

# 2026 Conference Program



**Mid-Continent Regional Science Association  
56th Annual Conference**



**IMPLAN Summit**



**Midwest Public Affairs Conference**

**June 10-12, 2026  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs  
Chicago, IL**

# Thank You to Our Sponsors



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# **The Mid-Continent Regional Science Association**

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Amanda Weinstein, President  
Center on Rural Innovation

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Ohio University

Dagney Faulk, Past President  
Ball State University

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Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

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Daniel Centuriao, Student Member  
West Virginia University

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Daniel Centuriao, Production Editor  
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University of Tennessee

# **The Midwest Public Affairs Conference**

## **Officers, Elected**

Thomas Skuzinski, President  
Northern Illinois University

Michael Ford, Past-President  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

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

## **The Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs**

Chris Prentice, Co-Editor  
UNC-Wilmington

Richard Clerkin, Co-Editor  
UNC-Wilmington

# **MCRSA, IMPLAN, & MPAC Program Schedule Overview**

## **June 10-12, 2026**

**University of Illinois - Chicago, Chicago, IL**

### **Wednesday, June 10**

- 3:00 - 5:00 pm MCRSA Executive Committee (open invitation)
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm Registration and Conference Reception
- 7:00 pm Dinner on your own

### **Thursday, June 11**

- 8:00 - 10:30 am Registration
- 8:00 - 8:45 am Continental Breakfast
- 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, 8
- 12:15 - 1:45 pm Conference Lunch, Awards, & Speaker
- 2:00 - 3:30 pm Sessions 9, 10, 11, 12
- 3:30 - 3:45 pm Conference Break
- 3:45 - 5:15 pm Sessions 13, 14, 15, 16
- 6:00 pm Dinner on your own

### **Friday, June 12**

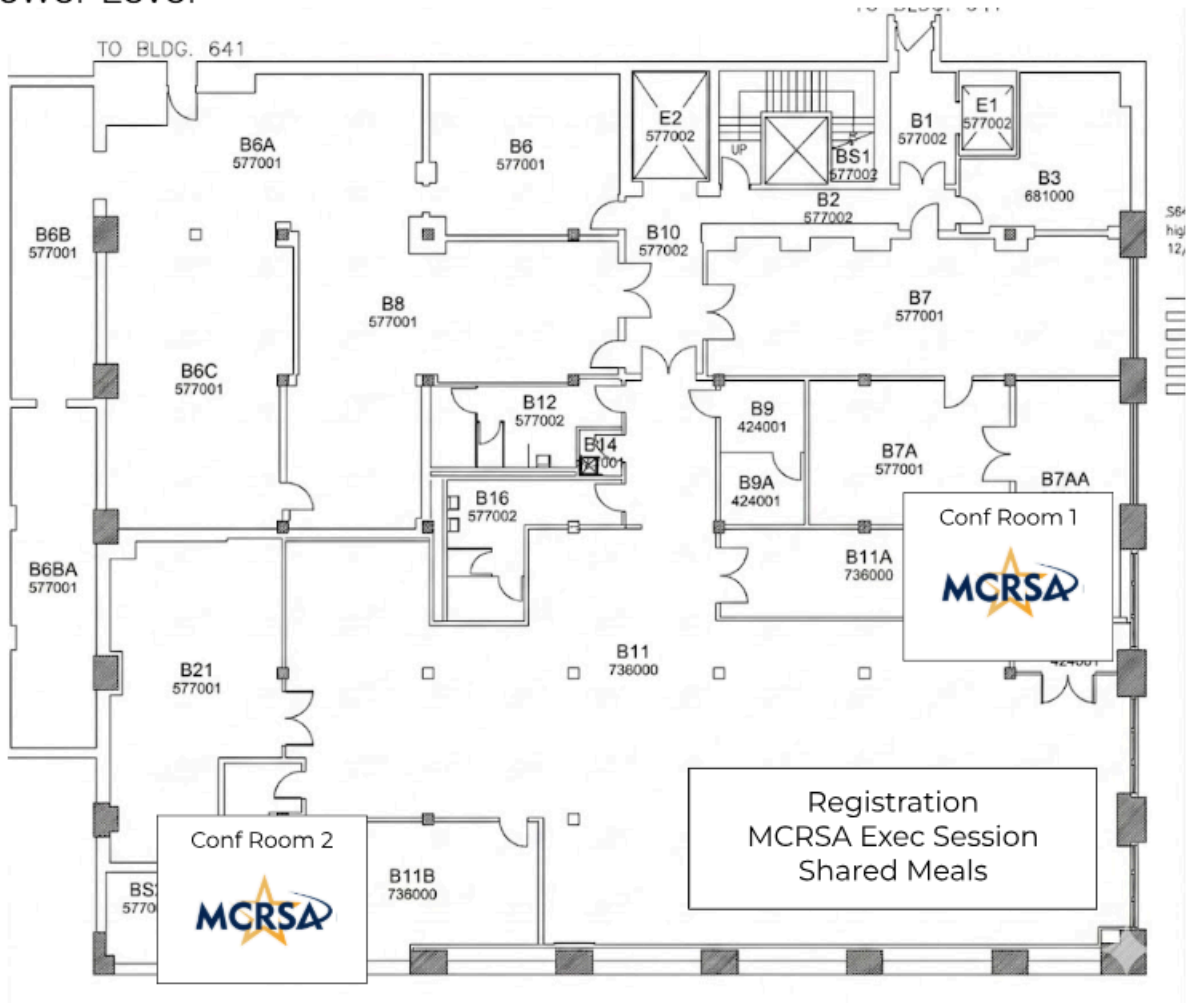
- 8:00 - 8:45 am Conference Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 - 8:45 am MCRSA & MPAC Business Meetings - During Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 am Sessions 17, 18, 19
- 10:30 - 10:45 am Conference Break
- 10:45 - 12:15 pm Sessions 20, 21, 22, 23
- 12:15 pm Conference Adjourns

