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Born: September 14, 1986—Orlando, Florida

Nationality: United States of America

Education

2008- PhD in Economics, Northwestern University

2008 BA in Economics, University of Florida
Valedictorian, *Summa Cum Laude*

2008 BS in Mathematics and Statistics, University of Florida

Honors thesis: The Impact of School Choice on the Housing Market: Evidence from Florida
Advisor: Damon Clark

Abstract: While high stakes testing and school vouchers receive much media coverage, a lesser known education reform, open enrollment, has been quietly introduced across Florida. In 2003, Pinellas County implemented a district wide open enrollment program. This school choice reform allows parents to freely choose which district school their children attend. Proponents of the reform claim that without choice, high-income families buy the properties around high quality schools, denying poorer students access to high-quality education. By decoupling residence and school assignment, they claim choice will give poorer students equal access to high quality schools. Previous evidence supports the existence of this link between school quality and house prices. In this paper, I test the hypothesis that the introduction of choice substantially weakens the effect of school quality on house prices by using an innovative methodology introduced by Black (1999). Surprisingly, I find no evidence for a causal effect of school quality on house prices, even under a variety of sample restrictions which should have made the effect more prevalent. Consequently, the introduction of choice does not have an observable effect on house prices.

Research and work experience

- 2007 Research Assistant for Damon Clark, Department of Economics, University of Florida
- Papers assisted with include:
[The Impact of Education on Mortality and Health: Evidence from UK Compulsory Schooling Laws](#) by Damon Clark and Heather Royer
- [Selective Schools and Academic Achievement](#) by Damon Clark
- 2005-2008 Student Assistant, Public Utility Research Center, University of Florida
- Papers assisted with include:
[Aspiration and Real Options: A Behavioral Theory of Strategic Decision Making](#) by Richard Gentry
- [Making Telephone Service Affordable for Low-Income Households: An Analysis of Lifeline and Link-Up Telephone Programs in Florida](#) by Lynne Holt and Mark A. Jamison

Honors & fellowships

- 2008-2009 Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, Northwestern University
- 2008 Outstanding Four Year Scholar, University of Florida
- 2008 Phi Beta Kappa, University of Florida
- 2007 University Scholars Program Grant, University of Florida

Professional affiliations

- 2006- American Statistical Association
- 2005- American Economic Association

Software skills

Latex, Matlab, Stata, SAS, MS Access

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