

Improving Research-Based Knowledge of College Promise Programs

October 19-20, 2017, University of Pennsylvania

This research conference is supported by a grant from the Education Research Conferences Program of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), as well as by the University of Pennsylvania's Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy (Penn AHEAD).

Conference Organizer: Laura Perna (University of Pennsylvania)

Conference Planning Committee: Martha Kanter (Civic Nation); Mary Rauner (REL West)

RESEARCH CONFERENCE AGENDA

Day 1: OCTOBER 19, 2017

*Location: Van Pelt Library, 6th floor, Class of 1978 Orrery Pavilion
(Address: 3420 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104)*

9:00 am
to 10:00 am

Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Networking

10:00 am
to 10:10 am

Welcome and Conference Goals

Laura Perna

10:10 am
to 10:30 am

Setting the Stage

Martha Kanter

10:30 am
to 12:00 pm

Research Paper Session 1

What Do We Know about the Effects of Promise Programs?

Session Chair: Edward Smith

A systematic review of evidence on the effectiveness of college access programs with a focus on place-based programs

Rebecca Maynard, Wendy Castillo, and Gregory J. Collins

Promises fulfilled? A systematic review of the impacts of college promise programs

Elise Swanson, Angela Watson and Gary W. Ritter

The effect of the El Dorado promise scholarship on higher education, K-12, and community outcomes

Gary W. Ritter and Elise Swanson

Invited reactions

Louis Soares

Laura Perna

12:00 pm
to 1:00 pm

Lunch and Informal Networking

1:00 pm
to 2:45 pm

Research Paper Session 2

What Are the Effects of Single Institution Promise Programs?

Session Chair: Jillian Johnston

An event history analysis of the introduction of single institution “promise” student financial aid programs

Jennifer A. Delaney and Elaine W. Leigh

The promise of free college and impacts on enrollment: Differences across race and socioeconomic status

Denise Gandara and Amy Li

Community college promise programs: A multi-site examination of program impacts on college access using a geographically-based difference-in-differences approach

Roman Ruiz, Elaine W. Leigh, and Ashley Napier

The impact of a promise: A loan replacement grant, low-income students, and college graduation

Susan Gershenfeld, Denice Ward Hood, and Min Zhan

Invited reactions

Jennifer Iriti

Mary Rauner

2:45 pm
to 3:15 pm

Break / Snacks and Informal Networking

3:15 pm
to 4:45 pm

Research Paper Session 3

What Are the Effects of State-Level Promise Programs?

Session Chair: Dorothy Villarreal

Origins and outcomes: Understanding the state-designated Michigan Promise Zones

Meredith Billings

Fulfilling the promise? Early findings on Oregon’s new college grant program

Michelle Hodara and Manuel Vazquez

Keeping the promise: Early outcomes of Tennessee’s tuition-free college initiative

Emily House and Madison Dell

Invited reactions

Kate Shaw

Jacob Fowles

4:45 pm
to 5:00 pm

Reflections

Laura Perna

5:15 pm
to 7:15 pm

Reception



Day 2: OCTOBER 20, 2017

*Location: Inn at Penn, Conference Center, St Mark's Room
(Address: 3600 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104)*

8:00 am
to 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast and Networking

8:30 am
to 10:30 am

Research Paper Session 4 What Have We Learned From The Degree Project?

Session Chair: Jeremy Wright

The unintended effects of free college and performance aid programs:
Tests of behavior economic theories with a randomized trial

Douglas Harris

Money, messaging, and misalignment

Debbie H. Kim and Kelly K. Rifelj

The counselor is in: Counselors' perceptions of college preparation
in promise scholarship high schools

John B. Diamond, Kelly K. Rifelj, and Hilary Lustik

Improving college readiness? Urban high school student experiences
in a promise program

*Tangela Blakely Reavis, John B. Diamond, Raquel Farmer-Hinton,
Tait Kellog, and Regina Figueriedo-Brown*

Evidence of failure: How high school counselors and administrators make
sense of promise scholarship merit requirements

Kelly K. Rifelj and Paul J. Kuttner

Invited reactions

Manuel González Canché

Michelle Miller-Adams

10:30 am
to 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am
to 11:15 am

Reflections

Mary Anne Schmitt-Carey

11:15 am
to 12:00 pm

Conclusions / Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Laura Perma and Mary Rauner

12:00 pm
to 2:00 pm

Lunch and Informal Discussion (Boxed Lunch)