# Session Locations

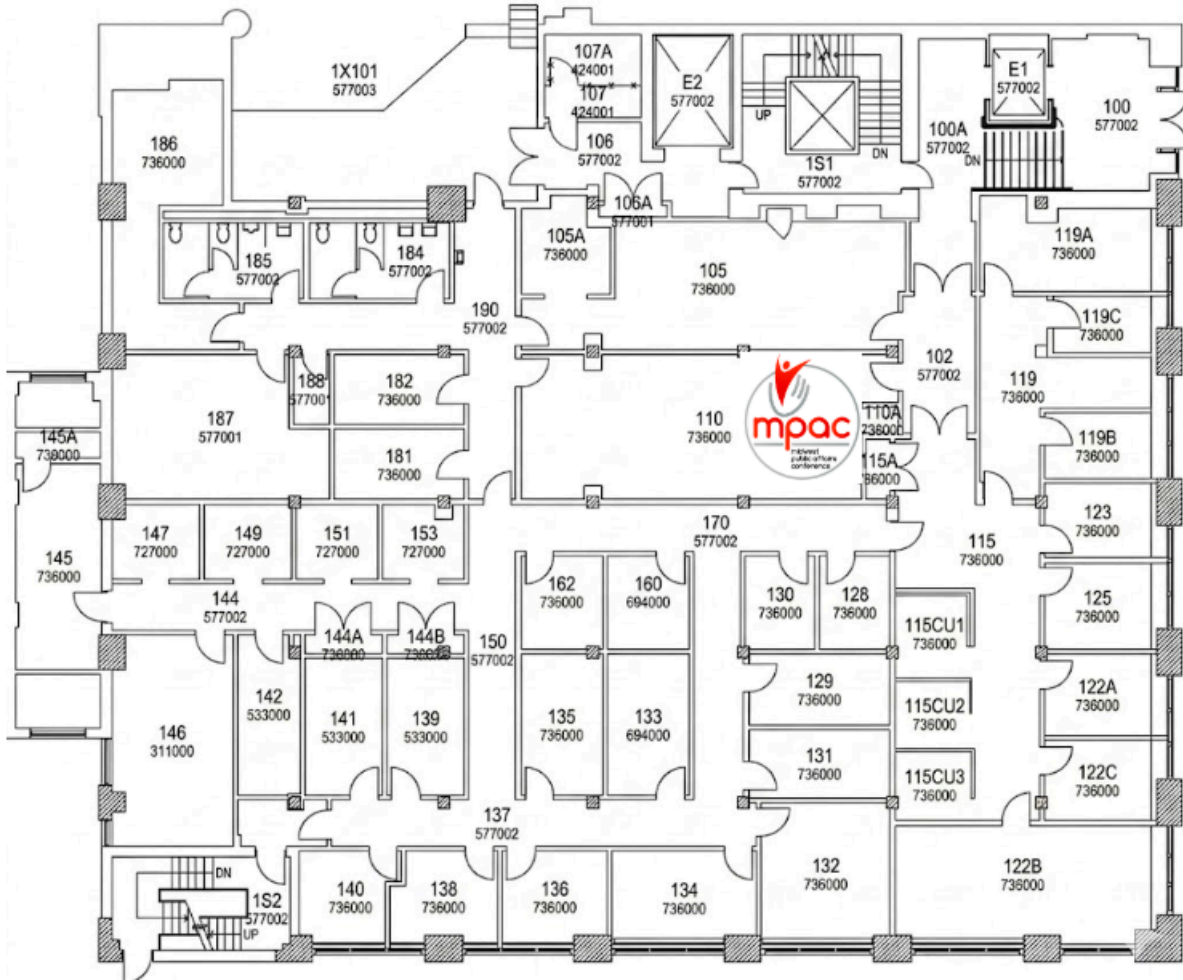
University of Chicago  
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
412 S Peoria St, Chicago, IL 60607

MCRSA Track - Lower Level Conference Room 1 & 2  
MPAC Track - First Level Conference Room 110  
IMPLAN Track - Second Level Room 202

## Lower Level



# First Floor





## **Wednesday, June 10, 2026**

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

**MCRSA Executive Committee Meeting - Open Invitation**

*Location: Lower Level Common Area*

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Conference Welcome Reception & Registration  
sponsored by IMPLAN**

*Location: Kaiser Tiger*

*1415 W Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60607*

The IMPLAN logo consists of the word "IMPLAN" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a teal-colored rectangular box.

