2025 Conference Program



Mid-Continent Regional Science Association 55th Annual Conference



IMPLAN Summit



Midwest Public Affairs Conference

June 4-6, 2025
University of Missouri Kansas City
Henry W. Bloch School of Management
Kansas City, MO

Thank You to Our Sponsors











Whitburn Center for Governance and Policy Research

The Mid-Continent Regional Science Association

Officers

Candi Clouse, Past President

IMPLAN

Dagney Faulk, President

Ball State University

Amanda Weinstein, President Elect

Center on Rural Innovation

Merissa Piazza, Vice President

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

G. Jason Jolley, Executive Director

Ohio University

Tessa Conroy, Representative to the North American Regional Science Council

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy

Joshua Hall, Editor-in-Chief

West Virginia University

Co-Editors:

Amir Neto

Florida Gulf Coast University

Jamie Pavlik

Texas Tech University

Advisory Editor:

Richard Cebula

University of Tennessee

The Midwest Public Affairs Association

Officers, Elected

Michael Ford, President (Interim)

Universities of Wisconsin

Thomas Skuzinski, Vice-President

Northern Illinois University

At Large:

Anne Williamson, Miami of Ohio

B.J. Fletcher, University of Illinois at Springfield

Eunjo Rho, Northern Illinois University

Officers, Appointed

Charles Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer

Ball State University

At Large:

Dagney Faulk, Ball State University

Brian Cherry, Northern Michigan

Sarah Larson, Miami of Ohio

Susan Opp, Program Chair

University of Missouri-Kansas City

The Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs

Chris Prentice, Editor

UNC-Wilmington

MCRSA, IMPLAN, & MPAC Program Schedule Overview June 4-6, 2025

University of Missouri - Kansas City, Kansas City, MO

Wednesday, June 4

3:00 - 5:00 pm	MCRSA Executive Committee (open invitation)
5:00 - 8:00 pm	Registration and Conference Reception - Sponsored by the Department of Public Affairs in the Henry W. Bloch School of Management at the University of Missouri- Kansas City

Thursday, June 5

7:45 - 10:30 am	Registration
7:45 - 8:45 am	Continental Breakfast - Sponsored by the School of Public & International Affairs - University of Georgia
8:45 - 9:00 am	Conference Welcome
9:00 - 10:30 am	Sessions 1, 2, 3, & 4
10:30 - 10:45 am	Conference Break
10:45 - 12:15 pm	Sessions 5, 6, & 7
12:15 - 1:45 pm	Conference Lunch, Awards, & Speaker - Sponsored by IMPLAN
2:00 - 3:30 pm	Sessions 8, 9, 10, & 11
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Conference Break
3:45 - 5:15 pm	Sessions 12, 13, & 14

Friday, June 6

7:45 - 8:45 am	Conference Breakfast Buffet - Sponsored by the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service at Ohio University
8:00 - 8:45 am	MCRSA & MPAC Business Meetings - During Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 am	Sessions 15, 16, & 17
10:30 - 10:45 am	Conference Break
10:45 - 12:15 pm	Sessions 18 & 19
12:15 pm	Conference Adjourns

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MCRSA Executive Committee Meeting - Open Invitation

Location: Bloch Executive Hall 211

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Conference Welcome Reception

Location: Marion H Bloch Terrace and Park

Sponsored by the Department of Public Affairs in the Henry W. Bloch School of Management at the University of Missouri- Kansas City



Registration

Location: Marion H Bloch Terrace and Park

Thursday, June 5, 2025

7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Registration & Continental Breakfast

Sponsored by the School of Public & International Affairs - University of Georgia

Location: Bloch Executive Hall Atrium and 218

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Conference Welcome



9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Session 1: The BEA Benchmark and Time Series Data in IMPLAN (IMPLAN Track)

Jenny Montell, PhD, IMPLAN Chief Economist

Every 5 years, after IMPLAN has incorporated the newest BEA Benchmark I-O tables and a new industry scheme, we re-estimate all IMPLAN data years from 2001 forward to a) incorporate non-lagged revised raw data, incorporate any methodological changes adopted across the previous 5 years, and c) put all data years into the same, new industry scheme. In this session, IMPLAN's Chief Economist and Data Officer, Jenny Montell, PhD, will discuss some of the changes incorporated into the new Time Series Data and will explore some of the new data.

