

MICHAEL D. KURTZ

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EDUCATION

University of New Hampshire, Ph.D., Economics	2015
With a <i>Certificate in College Teaching</i>	
University of New Hampshire, M.A., Economics	2010
Quinnipiac University, B.S., Economics	2008

EXPERIENCE

Lycoming College	Williamsport, PA
Associate Professor	2021 - present
Assistant Professor	2015 - 2021
University of New Hampshire	Durham, NH
Lecturer	2011 - 2015
Teaching and Research Assistant	2009 - 2014
The Travelers Companies, Inc.	Hartford, CT
Summer Intern, PI Reserving	2010
Summer Intern, R&D Department	2007, 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Education; poverty; food insecurity; wealth distribution; charitable giving; health

TEACHING INTERESTS

Applied microeconomics, with experience teaching a wide range of courses:

- Principles of Microeconomics
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Introduction to Data Science
- Econometrics
- Health Economics
- Public Finance
- Game Theory
- International Trade
- Environmental Economics
- Readings in Applied Microeconomics
- Education Economics Seminar
- Freakonomics Seminar
- Behavioral Economics Seminar
- First Year Seminar

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Waiting for the Weekend: The Adoption and Proliferation of Weekend Feeding (BackPack) Programs in Schools, ” (with Karen Conway, Robert Mohr, and Stephanie Brockmann), *BE Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1515/bejeap-2023-0308>

“The Distribution of Wealth: An agent-based approach to examine the effect of estate taxation, skill inheritance, and the Carnegie Effect,” (with Chris Kulp, Matthew Velardi, and Charlie Hunt), *Journal of Economic Interaction and Coordination*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11403-022-00372-7>.

“The Effects of Feeding Programs at School and at Home on Child Academic Outcomes,” (with Karen Conway and Robert Mohr), invited contribution to the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance* edited by Jonathan Hamilton, Avinash Dixit, Sebastian Edwards, and Kenneth Judd. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.865>

“A Field Study on the Role of Incidental Emotions on Charitable Giving,” (with Steve Furnagiev, and Rebecca Forbes). *Theory and Decision*, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11238-022-09884-x>.

“Weekend Feeding (“BackPack”) Programs and Student Outcomes,” (with Karen Conway, and Robert Mohr). *Economics of Education Review*, 79, 102040, 2020.
Received Economics of Education Review 2020 Best Paper Award.

“The Effect of Various Tax and Redistribution Models on the Gini Coefficient of Simple Exchange Games,” (with Chris Kulp, Nathaniel Wilston, and Luke Quigley). *Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science*, 29(8), 2019.

“Value-Added and Student Growth Percentile Models: What Drives Differences in Estimated Classroom Effects?”. *Statistics and Public Policy*, 5(1), 1-8, 2018.

OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

“Fundraisers who appeal to donors’ fond memories by evoking their emotions may get larger gifts – new research,” *The Conversation*, Research Brief, Nov. 2022

“BackPack Food Programs Linked to Higher Test Scores for School Children” *Carsey Institute of Public Policy* National Issue Brief No. 155, Summer 2021 (with Karen Conway and Robert Mohr).

“Students from struggling economic backgrounds sent home with food for the weekend have improved test scores, study finds,” *The Conversation*, Research Brief, Aug. 2021

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Anti-Churn: Predictors of Repeat Utilization of Community Action Agency Services”. Consulting for STEP Inc., Williamsport PA

“In the long run we’re all dead: Short run transitional effects of tax and redistribution policies on the distribution of wealth; an agent-based approach” (with Chris Kulp).

“Some of these things are not like the others: Developing a hybrid racial fragmentation index,” (with Karen Conway, Robert Mohr, and Stephanie Brockmann)

“Confirmation Bias: Helping Students See the Need for Exploration Before Conclusion.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Waiting for the Weekend: The Adoption and Proliferation of Weekend Feeding (BackPack) Programs in Schools,” presented at:

- The Mid-West Economic Conference, April 2023

“Of Course That’s True: Obvious Lessons about Teaching that only a Canoe Trip in the Adirondacks Could Teach Me,” presented at:

- Lycoming College Teaching Effectiveness Workshop, March 2019

“Gratitude as a Determinant of Charitable Giving: A Natural Field Experiment,” presented at:

- The Southern Economic Conference, Nov. 2018

“Education Production: The Scholastic Effects of Weekend Feeding Programs,” presented at:

- The Southern Economic Conference, Nov. 2016
- The Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Meetings, Nov. 2014.
- Economics Seminar Series, University of New Hampshire, Dec. 2014

“Classroom Evaluation Models Using Student Test Scores: A Comparison of Value Added and Student Growth Percentile Models,” presented at:

- Eastern Economic Conference, Feb. 2016
- Faculty Research Forum, Lycoming College, Oct. 2015
- Graduate Research Conference, University of New Hampshire, April 2014.
- Economics Seminar Series, University of New Hampshire, May 2014

“Confirmation Bias: Helping Students See the Need for Exploration before Conclusion,” presented at:

- Lycoming College Teaching Effectiveness Workshop, Oct. 2017
- Wrightsville Beach Economics Teaching Conference, Oct. 2016

TEACHING AWARDS

Junior Faculty Teaching Award, Lycoming College, 2018

Graduate Student Teaching Award Honorable Mention, UNH, 2015

Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award, Economics, UNH, 2013

OTHER AWARDS AND GRANTS

Faculty mentor to ODE *Undergraduate Research Award* winner, 2023

Summer Research Grant, Lycoming, 2023

Best Paper of 2020, *Economics of Education Review*

Innovations in Teaching with Technology Grant, Lycoming, 2019-2020

Economics Dissertation Fellowship, UNH, 2013-2014

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, UNH, 2010

Graduate Assistantship, UNH, 2009-2013

Millennium Endowed Scholarship, Quinnipiac University, 2004-2008

SERVICE

Co-Chair, Reaccreditation Committee (MSCHE), Lycoming, 2025-present

Co-Cordinator, Data Science Program, Lycoming, 2025-present

Mentor, Faculty Mentor Program, Lycoming, 2025-present

Chair, Economics Department, Lycoming, 2023-present

Member, Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Lycoming, 2023-present

Member, Enrollment Management Committee, Board of Trustees, Lycoming, 2020-2026

Advisor, Student Research Haberberger Fellowship, Lycoming, 2022-2023

Member, Academic Assessment Committee, Lycoming, 2022-2023

Member, Institutional Review Board, Lycoming, 2020-2022

Member, Institute for Management Studies Steering Committee, Lycoming, 2020-2022

Member, Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee, Lycoming, 2019-2021

Advisor, Student research Haberberger Fellowship, Lycoming, 2018-2019

Advisor, Habitat for Humanity Student Group, Lycoming, 2018-2019

Member, Enrollment Management and Marketing, Lycoming, 2017-2019

Member, Faculty Library Advisory Committee, Lycoming, 2017-2019

Member, Academic Standards Committee, Lycoming 2016-2018
Advisor, Economics Club, Lycoming, 2016-2023
Mentor, Partnership Students, Lycoming, 2016-2018
Mentor, Clear Focus Affinity Living Community, Lycoming, 2016-2017
Vice President, Graduate Student Senate, UNH, 2014-2015
Member, NH Commissioner of Education's Taskforce on Effective Teaching, 2011-2012

REFeree

Economics of Education Review; Educational Researcher; Journal of Applied Economics; Children and Youth Services Review; Research in Comparative and International Education.

SKILLS

Stata, R, Microsoft Excel, L^AT_EX, Python, Power BI