7:00 p.m.

**Dinner on your own**

## **Thursday, June 11, 2026**

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

**Registration & Continental Breakfast**

*Location: Lower Level Common Area*

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

**Conference Welcome**

*Location: Lower Level Common Area*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**



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

**Session 1: Regional Economic Impact (IMPLAN Track)**

Session Chair: Tuyen Pham, Ohio University, [tuyen.pham@ohio.edu](mailto:tuyen.pham@ohio.edu)

**Assessing Regional Economic Resilience to Environmental and Energy Transitions: A Comparative Analysis of Ohio**

Tuyen Pham, Ohio University, [tuyen.pham@ohio.edu](mailto:tuyen.pham@ohio.edu)

G. Jason Jolley, Ohio University, [jolleyg1@ohio.edu](mailto:jolleyg1@ohio.edu)

**Mission Interrupted: The Economic Aftermath of Job Losses at NASA Glenn Research Center**

Kristen Blazek, Cleveland State University, [k.blazek@csuohio.edu](mailto:k.blazek@csuohio.edu)

**Evaluating the Regional Economic Impact of Hyperscale Data Centers: Forward- and Backward-Linkage Analysis of AWS' \$10 Billion Investment in Rural North Carolina**

Kristin Stowe, Wingate University, [kstowe@wingate.edu](mailto:kstowe@wingate.edu)

**Local Area Estimates of Outdoor-Recreation Economy**

Daniel Centuriao, West Virginia University, [daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu)

Discussants:

Kristen Blazek

Kristin Stowe

Daniel Centuriao

Tuyen Pham

*Location: Second Level Room 202*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 2: Social Policy Design: Administrative Burden, Education, and Community Resilience**

Session Chair: Anne Williamson, Miami University,  
[will1564@miamioh.edu](mailto:will1564@miamioh.edu)

**Institutional Alignment and Rural Livability: Public–Nonprofit Balance and Changes in Community Resilience**

Ignacio Ruelas Avila, University of Nebraska Omaha,  
[iruelasavila@unomaha.edu](mailto:iruelasavila@unomaha.edu)

**Administrative Burden, Work Requirements, and Insulin Access: Evaluating Section 1115 Demonstrations in the Era of OBBA**

Ty Dooley, University of Illinois Springfield, [tdool3@uis.edu](mailto:tdool3@uis.edu)  
Ben Barnard, University of Illinois Springfield, [bbarn4@uillinois.edu](mailto:bbarn4@uillinois.edu)  
Nkechi (Jacqueline) Ogwuazor, University of Illinois Springfield,  
[nogwu@uis.edu](mailto:nogwu@uis.edu)  
Pooja Sandhu, University of Illinois Springfield, [psand11@uis.edu](mailto:psand11@uis.edu)

**Coordinating Services for Homeless Students: Insights from a McKinney-Vento Liaison Survey**

Anne Williamson, Miami University, [will1564@miamioh.edu](mailto:will1564@miamioh.edu)

*Location: First Level Conference Room 110*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 3: Quality of Life in Regional Science (MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Tessa Conroy, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [tessa.conroy@wisc.edu](mailto:tessa.conroy@wisc.edu)

**Do Large Geographic Differences affect Amenity Preferences? Evidence from US Census Regions**

Michael Hicks, Ball State University, [mhicks@bsu.edu](mailto:mhicks@bsu.edu)

Heather Stephens, West Virginia University, [heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu)

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation, [amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us)

**Economic Growth and Quality of Life: A Carlino-Mills Approach**

Yang Cheng, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [cheng297@wisc.edu](mailto:cheng297@wisc.edu)

Tessa Conroy, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [tessa.conroy@wisc.edu](mailto:tessa.conroy@wisc.edu)

Steven Deller, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [scdeller@wisc.edu](mailto:scdeller@wisc.edu)

**Pulling Back the Curtain: How Measurement Decisions Shape Narratives of Livability**

Tessa Conroy, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [tessa.conroy@wisc.edu](mailto:tessa.conroy@wisc.edu)

Mckenzie Boyce, Oklahoma State University

Danielle Schmidt, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Discussants:

Yang Cheng

Tessa Conroy

Michael Hicks

Location: Lower Level Conference Room 1

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 4: Measuring Regional Economic Performance  
(MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Mouhcine Guettabi, University of North Carolina Wilmington,  
[guettabim@uncw.edu](mailto:guettabim@uncw.edu)

