



Affordability and Persistence in
Wisconsin Public Higher Education
A Research, Policy, and Practice Conference

July 17, 2012 | University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley
ROOM 1229, 1478 MIDWAY ROAD, MENASHA, WI

July 18, 2012 | Fox Valley Technical College
ROOM A170, 1825 N. BLUEMOUND DRIVE, APPLETON, WI

Financial support provided by the University of Wisconsin System Administration



The Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study is made possible by the generosity of John and Tashia Morgridge, the donors who created the Fund for Wisconsin Scholars. The Fund's executive director, Mary Gulbrandsen, graciously gives her time and energy to ensuring the success of that program and this rigorous evaluation. We also thank the Fund's board of directors.

The study's financial backing comes from four foundations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation. We also receive substantial support from the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education, and the Institute for Research on Poverty.

All institutions in the University of Wisconsin System Administration (UWSA) and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) provide data and other information for the study—their administrations and staff are crucial to our success. The University of Wisconsin System Administration also provides substantial financial support to fund the study's annual research conference

Our research is a team effort and we thank all of our members of our staff, past and present, our co-investigators, and our advisory board.

Finally, to the student participants in the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study: thank you for volunteering to share your experiences. The lessons we learn from you are invaluable.

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, the state of Wisconsin faces significant challenges in its efforts to grow a college-educated workforce. College ambitions are strong and yet for many families rising costs make reaching those goals feel impossible. How are students managing to make ends meet while pursuing college degrees? Who is crossing the finish line—and who is not? How can we help more talented youth reach their educational potential?

Join us for a focused discussion grounded in the latest research on Wisconsin undergraduates. We invite college administrators, faculty, students, and staff to interact with researchers, policymakers, advocates and philanthropists and share perspectives on these important, complex issues.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tuesday, July 17th – Room 1229

1:00 pm **Welcome and introductory remarks**

Sara Goldrick-Rab, Associate Professor, UW-Madison

1:15 pm **Envisioning Success: What an Affordable College Education Means to Wisconsin (Panel discussion)**

Thomas Pleger, Campus Executive Officer & Dean, UW-Baraboo

Kenneth Urban, Vice President of Teaching, Learning & Student Success, Nicolet Area Technical College

Ryane Blue, Undergraduate Student, UW-Oshkosh

2:15 pm **Afternoon break, refreshments served**

2:30 pm **When America Goes to College: Implications for Broad Access Institutions**

Regina Deil-Amen, Associate Professor, University of Arizona

Sara Goldrick-Rab, Associate Professor, UW-Madison

3:45 pm **Managing to Make It: A Closer Look at Students' College Choices**

Presenters:

Hannah Miller, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison

Kaja Rebane, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison

Ryan Adserias, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison

Xueli Wang, Assistant Professor, UW-Madison

Discussants:

Charles Clark, Campus Executive Officer & Dean, UW-Manitowoc

Sheila Ruhland, President, Moraine Park Technical College

5:30 pm **Reception at Radisson Paper Valley, 333 W. College Avenue, Empire Room**

Wednesday, July 18th – Room A170

7:30 am **Continental breakfast served**

8:00 am **Causal Impacts of the Fund for Wisconsin Scholars Program**

On academic outcomes: Sara Goldrick-Rab, Associate Professor, UW-Madison

On educational expectations: Katharine Broton, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison

On student engagement: Lauren Schudde, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison

10:00 am **Morning break, refreshments served**

10:15 am **Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Affordability and Persistence**

Donna Powless, Professor, College of Menominee Nation

Ashleigh Edgerson, Undergraduate Student, UW-Oshkosh

12:00 pm **Lunch and Keynote**

Presenters:

Judith Scott-Clayton, Assistant Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University

Thomas Mortenson, Editor & Publisher, Postsecondary Education Opportunity

Discussant:

Martin Rudd, Campus Executive Officer & Dean, UW-Fox Valley

1:45 pm **Breakout sessions – Room C190**

A. Measuring Success – C190A

John Stevenson, Associate Director, UW-Madison Survey Center: “Measuring Student Success: New Research on Incentives and Approaches”

