), Zach Romash (PhD, 2019), Sean O'Connor (EdD, 2019), Dawn Maffucci (PhD, 2019) Anna Calka (PhD, 2020), Raymond Trigg (EdD, 2020), Olga Komissarova (PhD, 2020), Jeff Levine (PhD, 2020), Daniel Hrdina (PhD, 2020), Rosalie Maiorella (PhD, 2020). Christina Pellegrino (PhD, 2020), Andrew Oni (PhD, 2020), Andrea Del Priore (PhD, 2020), David Uibelhoer (PhD, 2020), Zhuoyao Liu (PhD, 2021), Stephanie Mayer (PhD, 2021), Roberta Pughe (PhD, 2021), Joseph Fresco (EdD, 2022)

Dissertation committee member (Seton Hall): Kevin Iglesias (PhD, 2014), Erin Hopkins (PhD, 2014), Robert Miller (PhD, 2014), Joshua Wilkin (PhD, 2015), Lucien Costley (PhD, 2015), Stephen Deutsch (PhD, 2015), Lauren Friedman (PhD, 2016), Martina Ghusson (PhD, 2016), Hillary Morgan (PhD, 2016), Andrew Brackett (PhD, 2016), Ryan Hudes (PhD, 2016), Joseph Hearl (PhD, 2016), Irenaeus Ikhane (PhD, 2016), Wendiann Sethi (PhD, 2017), Jennifer Mezzina (EdD, 2017), Reuel Mebuin (PhD, 2017), Michael Aryee (PhD, 2017), Monica Burnette (PhD, 2017), Lauren Twombly (PhD, 2017), Daria Pizzuto (PhD, 2018), Kataryzna Grzeszczuk (PhD, 2018), Kevin Majewski (PhD, 2018), Warren Lord (EdD, 2018), Leo Pedraza (PhD, 2019), Wole Ogunkoya (PhD, 2019), Marissa Muoio (EdD, 2019), William Friel (EdD, 2019), Megan Matesic (PhD, 2020), Matthew Marino (PhD, 2020), Kyle Warren (PhD, 2020), Tristian Cox (EdD, 2020), Songa Thomas-Montford (EdD, 2020), Michelle McWeeney (PhD, 2020), Abby Saunders (PhD, 2020), Jodi Bailey (PhD, 2021), Stefanie Benson (PhD, 2021), Michael Carhart (PhD, 2021), Leslie Rippon (PhD, 2021), Nicole Gilmore (EdD, 2021), Frank Sutter (EdD, 2021), Nicole Battaglia (PhD, 2022), Dan Bender (PhD, 2022), Cassandra Graham (PhD, 2022)

University Service

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Head, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, 2021-.
One Big Beautiful Bill implementation committee member, 2026-.
College budget committee co-chair, 2021-2026.
Committee on reimagining university honors, 2022.
COACHE review committee member, 2021-2022.

Seton Hall University (selected)

Chair, Department of Education Leadership, Management and Policy, 2019-2021.
Director of higher education graduate programs, 2019.
College of Education and Human Services stewardship committee, 2018-2021.
University research grants committee, 2016-2018.
ELMP academic standards committee co-chair, 2014-2019.

Professional Service

Associate editor, Research in Higher Education, 2023-.

Editorial board member: Review of Higher Education (2020-2022), Research in Higher Education (2019-2023), Journal of Student Financial Aid (2016-2019, 2021- [senior scholars board])

Member, National Commission on Emergency Aid, 2026-.

What Works Clearinghouse certified reviewer.

Member, IPEDS Finance Technical Working Group, 2024-2025.

Member, SHEEO Financial Viability Working Group, 2023-2024.

Member, Competency-Based Education and Learning Research Advisory Board, 2018-2020.

Member, SHEEO State Higher Education Finance working group, 2017-2019.

Member, AAUP Committee on Economic Status of the Profession, 2015-2020.

Member, Postsecondary Value Commission research task force, 2019-2021.
Member, New Jersey's college affordability taskforce, 2019.

Conference reviewer: American Educational Research Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, SHEEO Policy Conference, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

Journal reviewer: *AERA Open, American Educational Research Journal, American Sociological Review, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Community College Review, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Educational Policy, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Educational Researcher, Journal of Higher Education, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Postsecondary Student Success, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Journal of Student Financial Aid, Policy Reviews in Higher Education, Public Finance and Budgeting, Public Performance and Management Review, Research in Higher Education, Review of Higher Education, Social Forces, Sociology of Education, Teachers College Record*

Grant reviewer: Corporation for National and Community Service, National Research Collaborative on Competency-Based Education and Learning, Smith Richardson Foundation, Spencer Foundation, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, University of Tennessee System Grand Challenges Competition, William T. Grant Foundation

Book reviewer: Johns Hopkins University Press, Harvard Education Press, Palgrave Macmillian, Princeton University Press, Rutgers University Press

Technical review panels: Baccalaureate and Beyond, College Scorecard, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study

Awards and Honors

Editor of Distinction, *Research in Higher Education*, 2026.
Excellence in Research and Creative Achievement Award, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2025.
Association for the Study of Higher Education Council on Public Policy in Higher Education Excellence in Public Policy in Higher Education Award, 2023. (link)
Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award winner for excellence in financial aid research, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, 2019. (link)
Ranked in Rick Hess's annual Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings (*Education Week*), 2026 (14th), 2025 (31st), 2024 (41st), 2023 (24th), 2022 (129th-partial year at UTK), 2021 (19th), 2020 (34th), 2019 (32nd), 2018 (52nd)
Truman State University Echo 25 recipient (leading young alumni under the age of 40), 2022.
Seton Hall University researcher of the year, 2017-2018.
One of Third Way Education's higher education social media influencers of 2017. (link)
A featured researcher in AERA's "Thank a Scientist" campaign, 2017. (link)
AEI/Fordham Emerging Education Policy Scholar, 2015.
First Prize, Data Journalism (small newsroom), Education Writers Association, 2014.

Affiliations and Professional Memberships

Co-founder, InformEd States.
Affiliate, Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Visiting scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Consumer Finance Institute.
Data editor, *Washington Monthly* College Guide.

Member, American Educational Research Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education.