**California's Left Behind Places: What Left Them Behind and How to Identify Them**  
Fernando DePaolis, Middlebury Institute, [fdepaolis@middlebury.edu](mailto:fdepaolis@middlebury.edu)

**Has North Carolina's Tier System been effective?**  
Mouhcine Guettabi, University of North Carolina Wilmington,  
[guettabim@uncw.edu](mailto:guettabim@uncw.edu)

**Average Location Quotients**  
Jiyoung Park, University of Buffalo, [jp292@buffalo.edu](mailto:jp292@buffalo.edu)  
Jongsoo Lee, University of Kansas, [jongsoo@ku.edu](mailto:jongsoo@ku.edu)

Discussants:  
Mouhcine Guettabi  
Jiyoung Park  
Fernando DePaolis

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 2*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**



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

**Session 5: Applied Analysis with IMPLAN (IMPLAN Track)**

Session Chair: Candi Clouse, IMPLAN, [candi.clouse@implan.com](mailto:candi.clouse@implan.com)

**The Economic Blueprint of the Blue Line**

Whitney McKinzie, IMPLAN, [whitney.mckinzie@implan.com](mailto:whitney.mckinzie@implan.com)

**Measuring Trade Exposure and Regional Vulnerability using IMPLAN Foreign Trade Data**

Eric Clower, IMPLAN, [eric.clower@implan.com](mailto:eric.clower@implan.com)

**Estimating Regional Economic Impact in Tribal Economies: A Multi-Regional Input-Output Analysis of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations**

Sofia Vielma Delano, IMPLAN, [sofia.delano@implan.com](mailto:sofia.delano@implan.com)

**Economic Impacts of Tennessee Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Investments**

James Mingie, University of Tennessee, [jmingie@tennessee.edu](mailto:jmingie@tennessee.edu)

Robert Menard, University of Tennessee, [rmenard@tennessee.edu](mailto:rmenard@tennessee.edu)

Sreedhar Upendram, University of Tennessee, [supendra@tennessee.edu](mailto:supendra@tennessee.edu)

Discussants:

Eric Clower

Sofia Vielma Delano

James Mingie

Whitney McKinzie

*Location: Second Level Room 202*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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

**Session 6: Institutional Determinants: Forecasting,  
Taxation, and Collaborative Governance (MPAC Track)**



Session Chair: Thomas Skuzinski, Northern Illinois University,  
[tskuzinski@niu.edu](mailto:tskuzinski@niu.edu)

**How Statutes and Administrative Practices Shape Multi-Year State Expenditure  
Forecasting**

Christelle Khalaf, University of Illinois Chicago, [ckhalaf@uic.edu](mailto:ckhalaf@uic.edu)

Alisha Saini, University of Illinois Chicago

Deborah A. Carroll, University of Illinois Chicago, [deborahc@uic.edu](mailto:deborahc@uic.edu)

**Fiscal and Demographic Factors Leading to the Adoption of a Wheel Tax**

Mike Ford, University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh, [fordm@uwosh.edu](mailto:fordm@uwosh.edu)

**Intergovernmental Grant Systems as Local Government Capacity Amplifiers**

Thomas Skuzinski, Northern Illinois University, [tskuzinski@niu.edu](mailto:tskuzinski@niu.edu)

*Location: First Level Conference Room 110*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 7: Regional Sustainability (MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Dagney Faulk, Ball State University, [dgfaulk@bsu.edu](mailto:dgfaulk@bsu.edu)

**A Hedonic Analysis of Large-Scale Photovoltaic Projects in Indiana**

Dagney Faulk, Ball State University, [dgfaulk@bsu.edu](mailto:dgfaulk@bsu.edu)

Paul Niekamp, Ball State University, [pniekamp@bsu.edu](mailto:pniekamp@bsu.edu)

Michael Hicks, Ball State University, [mhicks@bsu.edu](mailto:mhicks@bsu.edu)

**ARISE 109: Preparing Appalachia for a Sustainable Electric Aviation Future (PASEAF)**

Laurie McKnight, Ohio University, [laurie.mcknight@ohio.edu](mailto:laurie.mcknight@ohio.edu)

Discussants:

Laurie McKnight

Dagney Faulk

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 1*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 8: Rural Issues in Regional Science (MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Lindsey Elliot, Center on Rural Innovation, [lelliott@albany.edu](mailto:lelliott@albany.edu)

**Exploring Place-Based Innovation for Sustainable Economic Growth and Community Well-Being: A Mixed-Methods Approach**

Lindsey Elliot, Center on Rural Innovation, [lelliott@albany.edu](mailto:lelliott@albany.edu)

Olivia Gonzalez, Center on Rural Innovation, [olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us)

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation,  
[amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us)

Adam Dewbury, Center on Rural Innovation, [adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us)

**Uneven Ground: Public Funding Gaps Between Rural and Nonrural America**

Olivia Gonzalez, Center on Rural Innovation, [olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us)

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation,  
[amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us)