Sara Goldrick-Rab, Associate Professor, UW-Madison: “Learning College: Studies on the Academic and Social Challenges First-Year Students Face”

B. Learning College – C190B

Aaronson Chew, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison: “The Impact of Financial Management Skills for Low-Income Students”

Jesus Renteria, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison: “Transition to Adulthood and College Experiences Among Undergraduates from Low-Income Backgrounds”

Marci Glaus, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison: “Becoming Aware: How Undergraduates’ Perceptions of Readiness Change Over Time”

C. Understanding Student Choices – C190C

Drew Anderson, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison: “Parental Income Taxes on Children’s College Aid”

Amanda Gaulke, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison: “Stop-outs in Wisconsin Higher Education”

Suzanne Sublette, Lecturer, Gateway Technical College: “Understanding College Choice Regret Among Low-Income Two Year College Students”

3:15 pm **Afternoon break, refreshments served**

3:30 pm **Innovating for Greater Success**

Presenters:

Robert Kelchen, Doctoral Student, UW-Madison

Amy Kerwin, Chief Educational Opportunities Officer, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation

Khori Whittaker, Director of Program Development, InsideTrack

Jennifer Cox Bell, Regional Director, National College Advising Corps

Discussant:

Greg Lampe, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW Colleges

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Thomas Mortenson is a Senior Scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington, D.C. and an independent higher education policy analyst. Thomas's policy research focuses on opportunity for postsecondary education and training and the ways public policy fosters or impedes access to that opportunity. He has special concern for populations that are under-represented in higher education and is particularly interested in public and private finance of higher education opportunity and the enrollment consequences of the cost-shift from taxpayers to students that has been underway since 1980. Currently Thomas is editor and publisher of Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY, a monthly research letter devoted to analysis and reporting on the demographics, sociology, history, politics and economics of educational opportunity after high school.

Judith Scott-Clayton is an Assistant Professor of Economics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she teaches courses on labor economics and quantitative methods for causal inference. She is also a Senior Research Associate at the Community College Research Center (CCRC) based at Teachers College, and a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research. Her primary areas of study are labor economics and higher education policy, with a particular focus on financial aid, student employment, and programmatic barriers to persistence and completion at the non-selective public two- and four year institutions that enroll the majority of undergraduates. Judith is an active participant in policy working groups at the state and federal level, and has contributed to the New York Times' Economix blog, where she focuses on current topics in education.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Ryan Adserias

Ryan Adserias is a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ryan is a research assistant in Wisconsin's Equity and Inclusion Laboratory where he leads the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) research team. His research focuses on LGBTQ issues in higher education for students, faculty and leaders, and on issues of social class in institutions of higher learning.

Drew Anderson

Drew M. Anderson is a doctoral student in the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and fellow in the Institute of Education Sciences Interdisciplinary Training Program. Drew has interned with the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study since summer 2011. He studies applied microeconomics, focusing on education, household finances, and government policy.

Katharine Broton

Katharine Broton is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and fellow in the Institute of Education Sciences Interdisciplinary Training Program. Katie joined the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study staff in 2010. Her research examines educational inequalities in secondary and higher education, stratification and mobility, and education policy.

Aaronson Chew

Aaronson Chew is a doctoral student in the Department of Counseling Psychology at University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests include racial/ethnic identity development and social justice perspective-taking development within a college-aged population. In line with his research interests, Aaronson has served as a professional mentor to students of color through various diversity programs, such as Posse, PEOPLE, and CeO (formerly TRiO), as a coordinator for the College Access Program, and as a mental health counselor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison University Health Services.

Charles Clark

Charles Clark is Campus Executive Officer and Dean at University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc. Before joining the UW Colleges in 2011, Charles served at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the Department of History and in a variety of administrative roles. Charles earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign.

