

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Laura J. Ahlstrom  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Oklahoma State University  
250 Business Building  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
(405) 744-8655  
[laura.ahlstrom@okstate.edu](mailto:laura.ahlstrom@okstate.edu)  
[www.laurajahlstrom.com](http://www.laurajahlstrom.com)

### Academic Position

---

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Economics, *August 2018 - Present*  
Oklahoma State University

### Education

---

**Ph.D.**, Economic Education, University of Delaware, *2018*

Dissertation: Where are the Women? The Gender Gap Among Undergraduate Economics and Finance Degree Selection

Chair: Carlos J. Asarta, PhD.

**M.A.**, History, Villanova University, *2004*

**B.S.E.**, Social Studies Education (Magna Cum Laude), Millersville University of Penn., *1998*

### Professional Experience

---

**Dissertation Fellow**,

University of Delaware, *August 2017 – May 2018*

**Graduate Instructor**,

University of Delaware, Department of Economics, *2013 – 2017*

**Graduate Assistant**,

M.A. in Economics and Entrepreneurship for Educators, University of Delaware, *2015, 2017*

Delaware Social Studies Education Project, University of Delaware, *2012 – 2013*

**Social Studies Teacher**,

Conestoga High School, Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, *2001 – 2014*

**Social Studies Teacher (Long-Term Substitute)**,

Owen J. Roberts High School, Owen J. Roberts School District, *2000 – 2001*

Garden Spot Middle School, Eastern Lancaster County School District, *1999 – 2000*

Octorara High School, Octorara Area School District, *1998 – 1999*

## Research Interests

---

Primary: Economic Education, Economics of Education

Secondary: Economics of Gender, Development Economics, Labor Economics

## Publications

---

### Research

“The Gender Gap in Undergraduate Economics Course Persistence and Degree Selection,” with Carlos J. Asarta. 2019, *AEA Papers & Proceedings*, 109: 255-260.  
<https://doi.org/10.1257/pandp.20191103>

“Navigating the Economics Major: The Effect of Gender on Students’ Degree Pathways,” with Carlos J. Asarta. In J. Hall and K. Lawson (Eds.), *Teaching Economics: Perspectives on Innovative Economics Education*. 2019, New York City: Springer Publishing Co., 115-136.

“Exploring Increasing Income Inequality in the U.S.: A Public Choice Approach,” with Franklin G. Mixon, Jr. and Kamal P. Upadhyaya. 2019. *Compensation and Benefits Review*, 50(4): 181-188. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886368719842726>.

### Pedagogical

*War Movies and Economics: Lessons from Hollywood’s Adaptations of Military Conflicts*. with Franklin G. Mixon, Jr. (Eds.), Routledge, *forthcoming*.

“The Private Provision of a Public Good: An Examination of Hollywood’s Adaptation of the Third Servile War,” with Franklin G. Mixon, Jr., In *War Movies and Economics: Lessons from Hollywood’s Adaptations of Military Conflicts*. Routledge, *forthcoming*.

“[‘Another Day, Another Vlog’: The Alchian-Allen Theorem, Social Media, and Long-Distance Relationships](#),” with Franklin G. Mixon, Jr. 2018. *Perspectives on Economic Education Research*, 11(1): 88-97.

“[Sweet Potato Pie](#),” St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, 2015.

## Teaching Experience

---

### Oklahoma State University

Microeconomic Principles for Business, 2018 – Present

### University of Delaware

Economic Issues and Policies, 2013 – 2017

Introduction to Macroeconomics, 2015

### Conestoga High School

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics, 2005 – 2012, 2013 – 2014

Advanced Placement Microeconomics, 2005 – 2012, 2013 – 2014

## Research and Contributions in Progress

---

### Working Papers

- “Does Participation and Performance on Advanced Placement Economics Exams Predict Undergraduate Economics Degree Completion?” 2019 – 2020.
- “Gender and Performance in Intermediate Microeconomics: Does the Format of the Principles of Microeconomics Course Matter? with Carlos J. Asarta and David Switzer, 2019 – 2020.
- "Instructor Gender and Student Performance in Introductory Economics Courses: Is There a Role Model Effect?" with Rebecca G. Chambers, 2018 – 2020.
- “Women in the Finance Major: Gender Disparities in Finance Course Completion and Degree Attainment,” with Laura Field, 2018 – 2020.

### Works in Progress

- "Grades as Reference Points: Impact on Performance and Motivation," with Mariya Burdina, 2019 – 2020.
- "The Economics Course Performance of Transfer Students," with Carlos J. Asarta and Andrew Perumal, 2018 – 2020.

## Professional Activities (\*Scheduled)

---

### Research Presentations

- “Grades as Reference Points: Impact on Performance and Motivation,” with Mariya Burdina, The Association of Private Enterprise Education Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, *April 2020\**
- “Does Participation and Performance on Advanced Placement Economics Exams Predict Undergraduate Economics Degree Completion?” ASSA/AEA Annual Meetings, San Diego, CA, *January 2020*
- “Active Learning with FRED: Two Examples,” with Diego Mendez-Carbajo and Alejandro E. Dellachiesa. Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. *November 2019*
- “Gender and Performance in Intermediate Microeconomics: Does the Format of the Principles of Microeconomics Course Matter?” with Carlos J. Asarta and David M. Switzer, Council for Economic Education (CEE) Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA. *October 2019*
- "Instructor Gender and Student Performance in Introductory Economics Courses: Is There a Role Model Effect?" with Rebecca G. Chambers. Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE), St. Louis, MO, *May 2019*
- “Women and the Undergraduate Economics Major,” University of Delaware, *April 2019 (invited)*
- “The Gender Gap in Undergraduate Economics Course Persistence and Degree Selection,” with Carlos J. Asarta. ASSA/AEA Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA, *January 2019*
- “Does Taking A Principles of Economics Course Online Influence Student Performance in Intermediate Economics Courses?” with Carlos J. Asarta and David Switzer, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., *November 2018*