Adam Dewbury, Center on Rural Innovation, [adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us)

Lindsey Elliot, Center on Rural Innovation, [lelliott@albany.edu](mailto:lelliott@albany.edu)

**Measuring the Pulse of Rural Entrepreneurship: Inside the Rural Entrepreneurship Index**

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation,  
[amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us)

Adam Dewbury, Center on Rural Innovation, [adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us)

Olivia Gonzalez, Center on Rural Innovation, [olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us)

Lindsey Elliot, Center on Rural Innovation, [lelliott@albany.edu](mailto:lelliott@albany.edu)

Discussants:

Olivia Gonzalez

Amanda Weinstein

Lindsey Elliot

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 2*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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

**Conference Buffet Luncheon, MCRSA, & MPAC Awards**

- 1) Leadership Award
- 2) Early Career Award
- 3) 2026 Research Impact Award for the Most Outstanding Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy Article
- 4) M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition Award
- 5) Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs Best Article Award

*Location: Lower Level Common Area*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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

**Session 9: Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy  
Special Issue: Higher Education and Economic Impact  
Analysis #1 (MCRSA & IMPLAN Track)**



Session Chair: G. Jason Jolley, Ohio University, [jolleyg1@ohio.edu](mailto:jolleyg1@ohio.edu)

**Applying Economic Impact Analysis in University Extension**

Nancy Bowen Ellzey, Ohio State University, [bowen-ellzey.1@osu.edu](mailto:bowen-ellzey.1@osu.edu)

**University location and city development: an interregional analysis**

John Madden, Victoria University, [john.madden@vu.edu.au](mailto:john.madden@vu.edu.au)

Trang Tran, Victoria University, [Trang.Tran1@vu.edu.au](mailto:Trang.Tran1@vu.edu.au)

Janine Dixon, Victoria University, [janine.dixon@vu.edu.au](mailto:janine.dixon@vu.edu.au)

**Estimating Out-of-Region Visitation for Regional University Economic Impact  
Studies: A Replicable Approach**

John Shannon, Florida Gulf Coast University, [jmshannon@fgcu.edu](mailto:jmshannon@fgcu.edu)

Amir Borges Ferreira Neto, Florida Gulf Coast University,  
[aborgesferreiraneto@fgcu.edu](mailto:aborgesferreiraneto@fgcu.edu)

**The Impact of West Virginia University Federal Research Grant Funding on  
the State's Economy**

Daniel Centuriao, West Virginia University, [daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu)

Heather Stephens, West Virginia University, [heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu)

Discussants:

John Madden

John Shannon

Daniel Centuriao

Nancy Bowen Ellzey

*Location: Second Level Room 202*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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

**Session 10: The Modern Administrator: Navigating Technological Shifts and Political Conflict (MPAC Track)**



Session Chair: Charles D. Taylor, Ball State University,  
[cdtaylor@bsu.edu](mailto:cdtaylor@bsu.edu)

**Factors Impacting City Manager Resignations and Terminations**

- Brian Cherry, Northern Michigan University, [bcherry@nmu.edu](mailto:bcherry@nmu.edu)
- Mike Ford, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, [fordm@uwosh.edu](mailto:fordm@uwosh.edu)
- Brianna Heidbreder, Kansas State University, [heidbr@ksu.edu](mailto:heidbr@ksu.edu)
- Douglas Ihrke, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, [dihrike@uwm.edu](mailto:dihrike@uwm.edu)
- Darya Salehi Mava, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**AI in Public Administration Education: A Study of Implementation and Faculty Perception. Assessing the current state of Faculty Perspectives and Curriculum Trends of AI**

- B.J. Fletcher, University of Illinois Springfield, [bplet@uis.edu](mailto:bplet@uis.edu)
- Michelle Graff, Georgia Institute of Technology,  
[michelle.graff@pubpolicy.gatech.edu](mailto:michelle.graff@pubpolicy.gatech.edu)
- Karry Hopkins, University of Illinois Springfield, [khopk3@uis.edu](mailto:khopk3@uis.edu)

**The GA in the Machine: Using AI to Extract Data from Administrative Records and Other Textual Sources**

- Charles D. Taylor, Ball State University, [cdtaylor@bsu.edu](mailto:cdtaylor@bsu.edu)

*Location: First Level Conference Room 110*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 11: MCRSA Presidential Symposium**

Session Chair: Merissa Piazza, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland,  
[merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org](mailto:merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org)

**Value of Qualitative Research in Regional Economic and Community Development Research**

Elizabeth Bogue Simpson, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta,  
[Elizabeth.Simpson@atl.frb.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Simpson@atl.frb.org)

Sarah Miller, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, [sarah.miller@atl.org](mailto:sarah.miller@atl.org)

Kristen Broady, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, [Kristen.Broady@chi.frb.org](mailto:Kristen.Broady@chi.frb.org)

Merissa Piazza, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland,  
[merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org](mailto:merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org)

