Jeffrey T. Denning

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Texas at Austin
Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs
2315 Red River
Austin, TX 78712

email: jeffdenning@utexas.edu
website: jeffdenning.com
Office: SRH 3.242

EMPLOYMENT

University of Texas at Austin
- Associate Professor, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs 2025-
- Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy 2025-
- Associate Professor, Economics (by courtesy) 2025-
- Associate Director for Research, Education Research Center 2025-

University of Notre Dame, Department of Economics
- Dillon Hall Associate Professor of Economics 2024-2025
- Associate Professor 2023-2025

Brigham Young University, Department of Economics
- Associate Professor 2021-2023
- Assistant Professor 2015-2021

AFFILIATIONS

National Bureau of Economic Research
- Research Associate 2021-
- Faculty Research Fellow 2020-2021

CESifo Research Affiliate 2019-

Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)
- Research Fellow, 2023-
- Research Affiliate, 2017-2023

EdWorkingPapers Contributor 2019-

Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities
- Faculty Affiliate 2024-

Institute for Educational Initiatives, Notre Dame
- Fellow 2023-2025

Program for Interdisciplinary Educational Research, Notre Dame
- Faculty Affiliate 2023-2025

Editorial Positions

Co-Editor, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management	2022-2024
Co-Editor, Economics of Education Review	2022-2023

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Texas at Austin	2015
M.S. Economics, University of Texas at Austin	2012
B.A. Economics & Mathematics, Brigham Young University	2010

Publications

The Graduation Part II: Graduate School Graduation Rates (joint with Lesley Turner) *Journal of Public Economics* 2025, Volume 248, Article 105422 (joint with Lesley Turner)

Taking It to the Limit: Effects of Increased Student Loan Availability on Attainment, Earnings, and Financial Well-being, *American Economic Review*, 2023, Volume 113, Number 12 (joint with Sandra Black, Lisa Dettling, Sarena Goodman, and Lesley Turner)

Class Rank and Long Run Outcomes *Review of Economics and Statistics* 2023, Volume 106, Number 6 (joint with Richard Murphy and Felix Weinhardt)

Winners and Losers? The Effect of Gaining and Losing Access to Selective Colleges on Education and Labor Market Outcomes *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2023, Volume 15, Number 1 (joint with Sandra Black and Jesse Rothstein)

The Returns to Hours Worked Within and Across Occupations: Implications for the Gender Wage Gap *ILR Review*, 2022, Volume 75, Issue 5. (joint with Brian Jacob, Lars Lefgren, and Christian vom Lehn)

Decreasing Time to Baccalaureate Degree in the United States, *Economics of Education Review*, 2022, Volume 90. (joint with Eric Eide, Kevin Mumford, and Daniel Sabey*)

Why Have College Completion Rates Increased? *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* July 2022, Volume 14, Number 3. (joint with Eric Eide, Kevin Mumford, Rich Patterson, and Merrill Warnick*)

Maxed Out? The Effect of Larger Student Loan Limits on Borrowing and Education Outcomes *Journal of Human Resources*, 2021, Volume 56, Number 4 (joint with Todd R. Jones)

Nudging at Scale: Experimental Evidence from FAFSA Completion Campaigns *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 2021, Volume 183. (joint with Kelli A. Bird, Benjamin L. Castleman, Joshua Goodman, Cait Lamberton, Kelly Ochs Rosinger)

Born Under A Lucky Star: Financial Aid, College Completion, Labor Supply, and Credit Constraints *Journal of Human Resources*, 2019, Volume 54, Number 3.

ProPelled: The Effects of Grants on Graduation, Earnings, and Welfare *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2019, Volume 11, Number 3. (joint with Benjamin M. Marx and Lesley J. Turner)

Is Information Enough? The Effect of Information about Education Tax Benefits on Student Outcomes *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2019, Volume 38, Number 3. (joint with Peter Bergman and Dayanand Manoli)

College on the Cheap: Consequences of Community College Tuition Reductions *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2017, Volume 9, Number 2.