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: Regional Cooperation and Economic Impact (MPAC Track)

moc midwest public affairs conference

Session Chair: Michael Ford, michael.ford@wisconsin.edu

Translating Local Knowledge into Regional Impact: How Learning in Polycentric Governance Systems Informs the "6 Regions, One Nebraska" Initiative

Josie Schafer, University of Nebraska at Omaha, jgschafer@unomaha.edu Morgan Vogel, University of Nebraska at Omaha,mdvogel@unomaha.edu Meagan Millier, University of Nebraska at Omaha,mmillier@unomaha.edu

Analyzing Nonprofit Business Enterprises as Engines of Regional Economic Development

Michael Tidwell, The University of Texas at Tyler, mtidwellphd@gmail.com

An Exploratory Analysis of Participants in the Illinois Angel Investment Tax Credit Program

Robert Kerr, University of Illinois at Springfield, rkerr6@uis.edu

Rebuilding Civic Capacity Through Innovation

Robert Smith, University of Illinois at Springfield, rsmit27@uis.edu

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Session 3: Energy, Climate, and Pollution (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: Michael Hicks, mhicks@bsu.edu

The Impacts of Wildfires and Wildfire-induced Air Pollution on Mortality in the United States

Zeying Huang, Citibank, huangze2@msu.edu Mark Skidmore, MIchigan State University, mskidmor@msu.edu

Equalizing the Energy Cost Burden among Low-Income Households in Illinois: An Empirical Model for Predicting Disparate Energy Costs

Enoch Boateng, University of Illinois Springfield, eboat3@uis.edu Richard Funderburg, University of Illinois Springfield, rfund2@uis.edu David Wortman, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, david.wortman@illinois.gov

Tanneries in Kanpur, India, Water Pollution in the Ganges, and Unitization

Amit Batabyal, Rochester Institute of Technology, aabgsh@rit.edu

Discussants: Enoch Boateng Amit Batabyal Mark Skidmore

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Session 4: Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy Special Issue on Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Tourism #1 (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: G. Jason Jolley, jolleyg1@ohio.edu

Did the NFL Draft in Detroit Generate Over \$200 million in Economic Impact? Some Evidence from Hotel Data

Kendra Williams, West Virginia University Joshua Hall, West Virginia University, joshua.hall@mail.wvu.edu

Targeting Aquaculture Development for Maximum Community Impact: Studies in CAMA Counties

William N. Ferris, Duke University, william.ferris@duke.edu

Best Practices of Economic Impact Modeling for Tourism: The Circleville Pumpkin Show

Clara Bone, Ohio University, bone@ohio.edu
Tuyen Pham, Ohio University, tuyen.pham@ohio.edu
Bozeman Koonze, Ohio University, bk263319@ohio.edu
G. Jason Jolley, Ohio University, jolleyg1@ohio.edu

Discussants: Will Ferris Tuyen Pham Josh Hall



10:45 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.

Session 5: Economic Impact of Health & Economy (IMPLAN Track)

Session Chair: Emefa Suprize Buaka

Economic, Social, and Healthcare Implications of Supporting the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Community

Emefa Surprize Buaka, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, esbuaka@uncg.edu

Impact of COVID-19-induced SSA Field Office Closures on Disability Benefit Applications

Caroline Welter, West Virginia University, caw00024@mix.wvu.edu

Discussants: Caroline Welter Emefa Suprize Buaka

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.



Session 6: Income, Labor, and Gentrification (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: Amit Batabyal

Inter-city competition for heterogeneous creative class members using tax policy
Amit Batabyal, Rochester Institute of Technology, aabgsh@rit.edu
Umana Huq, Rochester Institute of Technology, umanahuq@gmail.com

Transit Demand, Value of Travel Time and Gentrification Pressures: A 2019 Study
Mark Jelavich, Northwest Missouri State University, markjelavich@gmail.com

The Rural Economy and High Technologies: A Spatial Autoregressive Analysis of High Technology Indicators on Median Household Income

Lindsey Elliott, Center on Rural Innovation, lindsey.elliott@ruralinnovation.us

Discussants: Mark Jelavich Lindsey Elliot Amit Batabyal

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.