**Workaround or Progress? Agritourism Operators' Responses to Regulatory Exemptions**

Kevin Roberts, Kansas State University, [kevrob@ksu.edu](mailto:kevrob@ksu.edu)

Yue Teng Vaughn, Kansas State University, [ytvaughan@ksu.edu](mailto:ytvaughan@ksu.edu)

**CDFIs Supportive Role in Community and Economic Development**

Merissa Piazza, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland,  
[merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org](mailto:merissa.piazza@clev.frb.org)

**Revisiting the Places of Innovation: A National Reassessment of Innovation Districts**

Kristen A Blazek, Cleveland State University, [k.blazek@csuohio.edu](mailto:k.blazek@csuohio.edu)

Molly Schnoke, Cleveland State University, [m.s.schnoke@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.s.schnoke@csuohio.edu)

Discussants:

Kevin Roberts

Merissa Piazza

Kristen Blazek

Sarah Miller

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 1*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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

**Session 12: Regional Food Supply (MCRSA Track)**



Session Chair: Sachin Sisodiya, University of Cincinnati,  
[sisodisb@mail.uc.edu](mailto:sisodisb@mail.uc.edu)

**How Do Targeted Subsidies Impact Market Structure? Evidence from SNAP  
ABAWD Waivers and Dollar Store Expansion**

Inder Majumdar, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [imajumdar@wisc.edu](mailto:imajumdar@wisc.edu)

**Spatial Analysis of Minimum Qualifying Yield and Productivity: Evidence from  
India's Legal Opium Farming**

Sachin Sisodiya, University of Cincinnati, [sisodisb@mail.uc.edu](mailto:sisodisb@mail.uc.edu)  
Oliver Parent, University of Cincinnati

Discussants:

Inder Majumdar

Sachin Sisodiya

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 2*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 13: M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition (MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Kristen Blazek, Cleveland State University, [k.blazek@csuohio.edu](mailto:k.blazek@csuohio.edu)

**Safe at Home: How Eviction Moratoria Reduced Domestic Violence in Chicago**  
Hoda Nouri, West Virginia University, [hn00012@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:hn00012@mix.wvu.edu)

**The Effect of the Ring of Steel, a Counterterrorism Security Intervention, on London's Housing Market**  
Carlos Sandoval Machado, West Virginia University, [ccs00038@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:ccs00038@mix.wvu.edu)

**Measuring Farmers Market Success: An Analysis of Appalachian Ohio**  
Chloe Christen, Ohio University, [cc732123@ohio.edu](mailto:cc732123@ohio.edu)

Discussants:  
Amanda Weinstein  
Kristen Blazek

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 1*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 14: Regional Development and Taxes (MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Michael Hicks, Ball State University, [mhicks@bsu.edu](mailto:mhicks@bsu.edu)

**My Tax Cap Runneth Over: The Spillover Effect of Assessment Growth Limits on Renters**

Timothy Hodge, Oakland University, [trhodge@oakland.edu](mailto:trhodge@oakland.edu)

Samuel Xie, Oakland University, [SXIE26@cranbrook.edu](mailto: SXIE26@cranbrook.edu)

**The Role of Local Taxes in House Values, Population Growth, and the Location of Business Establishments: Evidence from U.S. Counties**

Ali Enami, University of Akron, [aenami@uakron.edu](mailto:aenami@uakron.edu)

Dagney Faulk, Ball State University, [dgfaulk@bsu.edu](mailto:dgfaulk@bsu.edu)

Michael Hicks, Ball State University, [mhicks@bsu.edu](mailto:mhicks@bsu.edu)

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation,

[amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us)

**Measuring Local Government Levies' Responsiveness to the Property Tax Base**

David Merriman, University of Illinois - Chicago, [DMERRIM@uic.edu](mailto:DMERRIM@uic.edu)

Alea Wilbur-Mujtaba, University of Illinois - Chicago, [awilbu2@uic.edu](mailto:awilbu2@uic.edu)

Michael Van Huelle, University of Illinois - Chicago, [mvanhu2@uic.edu](mailto:mvanhu2@uic.edu)

Discussants:

Ali Enami

David Merriman

Timothy Hodge

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 2*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 15: Labor Markets, Skills, & Workforce Development (MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Heather Stephens, West Virginia University,  
[heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu)

**Ohio University's Role in Supporting Workforce Transition and Regional Resilience in the Chillicothe Region**

Laurie McKnight, Ohio University, [laurie.mcknight@ohio.edu](mailto:laurie.mcknight@ohio.edu)

Tuyen Pham, Ohio University, [tuyen.pham@ohio.edu](mailto:tuyen.pham@ohio.edu)

**Skill-based Occupational Connectivity and Local Labor Market Development**

Heather Stephens, Heather Stephens, West Virginia University,

[heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu)

Xiaoyin Li, West Virginia University, [xiaoyin.li@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:xiaoyin.li@mail.wvu.edu)

Discussants:

Laurie McKnight

Heather Stephens

*Location: First Level Conference Room 110*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

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



**Session 16: Exploring the Newest Data and Features of IMPLAN Canada (IMPLAN Track)**

Join Eric Clower, Director of Education Services at IMPLAN, for an introduction to the 2022 release of IMPLAN Canada, highlighting new data, features, and applications for economic impact analysis. The presentation will outline the scope of Canada's IMPLAN data, including national, provincial/territorial, and regional coverage across 236 industries, and it will emphasize enhancements such as improved tax impact reporting and expanded environmental and occupation satellite accounts. The presentation explains how environmental emissions and resource use, as well as detailed occupation, wage, hours, and core competency data, are integrated into economic modeling. Eric will then present a case study on the Nechako region in British Columbia demonstrating how these tools help assess the localized economic, workforce, and environmental impacts of sawmill industry closures and guide strategic, sustainable redevelopment decisions. The presentation concludes by encouraging users to apply IMPLAN data for local planning, workforce transition, and long-term economic resilience.

Eric Clower, IMPLAN, [eric.clower@implan.com](mailto:eric.clower@implan.com)

*Location: Second Level Room 202*

## Friday, June 12, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

### **Conference Breakfast and MCRSA Business Meeting**

(during breakfast)

*Location: Lower Level Common Area*



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*.

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

### **Conference Breakfast and MPAC Business Meeting**

(during breakfast)

*Location: First Level Conference Room 110*



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*.

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

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



**Session 17: Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy  
Special Issue Higher Education and Economic Impact  
Analysis #2 (MCRSA Track & IMPLAN Track)**



Session Chair: G. Jason Jolley, G. Jason Jolley, Ohio University,  
[jolleyg1@ohio.edu](mailto:jolleyg1@ohio.edu)

**The Political Economy of College Closure: Institutional Failure and the Quiet Loss  
of Public Knowledge**

Kristen Blazek, Cleveland State University, [k.blazek@csuohio.edu](mailto:k.blazek@csuohio.edu)

**Why University Alumni Impacts Don't Add Up**

G. Jason Jolley, Ohio University, [jolleyg1@ohio.edu](mailto:jolleyg1@ohio.edu)  
Candi Clouse, IMPLAN, [candi.clouse@implan.com](mailto:candi.clouse@implan.com)

**Universities as Regional Stabilizers: Real Resource Capacity and an IMPLAN  
Analysis of Economic Stress**

Nadège Ngomsi, IMPLAN, [nadege.ngomsi@implan.com](mailto:nadege.ngomsi@implan.com)

**Quantifying the Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Business Incentives: An Applied  
University Research Center Framework**

Deniz Gevrek, South Texas Economic Development Center,  
[deniz.gevrek@tamucc.edu](mailto:deniz.gevrek@tamucc.edu)

Discussants:

G. Jason Jolley  
Kristen Blazek  
Nadège Ngomsi

*Location: Second Level Room 202*

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

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



**Session 18: Labor Markets (MCRSA Track)**

**What AI Exposure Measures Reveal about Rural Labor Markets**

Olivia Gonzalez, Center on Rural Innovation, [olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:olivia.gonzalez@ruralinnovation.us)

Amanda Weinstein, Center on Rural Innovation,

[amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:amanda.weinstein@ruralinnovation.us)

Adam Dewbury, Center on Rural Innovation, [adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us](mailto:adam.dewbury@ruralinnovation.us)

Lindsey Elliot, Center on Rural Innovation, [lelliott@albany.edu](mailto:lelliott@albany.edu)

**Early Detection of Industry Distress: Combining Machine Learning and Economic Impact Analysis to Prioritize Workforce Interventions**

Thomas Hurley, Kansas Department of Commerce, [thomas.hurley@ks.gov](mailto:thomas.hurley@ks.gov)

Joseph Mwagura, Kansas Department of Commerce, [joseph.mwagura@ks.gov](mailto:joseph.mwagura@ks.gov)

Discussants:

Thomas Hurley

Olivia Gonzalez

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 1*

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

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



**Session 19: Technology and Regional Development  
(MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Caroline Welter, West Virginia University, [caw00024@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:caw00024@mix.wvu.edu)

**Transforming Public Finance through AI and Data Analytics: Insights from a  
Fulbright Specialist in Cairo, Egypt**

Anu Gokhale, Illinois State University, [aagokhale@ilstu.edu](mailto:aagokhale@ilstu.edu)

**Telehealth Access and Licensing Reform**

Caroline Welter, West Virginia University, [caw00024@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:caw00024@mix.wvu.edu)

Heather Stephens, West Virginia University, [heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu)

**Closing the Digital Divide: New Insights on U.S. Broadband Availability**

Daniel Centuriao, West Virginia University, [daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu)

Heather Stephens, West Virginia University, [heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu)

Discussants:

Caroline Welter

Daniel Centuriao

Anu Gokhale

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 2*

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

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



**Session 20: Regional Transit and Traffic (MCRSA Track)**

Session Chair: Daniel Centuriao, West Virginia University,  
[daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu)