Jennifer Cox Bell

Jennifer Cox Bell joined the National College Advising Corps staff in August 2010 as a Regional Director. The National College Advising Corps a consortium of 18 partner colleges and universities in 14 states that hires recent college graduates to serve as college advisers. Before joining the national leadership team, Jennifer served as Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and Program Coordinator for the Carolina College Advising Corps at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Regina Deil-Amen

Regina Deil-Amen is an Associate Professor at the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona. Her areas of expertise are sociology of education/higher education, qualitative methods, transitions into and through college, community college students' aspirations and persistence, educational stratification, inequality, and opportunities in two-year and four-year colleges. Regina has engaged in four major studies of a) how community college occupational programs and comparable private career/technical colleges prepare students for sub-baccalaureate careers, b) urban, Latino and African-American, low-SES students' transition from high school to two- and four- year colleges, c) college planning strategies and trajectories of socio-economically and racial/ethnically diverse university students, with particular attention to low-income student challenges and Latino students' social networks and major/post-graduate/career decision-making, and d) the use of social media technology to connect and engage community college students in ways that improve success outcomes.

Ashleigh Edgeron

Ashleigh Edgeron is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She studies Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations. Ashleigh is the founder of "Sisterhood," a mentoring program on her campus, and a member of the Dr. Julie Henderson Public Relations Student Society of America. After graduation, she plans to attend a Master of Social Work program and expand the mentoring program into a non-profit organization.

Amanda Gaulke

Amanda Gaulke is a doctoral student in the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and fellow in the Institute of Education Sciences Interdisciplinary Training Program. She currently interns with the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study as part of the Interdisciplinary Training Program. She studies public economics with a focus on higher education.

Marci Glaus

Marci Glaus is a doctoral student in the department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Marci presently teaches and supervises pre-service secondary teachers after formerly working as a high school English teacher and reading specialist. Her research interests include New Literacy Studies and classroom implementation of the Common Core State Standards, focusing on college and career readiness.

Sara Goldrick-Rab

Sara Goldrick-Rab is Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies and Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a Senior Scholar with the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPE) and is a Faculty Affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty, the La Follette School of Public Affairs, the UW Interdisciplinary Training Program for Predoctoral Research in Education Sciences, and Women's Studies. Sara is director of the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study and a 2010-2015 William T. Grant Foundation Faculty Scholar. Her research examines higher education (access, persistence, complex postsecondary pathways), educational policy, and sociology of education.

Robert Kelchen

Robert Kelchen is a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is affiliated with the Institute for Research on Poverty. He has worked with the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study since its inception in 2008. His research interests include educational effectiveness and accountability, and the transition to college. His dissertation explores educational effectiveness in higher education policy.

Amy Kerwin

Amy Kerwin is the Chief Educational Opportunities Officer at Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. She is responsible for coordinating Great Lakes' philanthropic initiatives to foster workforce development and improve economic competitiveness by increasing the number of disadvantaged students who start and complete a postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate. She has been with Great Lakes for more than 17 years and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Greg Lampe

Greg Lampe is currently serving as the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of Wisconsin Colleges. He has served as a UW Colleges administrator since July 2000. Prior to coming to the UW Colleges' administrative offices in Madison, he was a Professor in the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Rock County. Greg began his career with the UW Colleges at the Marshfield/Wood County campus in 1983. Prior to becoming a faculty member at the UW Colleges, Greg taught at the UW-La Crosse in the Speech and Theatre Department for five years.

Hannah Miller

Hannah Miller is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and fellow in the Institute of Education Sciences Interdisciplinary Training Program. Her research interests include the transition to college, college access, transfer behavior, and race and gender inequities in higher education.

Thomas Pleger

Thomas Pleger is the Campus Executive Officer and Dean at the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County. Tom previously held positions at UW-Madison, UW-La Crosse, UW-Marinette, UW-Fox Valley, and Lawrence University. His Ph.D. and subsequent research has focused on the archaeology of the Western Great Lakes and has resulted in publications in regional and local archaeological journals. He has also written on the importance of liberal education and the University of Wisconsin System.