Was That SMART? Institutional Financial Incentives and Field of Study *Journal of Human Resources*, 2017, Volume 52, Number 1. Joint with Patrick Turley)

NON PEER REVIEWED PAPERS

Student Loans in the United States, 2025, *AEFP Live Handbook*

The Effects of Higher Student Loan Limits on Access to High-Earnings Graduate Programs *AEA: Papers and Proceedings*, 2023, Volume 113 (joint with Lesley J. Turner)

Lower Bars, Higher College GPAs: How Grade Inflation is Boosting College Graduation Rates *Education Next*, Fall 2021, (joint with Eric Eide, Kevin Mumford, Richard Patterson, and Merrill Warnick*)

* denotes undergraduate student coauthor

WORKING PAPERS

PLUS or Minus? The Effect of Graduate School Loans on Access, Attainment, and Prices *Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Political Economy* available as NBER Working Paper 31291 (with Sandra Black ⓡ Lesley Turner, randomized author order)

A Family Affair: The Effects of College on Parent and Student Finances (joint with Palaash Bhargava, Sandra Black, Robert Fairlie, and Oded Gurantz) available as NBER Working Paper 33497

Resting Papers

Welfare Effects of Changes in College Pricing (joint with Benjamin M. Marx and Lesley J. Turner)

Works in Progress

The Effects of Parent PLUS Loans on Educational and Family Finances (joint with Sandra Black, Robert Fairlie, Oded Gurantz, Michael Jensen, and Steve Ramos)

The Effects of a DUI on Earnings, and Household Finance (joint with Benjamin Hansen, Lars Lefgren, Emily Leslie, and Cody Tuttle)

The Effects of Higher Education on Crime and Marriage (joint with Emily Leslie, Jack Mountjoy, and Cody Tuttle)

Easy A's, Less Pay: The Long-Term Effect of Grade Inflation (joint with Rachel Nesbit, Nolan Pope, and Merrill Warnick)

Dispensing Education: PharmD and Supply Side Responses in Higher Education (joint with Ethan Lieber)

Effects of Indigenous Language Instruction (joint with Randall Akee and Lily Morrell)

Awards and Honors

Top 200 Ranking
RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings, Education Week 2025

Young Scholar Award
BYU College of Family, Home, and Social Science 2021

Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award
Association for Education Finance & Policy 2016

National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship 2014-2015

Hale Fellowship
University of Texas at Austin 2014

Richard P. Worley Fellowship
University of Texas at Austin 2010-2011

Grants

"Non-Pecuniary Returns to College" (PI: Cody Tuttle), Co-PI, Arnold Ventures
Amount: $247,245 2024-26

"The Effects of Driving Under the Influence" PI, Arnold Ventures
Amount: $330,228 2024-25

"The Impacts of Parent PLUS Access on Postsecondary Enrollment and Financial Health" PI, Arnold Ventures

Amount: $288,501 2023-26

"The Credit Consequences of College Attendance" (PI: Oded Gurantz), Co-PI, Spencer Foundation.
Amount: $248,961 2022-23

"PLUS or Minus? The Effect of Graduate PLUS Student Loans on Access, Program Prices, Student Debt, and Labor Market Outcomes" (PI: Sandra Black), Co-PI. Arnold Ventures.
Amount: $264,396 2021-22

Early Career Research Grant, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.
Amount: $5,000 2017

"Large Scale Outreach to Promote Early FAFSA Submission and Informed College" Search (PI: Benjamin Castleman). Role: Consultant. Kresge Foundation
Amount $500,000 2016

Early Career Research Grant, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.
Amount: $5,000 2016

"Tax Policy Insights from Informational Interventions" with Dayanand Manoli and Peter Bergman, (PI: Dayanand Manoli), Co-PI. Jameel Poverty Action Lab North America.
Amount: $105,000 2013

POLICY WORK

How did Expanded Access to Federal Student Loans Influence Graduate Student Borrowing? *Post Secondary Equity & Economics Research Project* (with Sandra E. Black)

Is Taking on More Student Debt Bad for Students? *Econofact* (with Sandra E. Black, Lisa J. Dettling, Sarena Goodman, and Lesley Turner)

Winners and losers? The effect of gaining and losing access to selective colleges on education and labor market outcomes *Stone Centre at UCL* (With Sandra E. Black, Jesse Rothstein)

PRESENTATIONS

2025-2026 (including scheduled)
Yale University, University of Tennessee, Georgetown University

2024-2025
University of Michigan Causal Inference in Education Seminar, Michigan

State University, University of Nebraska, Texas A&M, University of Texas LBJ School, Paris School of Economics, CESifo Economics of Education Conference, IZA/ECONtribute Workshop on the Economics of Education, Midwest Economics of Education Conference at Notre Dame, NBER Summer Institute Household Finance Meeting, Higher Education in a Cold Climate (University of Bristol)

2023-2024
Mid-Midwest Conference, Northern Illinois University, Midwest Economics Association Meetings, SOLE Meetings, Texas A&M

2022-2023
San Diego State University, Urban Institute, University of California Riverside, University of Delaware, University of Georgia, University of Notre Dame, Education Counsel, American Enterprise Institute Higher Education Working Group, NBER Education Spring Meetings (coauthor presented), BYU/Utah Applied Economics Conference