**Trip Distribution Post-Pandemic and Disparate Impacts of Work from Home on Demands for Transit Services in Chicago: Evaluating Mobility Network Patterns from Mobile Phone Tracing Data**

Richard Funderburg, University of Illinois - Springfield, [rfund2@uis.edu](mailto:rfund2@uis.edu)

Tong Yee, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [tye23@uic.edu](mailto:tye23@uic.edu)

**Impact of Sporting Events on Traffic Safety**

Daniel Centuriao, West Virginia University, [daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:daniel.centuriao@mail.wvu.edu)

Discussants:

Aiden Powell

Daniel Centuriao

Richard Funderburg

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 1*

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

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

**Session 21: Regional Implications of Disasters and Energy (MCRSA Track)**



Session Chair: Christopher John Cruz, Grand Valley State University, [cruzch@gvsu.edu](mailto:cruzch@gvsu.edu)

**Disaster Recovery and Community-Dwelling Older Adults: An Intervention Study of Self-Efficacy**

Julia Crowley, University of Missouri - Kansas City, [jcc45g@umkc.edu](mailto:jcc45g@umkc.edu)

Steven Chestnut, University of Missouri - Kansas City, [schesnut@umkc.edu](mailto:schesnut@umkc.edu)

Kathleen Spears, University of Missouri - Kansas City, [kmspears@umkc.edu](mailto:kmspears@umkc.edu)

Sharon White-Lewis, University of Missouri - Kansas City,  
[whitelewiss@umkc.edu](mailto:whitelewiss@umkc.edu)

**The Impact of Hurricanes on Patents in Urban and Rural Areas of the United States**

Dilshad Jahan, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, [dilshad.jahan@siu.edu](mailto:dilshad.jahan@siu.edu)

**Natural Disaster Disruption and Recovery**

Mustahsin Aziz, West Virginia University, [ma00082@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:ma00082@mix.wvu.edu)

Discussants:

Dilshad Jahan

Mustahsin Aziz

Julia Crowley

*Location: Lower Level Conference Room 2*

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

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

**Session 22: Local Government and Regional Changes (MCRSA Track)**



Session Chair: Dagney Faulk, Ball State University, [dgfaulk@bsu.edu](mailto:dgfaulk@bsu.edu)

**The role of local government structure in community prosperity**

Erin Kenney, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [ebkenney@wisc.edu](mailto:ebkenney@wisc.edu)

Tessa Conroy, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [tessa.conroy@wisc.edu](mailto:tessa.conroy@wisc.edu)

Steven Deller, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [scdeller@wisc.edu](mailto:scdeller@wisc.edu)

**The co-location of the American creative class within cities 1850 to 1950**

Amir Borges Ferreira Neto, Florida Gulf Coast University,

[aborgesferreiraneto@fgcu.edu](mailto:aborgesferreiraneto@fgcu.edu)

Lucas Kuld, University of Limerick, [lukas.kuld@ul.ie](mailto:lukas.kuld@ul.ie)

Sara Mithell, University of Coimbra, [sara.mitchell@uc.pt](mailto:sara.mitchell@uc.pt)

**Temporal Change of Quality of Life**

Yang Cheng, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [cheng297@wisc.edu](mailto:cheng297@wisc.edu)

Tessa Conroy, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [tessa.conroy@wisc.edu](mailto:tessa.conroy@wisc.edu)

Steven Deller, University of Wisconsin - Madison, [scdeller@wisc.edu](mailto:scdeller@wisc.edu)

Discussants:

Amir Borges Ferreira Neto

Yang Cheng

Erin Kenney

*Location: First Level Conference Room 110*

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

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

**Session 23: Forecasting and The Future of IMPLAN & Follow the Flow: How Forward Linkages and Trade Shape What Comes Next (IMPLAN Track)**



Get a forward-looking perspective on economic impact analysis in this dynamic session featuring IMPLAN's next evolution. Michael Nealy from the Data Team introduces IMPLAN Forecasted Data, highlighting how new forecasting data can support proactive planning, scenario analysis, and more informed decision-making. Next, Nadège Ngomsi will show how forward linkages can be used in economic impact analysis to estimate how an industry's output supports downstream industries, revealing how initial production ripples through sectors that purchase, process, or distribute those goods and services. Finally, Whitney McKinzie will showcase how trade flow data can augment economic impact analysis by showing where goods and services are ultimately sold, helping refine impact estimates by distinguishing local, domestic, and export-driven effects.

Michael Nealy, IMPLAN, [michael.nealy@implan.com](mailto:michael.nealy@implan.com)  
Nadège Ngomsi, IMPLAN, [nadege.ngomsi@implan.com](mailto:nadege.ngomsi@implan.com)  
Whitney McKinzie, IMPLAN, [whitney.mckinzie@implan.com](mailto:whitney.mckinzie@implan.com)

*Location: Second Level Room 202*

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