Session 7: International Health & Regulation (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: Hiranya Nath

Maternal and Child Health Interventions and Outcomes in India: Mapping Spatial Disparities on the Extended Canvas of SDG 3

Hiranya Nath, Sam Houston State University, eco_hkn@shsu.edu Tiken Das, Nowgong College, tikenhyd@gmail.com

Examining the Relationship between Local Plastic Regulations and Individual Consumer Behavior Towards Single-Use Plastics in Ilocos Norte, Philippines

Julia Crowley, University of Missouri-Kansas City, jcc45g@umkc.edu

Spatial Dynamics of Minimum Qualifying Yield and Productivity in India's Legal Opium Farming

Sachin Sisodiya, University of Cincinnati, sisodisb@mail.uc.edu Oliver Parent, University of Cincinnati, parentor@ucmail.uc.edu

Discussants: Julia Crowley Sachin Sisodiya Hiranya Nath

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Conference Buffet Luncheon, MCRSA & MPAC Awards

Sponsored by IMPLAN

- 1) Leadership Award
- 2) Distinguished Fellow Award
- 3) Early Career Award
- 4) 2025 Research Impact Award for the Most Outstanding Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy Article
- 5) M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition Award
- 6) Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs Best Article Award



2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Session 8: Tariffs and Economic Impact Analysis (IMPLAN Track)

Michael Nealy, IMPLAN, michael.nealy@implan.com

Join us for an insightful presentation on tariffs, where we'll explore their definition, impact on the economy, and the intricate dynamics of U.S. trade. Discover how tariffs, defined by Congress as taxes on imported goods and services, are used to protect domestic industries, advance foreign policy, and negotiate trade deals. We'll delve into the relevant assumptions of Input-Output analysis, examine the effects on prices, substitution, and domestic production, and analyze the regional specifics of import and export percentages. Learn how tariffs influence industries differently, with some thriving while others face challenges. Using IMPLAN data, we'll answer key questions about the manufacturing workforce, reliance on imports, and the economic shifts caused by price changes. We'll also provide detailed insights into U.S. exports and imports by region, industry, and commodity, and discuss the trade deficit and supply chain connections.

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Session 9: Institutions, Representation, and Power (MPAC Track)

moc midwest public offairs conference

Session Chair: Eric Zeemering

Representative Bureaucracy and Legal Settlement Dynamics in Local Government

Shuangyu Chen, Indiana University Bloomington, sc83@iu.edu Temirlan T. Moldogaziev, Indiana University Bloomington, temirlan@iu.edu

Exploring Variation of Anchor Institutions in the US Regions

Ignacio Ruelas Avila, Center for Public Affairs Research at University of Nebraska at Omaha, iruelasavila@unomaha.edu
Josie Schafer, Center for Public Affairs Research at University of Nebraska at Omaha, jgschafer@unomaha.edu

The Federalist Papers and Today's Public Administration

Eric Zeemering, University of Georgia, eric.zeemering@uga.edu

Implementing Equity in Transportation: The Federal Highway Administration's Program to Reconnect Communities and Neighborhoods

John Bartle, University of Nebraska at Omaha, jbartle@unomaha.edu Michael Lee, University of Nebraska at Omaha, mlee50@unomaha.edu

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Session 10: MCRSA Presidential Symposium

Session Chair: Amanda Weinstein

The Entrepreneurial Climate Survey: Results by Geography

Tessa Conroy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, tessa.conroy@wisc.edu

The Changing Landscape of Rural Health and Healthcare Access in the United States, 2000-18

Elizabeth A. Dobis, US Department of Agriculture, elizabeth.dobis@usda.gov

Rural America's Struggle to Access Private Capital

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation, amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us

Adam Dewbury, Center on Rural Innovation, adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us

Discussants:

Elizabeth A. Dobis Amanda Weinstein Tessa Conroy

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Session 11: Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy Special Issue on Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Tourism #2 (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: G. Jason Jolley

Two Paths to Green Growth: A Comparative Econometric and Multiplier Analysis of Community Solar and Ecotourism in Rural Economies

Nadege Ngomsi, University of Missouri Kansas City, nknty5@mizzou.edu

Zoning Access and Regional Economic Outcomes: Exploring the Hidden Barriers to Agritourism Growth in the North Central U.S.