2021-2022
CESifo Economics of Education Conference, New York Federal Reserve/NYU Education Seminar Series, University of California San Diego, Washington University in St. Louis, AEFP Meetings, NBER Education Spring Meetings, CESifo Summer Institute, Workshop on the Economics of Risky Behavior

2020-2021
CESifo Economics of Education Conference, Columbia University Teacher's College, IZA Economics of Education, York University, NBER Labor Studies Fall Meetings (coauthor presented), Kansas State University, MIT Student Data-Based Policy Seminar, Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop

2019-2020
CESifo Economics of Education Conference, University of Notre Dame, NBER Education Fall Meetings, NBER Labor Studies Spring Meetings, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, AEFP Meetings, E-Con of Education Conference

2018-2019
University of Utah Finance, AEA Meetings, United States Military Academy, AEFP Meetings, Utah System of Higher Education, NBER Education Spring Meetings, SOLE Meetings

2017-2018
SOLE Meetings, IZA Junior/Senior Symposium

2016-2017
Montana State University, University of Utah Finance, AEFP Meetings, Up-

john Institute, IESR Labor Workshop–Jinan University

2015-2016
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, University of California Davis, AEFP Meetings, SOLE Meetings

2014-2015
APPAM Meetings, Arizona State School of Public Affairs, Brigham Young University, New York Federal Reserve, University of Georgia, Southern Methodist University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, RAND, AERA Meetings (poster), SOLE Meetings

2013-14
SEA Meetings, STATA Texas Empirical Micro Conference (poster), BYU Graduate Student Conference

Teaching

Notre Dame: Economics 70601, Labor Economics (PhD)
Notre Dame: Economics 43402, Advanced Topics in Economics of Education (Undergraduate, writing intensive)
Notre Dame: Economics 30341, Econometrics (Undergraduate)

BYU: Economics 461, Economics of Education (Undergraduate)
BYU: Economics 488/398, Applied Econometrics (Undergraduate)
BYU: Economics 380, Intermediate Price Theory 1 (Undergraduate)

Media

Coverage/Mentions: New York Times, The Guardian, Axios, Inside Higher Ed, Washington Post, Texas Standard, Business Insider, Forbes, Hechinger Report, Deseret News, The Hechinger Report, Inside Higher Ed, Harvard Ed Cast, Inside Higher Ed, Chronicle of Higher Education, Education Next, Washington Post, New York Times DealBook, Brookings Hutchins Roundup, This American Life, Forbes, The Weeds Podcast, Inside Higher Ed, Diverse Education, Inside Higher Education, New York Times, The Atlantic, KUER Utah NPR, New York Times Upshot, MarketWatch, Higher Education Today, Wall Street Journal Real Time Economics, Washington Post Storyline, AEA: Research Highlights, Diverse Education, New York Times Opinion, Detroit Free Press

Opinion: Chronicle of Higher Education

Professional Service

Notre Dame:

Recruiting Committee	2023-2024
Committee to Review Poverty Research Package Proposals	2023-2024
Applied Micro Seminar Coordinator	2024-2025
Lab for Economic Opportunity Recruiting Committee	2024-2025

BYU:

Internal Seminar Coordinator	2022-2023
Co-Organizer BYU/Utah Applied Economics Conference	2021, 2022
Curriculum Committee	2019-22
Visiting Scholar Coordinator	2018-19
Recruiting Committee	2016-18
Social Committee	2015-16
International Relations Committee	2018-2023

Referee:

Economics Journals: American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Economic Journal, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, ILR Review, Labour Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Contemporary Economic Policy, Economic Inquiry, Economics Letters, Economics of Education Review, Education Economics, Journal of Human Capital, Public Finance Review *Other Journals:* American Educational Research Association (AERA) Open, American Educational Research Journal, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Education Finance and Policy, Educational Policy, Educational Researcher, Social Service Review, Social Science Research

Reviewer:

National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Labor, Smith Richardson Foundation, William T Grant Foundation

Program Committee:

Society of Labor Economists Meetings	2026

Dissertation Committee (student's PhD Instiuttion in parenthesis)

Virna Menezes (Notre Dame)	expected 2026
Pietro Pellerito (Notre Dame)	expected 2026
Jacob Hukill (Notre Dame)	expected 2025
Travis Williams (University of Iowa)	2022

VOLUNTEER WORK

Utah Valley University, Pacific Islander Initiative, Mentor 2022

PERSONAL

Citizenship: USA

Date of Birth:1986
Languages: English (Native), Hawaiian (Beginning)