Donna Powless

Donna Powless is a professor of Psychology at College of Menominee Nation, one of two tribal colleges in Wisconsin. Prior to this she served as the College's Vice President of Academic Affairs, and in other administrative roles at Menominee Tribal School and in the Oneida Nation School System. Donna has worked in the education field for 20 years in various capacities and holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Kaja Rebane

Kaja Rebane is a doctoral student in Environmental Studies and in Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is co-founder of Campus Action for Public Education (CAPE), a University of Wisconsin-Madison based organization that advocates for quality in, and accessibility of, higher education in Wisconsin.

Jesus Renteria

Jesus Renteria is a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Policy Studies with a concentration in the Sociology of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He joined the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study staff in 2010. Jesus' research interest involves understanding the factors that influence academic persistence in higher education among low-income and ethnic/racial minorities. Recently, Jesus was awarded the W.T. Grant fellowship with his adviser Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, which will provide Jesus the opportunity to develop and sharpen his professional and research skills.

Martin Rudd

Martin Rudd became Campus Executive Officer and Dean at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley in January 2012 after previously serving there as an Associate Dean. Martin was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bergen in Norway and Baylor University, Texas before beginning his academic career at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in 1997. He held visiting research appointments at Iowa State University and UCLA before coming to University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley in 2003.

Sheila Ruhland

Sheila Ruhland began as President of Moraine Park Technical College in July 2011. Prior to her current position, Sheila served as Vice President of Instruction at Rockingham Community College in Wentworth, NC; Vice President of Instruction at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, OR; Assistant Professor in the Department of Work, Community and Family Education at the University of Minnesota; Dean of Business at Western Technical College in La Crosse, WI; Dean of Business and Marketing at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore, WI; and as an instructor at Madison Area Technical College in Madison, WI.

Lauren Schudde

Lauren Schudde is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on uncovering processes that contribute to socioeconomic inequalities in higher education outcomes. Utilizing the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study, Lauren's research examines whether reducing income constraints enhances college engagement for low-income students. She was selected for three fellowship awards this spring: a National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship; an American Educational Research Association Dissertation Grant; and an Association for Institutional Research Dissertation Grant. Lauren will use the Spencer Fellowship in 2012-13 to complete her dissertation, which explores the linkages between students' background, engagement in college, and college success.

John Stevenson

John Stevenson is the Associate Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Survey Center. The Survey Center employs nearly 250 professional staff, interviewers, and data entry staff who provide data collection and methodological services to clients at universities, state government and not-for-profit organizations. His research focuses on the use of incentives in increasing survey participation and data quality.

Suzanne Sublette

Suzanne Sublette is a lecturer of Sociology at Gateway Technical College. She has worked in the Wisconsin Technical College System for over a decade, including Madison College most recently. Suzanne earned her Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies with a minor in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011. Her research interests include two-year college access, college choice, and social inequality.

Kenneth Urban

Kenneth Urban is Vice President of Teaching, Learning, and Student Success for Nicolet College in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Kenneth oversees both academic and student affairs at Nicolet, one of the initial three institutions in the Wisconsin Technical College System with both a community and technical college mission. Before joining the WTCS, Kenneth worked as a research scientist and in industry. He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Xueli Wang

Xueli Wang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a scholar at the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPE). Her research centers on the secondary-postsecondary nexus and the intersection between motivational beliefs, social disadvantage, and college experience and success, with a particular focus on students beginning at community colleges.

Khori Whittaker

Khori Whittaker is the Director of Program Development for InsideTrack, a national student coaching service aimed at improving student engagement, persistence, and success. Khori leads both the Community College Impact Initiative and the Historically Black College and University Enrollment Management Initiative for InsideTrack. He began his career as an educator in the Teach for America movement in the Long Beach Unified School District, becoming engaged in issues of access and equity, retention, and degree completion. In higher education, Khori has worked as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Stanford University where he was the primary liaison to the African American community.



Hosted by
Sara Goldrick-Rab, Director,
Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study

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Please visit our website for more information about the
study, including findings presented at this conference.

www.finaidstudy.org