Yue Teng-Vaughan, Kansas State University, ytvaughan@ksu.edu Kevin Roberts, Kansas State University, kevrob@k-state.edu

Tariffs and Tourism: Modeling the Economic Ripple Effects of U.S. Trade Policy on Hawaii's Economy

Mark Howard, Springfield College, mhoward2@springfieldcollege.edu

Discussants:

Yue Teng-Vaughan Mark Howard Nadege Ngomsi

3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.



Session 12: IMPLAN Global (IMPLAN Track)

Ashley Bickel, IMPLAN, ashley.bickel@implan.com

This presentation outlines IMPLAN's suite of global data offerings. Included are the Canada Provincial Product, featuring data for each of Canada's ten provinces and three territories, and the International Product, which provides national-level data for 76 countries, inclusive of the United States and Canada. Key aspects to be discussed are the key features, data sources, and considerations when conducting analyses with these products.

3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Session 13: Education Governance and Reform (MPAC Track)

Session Chair: Michael Ford, Michael.Ford@wisconsin.edu



Publicness and Accessibility in Higher Education: Does Institutional Publicness Influence the Enrollment of Disadvantaged Students?

Bulbul Ahmed, The University of Oklahoma, bulbul.ahmed-1@ou.edu

Education Funding Reform and Public Opinion

Charles Taylor, Ball State University, cdtaylor@bsu.edu

Partisan Political Participation in School Board Elections: Results from a National Survey

Michael Ford, Whitburn Center at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Michael.Ford@wisconsin.edu

Trauma in the Classroom: Investigating Emotional Labor in Active Shooter Drills

Sheldon Brennemann, University of Nebraska at Omaha, sbrennemann@unomaha.edu

3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.



Session 14: M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: Dagney Faulk, dgfaulk@bsu.edu

Changes in State Minimum Wage and the Price of Food Away from Home Fernanda Alfaro-Gonzalez, Michigan State University, alfarog3@msu.edu

Short-term Impact of Wildfire on Retail Gasoline Prices

Ye-Rim Lee, Michigan State University, leeye12@msu.edu

Discussants: Amanda Weinstein Merissa Piazza

7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Conference Breakfast and MCRSA Business Meeting (during breakfast)



Sponsored by the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service at Ohio University

Location: Bloch Executive Hall 414

All MCRSA attendees are invited to attend the business meeting. The meeting includes information about the state of the Association, election of board members and an update on the *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*.

7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Conference Breakfast and MPAC Business Meeting (during breakfast)

Location: Bloch Executive Hall 413

All MPAC attendees are invited to attend the business meeting for an update on the state of MPAC and the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*.

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Session 15: Economic Impact of Federal, State, and Local Policy (IMPLAN Track)

Session Chair: Tuyen Pham

Assessing the Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Medicaid Using REMI

Alejandro Madrigal, Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), alejandro.madrigal@remi.com

Trade Tensions and Regional Vulnerability: How Canadian Tariffs Threaten Ohio's Economy

Tuyen Pham, Ohio University, tuyen.pham@ohio.edu Kenny Anderson, Ohio University, ka881120@ohio.edu

Wine Tourism, Rural Placemaking, and Development: The Case of Arizona's Emerging Wine Regions

Feifei Zhang, Northern Arizona University, feifei.zhang@nau.edu Tom Pitts, Tom Pitts Consulting, verdevalleywine.tom@hotmail.com

Discussants: Tuyen Pham Feifei Zhang Alejandro Madrigal

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Session 16: Regional Economic Development, Investments and Taxes (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: Merissa Piazza, merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org

Fiscal Competition or Ideological Alignment? A Study on the Spatial Diffusion of Income Tax Policies

Daniel Centuriao, West Virginia University, dc00041@mix.wvu.edu Joshua Hall, West Virginia University, joshua.hall@mail.wvu.edu

The Growing Role of Community Development Finance in Economic Development

Merissa Piazza, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org Mark Schweitzer, Case Western Reserve University

Does the Local Economy Benefit from the Entry of Low Cost Airlines?