- “Completing an Economics Degree: The Role of Gender, Grades, and Initial Major Selection,” Marion Steele Research Symposium, University of Delaware, *May 2018*
- “Navigating the Economics Major: The Effect of Gender on Students’ Degree Pathways,” with Carlos J. Asarta. The Association of Private Enterprise Education Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, *April 2018*
- “Gender Differences in Undergraduate Economics Course Persistence and Degree Selection,” ASSA/AEA Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, PA, *January 2018*
- “Economics Course Persistence and Degree Selection: An Exploration of Gender Differences among Undergraduate Students,” Council for Economic Education (CEE) Annual Conference, Brooklyn, NY, *October 2017*
- “Women in Economics and Finance: What the Research Shows,” Women in Business Summit, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, *April 2016*  
Women in Business Summit, University of Delaware, New York, NY, *May 2016*
- “Where are the Women? The Gender Gap Among Undergraduate Economics and Finance Majors,” Marion Steele Research Symposium, University of Delaware, *April 2016*
- “Gender Differences in Primary School Attendance in Nigeria,” Graduate Student Research Forum, University of Delaware, *April 2016*
- “Individual and Household Determinants of Child School Attendance in Nigeria,” Marion Steele Research Symposium, University of Delaware, *April 2015*
- “Introduction to the Three-Range Aggregate Supply Curve: A Cooperative Learning Activity,” ASSA/AEA Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, PA, *January 2014*

### **Pedagogical and Professional Development Presentations**

- “Hands-on Active Learning with FRED,” with Diego Mendez-Carbajo and Maria Arias. Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE), Chicago, IL, *May 2020\**
- “Economics in the News: Incorporating Clickers and Current Events in a Large Microeconomics Class,” The Association of Private Enterprise Education Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, *April 2020\**
- “FRED: Active Learning with Data,” with Diego Mendez-Carbajo, Yvetta Fortova, and Maria Arias. Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. *November 2019*
- “Beatrice’s Goat: Bringing Economics and Personal Finance into the Classroom at the Elementary Level,” Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, Meaningful Economics and Entrepreneurship (MEE) Competition, Oklahoma State University, *February 2019*

### **Discussant- Academic Conferences**

- “Flipping Introduction to Economics with Econlowdown.org,” Diego Mendez-Carbajo and C. Lucy Malakar, ASSA/AEA Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA, *January 2019*
- “An Investigation of (Un)Successful Performance and Repeats in Principles of Economics Courses,” Tisha Emerson and KimMarie McGoldrick, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., *November 2018*

“Key Institutions and Authors in Business and Management Education (BME): 2008-2017,”  
J.B. Arbaugh, Carlos J. Asarta, Regina Bento, Charles Fornaciari, Alvin Hwang, and Kathy  
Lund Dean. Eighth Annual AEA Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic  
Education (CTREE), San Antonio, TX, *June 2018*

“The Influence of Childhood Experiences on Financial Capability in Young Adulthood,”  
Madelaine L’Esperance, Cliff Robb, and J. Michael Collins. ASSA/AEA Annual Meetings,  
Philadelphia, PA, *January 2018*

“Cash ‘n Careers: Valuation of Human Capital,” Matthew Ross and James DeMello. Council  
for Economic Education (CEE) Annual Conference, Brooklyn, NY, *October 2017*

### **Chair- Conference Session**

Research Session: *Research on Teaching Economics*, Council for Economic Education (CEE)  
Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, *October 2019*

### **Ad Hoc Reviewer**

*Economics of Education Review*, 2020

National Science Foundation, *Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) Program*,  
Economic education grant proposals, 2019 – 2020

*International Research in Economics Education*, 2019 – 2020

*Eastern Economic Journal*, 2019

### **Service and Leadership Activities**

---

**Faculty Representative**, Spears School of Business

Core Curriculum Committee, OSU, 2018 – *Present*

Strategic Initiative Team 4: Curriculum Innovation Committee, OSU, 2018 – 2019

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, OSU, 2019 – *Present*

**Faculty Advisor**, Freshman Research Scholar Program, 2019

**Departmental Coordinator**, Meaningful Economics and Entrepreneurship (MEE)  
Competition, with Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, 2018 – *Present*

**Senator**, Graduate Student Government, University of Delaware, 2014 – 2015

**President**, Tredyffrin/Easttown Education Association, 2011 – 2013

**Team Coach**, National Economics Challenge, Conestoga High School, 2009 – 2012, 2014

Eleventh place, National Semi-Finals, 2014

First place, Pennsylvania State Finals, 2014

Second place, Pennsylvania State Finals, 2010, 2012

First place, Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Competition, 2010 – 2012, 2014

## **Honors and Awards**

---

Phil Saunders Best Economic Education Paper Award, for “Does Taking A Principles of Economics Course Online Influence Student Performance in Intermediate Economics Courses?” with Carlos J. Asarta and David M. Switzer, National Association of Economic Educators, *2020*

University Dissertation Fellow Award, University of Delaware, *2017*

Joan M. Williams Scholarship, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, *1997*

## **Professional Affiliations**

---

Member, American Economic Association

Member, National Association of Economic Educators

Member, Southern Economic Association