Mouhcine Guettabi, University of North Carolina Wilmington, quettabim@uncw.edu

Discussants:
Merissa Piazza
Mouhcine Guettabi
Daniel Centuraio

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Session 17: Renewable Energy Policy (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: Dagney Faulk, dgfaulk@bsu.edu

Towards the Economic Effects of Renewable Energy Restrictions: Evidence from Indiana, USA

Michael Hicks, Ball State University, mhicks@bsu.edu
Dagney Faulk, Ball State University, dgfaulk@bsu.edu
Seth Payton, Ball State University, seth.payton@bsu.edu
Sarah Orzechowski, Ball State University, sarah.orzechowski@bsu.edu

A Hedonic Analysis of Wind Power Facilities in Indiana

Seth Payton, Ball State University, seth.payton@bsu.edu Dagney Faulk, Ball State University, dgfaulk@bsu.edu Michael Hicks, Ball State University, mhicks@bsu.edu

Discussants:
Mark Skidmore, mskidmor@msu.edu
Biswa Das, bdas@iastate.edu



10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Session 18: Economic Impact of Universities (IMPLAN Track)

Session Chair: Kristen Blazek

Casting Spells on the Economy: The Economic Impact of a Wizarding School on a National Economy

Kristen Blazek, Cleveland State University, k.blazek@csuohio.edu

Collegiate Deathpool

Jim Long, Friends University, James_long@friends.edu Lidia DiLollo, Friends University, lidia_dilollo@student.friends.edu Nicholas Foley, Friends University, nicholas_foley@student.friends.edu William Logan, Friends University, william logan@student.friends.edu

When Colleges Drop out of the Economy

Candi Clouse, IMPLAN, candi.clouse@implan.com Kristen Blazek, Cleveland State University, k.blazek@csuohio.edu

Discussants: Jim Long Kristen Blazek Candi Clouse

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



Session 19: Urban and Rural Infrastructure (MCRSA Track)

Session Chair: Amanda Weinstein, amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us

Engines of Access: The Role of Public Transportation in Supporting Community Vitality and Economic Participation in Rural Iowa

Biswa Das, Iowa State University, bdas@iastate.edu

Ohio Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership 2024 Skillshed Analysis

Tuyen Pham, Ohio University, tuyen.pham@ohio.edu Laurie McKnight, Ohio University, laurie.mcknight@ohio.edu G. Jason Jolley, Ohio University, jolleyg1@ohio.edu Julie Mauer, The Ohio State University, maurer.99@osu.edu

Beyond the Ivory Tower: Understanding the Impact of Rural Higher Education Institutions on Local Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation, amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us
Lindsay Elliot, Center on Rural Innovation
Adam Dewbury, Center on Rural Innovation

Discussants: Tuyen Pham Amanda Weinstein Biswa Das



School of Public & International Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



YOUR ECONOMIC IMPACT. **QUANTIFIED.**

Discover how you can use IMPLAN Cloud to unlock insights from economic data and analytics for better business decisions and to build a better world.

WHO USES IMPLAN?

Academics, advocates, decision-makers, and business leaders use IMPLAN to gain insight into the influence that their decisions and operations have on their economies. IMPLAN arms you with the key insights to communicate your cause through intuitive

HOW IS IMPLAN USED?

IMPLAN users model custom economic impacts, learn how economies function, and even quantify contributions to them. The application is designed to make the process simple.

BUILT BY ACADEMICS AND TRUSTED FOR OVER 40 YEARS









Call (800) 507 9426 or email sales@implan.com to learn more.

IMPLAN







Thank You to Our Sponsors











Whitburn Center for Governance and Policy Research