

**Department of Education Reform Goals and Accomplishments**  
**2023**  
**Consolidated by Miranda Vernon**

This document summarizes and lists the Department of Education Reform (EDRE) accomplishments relative to its seven organizational goals for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2023.

The EDRE department included 8 faculty members (6 tenured or tenure track) and 10 doctoral students during that period.

The overarching goal of the department is to produce data-driven high-quality research that will directly inform policy makers, scholars, parents, teachers, administrators, and the public to advance education and economic development by focusing on the improvement of academic achievement in K-12 education and beyond. To this purpose, the EDRE department hosts the following research initiatives (<https://edre.uark.edu/research-initiatives.php>):

- [Arkansas Teacher Corps \(ATC\)](#)
- [The Classical Education Research Lab](#)
- [Charassein: The Character Assessment Initiative](#)
- [Office for Education Policy \(OEP\)](#)
- [School Choice Demonstration Project](#)
- [The Wai Lab](#)

The mission of the EDRE department is achieved through the pursuit of the following seven goals. A detailed list of accomplishments in 2023 corresponding to each of the goals can be found below. Here is a summary of our current strategies to satisfy these goals:

**Goal 1: Improve the quality of education provided to Arkansas children.**

EDRE faculty and students improve the quality of education in Arkansas through multiple avenues including advising stakeholders, conducting research, serving in key positions, and creating solutions. Concerning stakeholders, we advise the Arkansas Secretary of Education, members of the Arkansas Legislature, school leaders and educators. In terms of research, we achieve this goal through three avenues:

- OEP-initiated work often involving students and/or faculty in the department
- Faculty-initiated work often involving several faculty members and students
- Student-initiated work supervised by a faculty member

We also develop solutions to getting a quality teacher in as many Arkansas classrooms as possible. These solutions include:

- [ARteachers.org](#), a common application site for Arkansas public instruction openings
- Arkansas Teacher Corps which trains and places teachers in hard-to-staff classrooms
- An Assessment Tool which measures intellectual, relational, introspective, service, and other virtues in students

## **Goal 2: Develop & Implement demonstration projects in public schools.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students develop & implement field evaluations in public schools. For example, Dr. Albert Cheng conducts ongoing demonstration projects about the [effects of poetry on student learning outcomes](#) through his Classical Education Research Lab.

Dr. Gema Zamarro (and others) conducted an experimental evaluation of the effects of college campus visits during eighth grade on students' interest in and preparation for college. Their first paper on this subject was published in AERA-OPEN 2022. They plan to continue collecting administrative records from schools to study the effects in the middle-term and, eventually, collect information on college enrollment. The team now is focused on studying the effects of the Arkansas LEARNS Act's mandated increase in teacher salaries especially to better understand the impact on teacher recruitment and retention in rural school districts.

Robert Maranto is currently participating in two demonstration projects, The Project for Open Inquiry in the Behavioral Sciences and the Project for Reimagining School Boards.

## **Goal 3: Enhance a positive perception of education quality in Arkansas.**

EDRE graduates have moved into many positions that enhance their visibility and demonstrate the quality of education in Arkansas. Marilyn Rhames was hired as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the Baylor Center for School Leadership at Baylor University, Sarah Burks Moore (UA '15) is a member of the Arkansas State Board of Education, and Nate Jensen (UA '12) is the Director of Custom Analytics.

Moreover, EDRE faculty have been recognized for their contributions to the field of education reform. Maranto, McGee, Wolf and Zamarro were named among the [top 200 Education Scholars \(Edu-Scholars\)](#) in the U.S. by *Education Week* based on the public impact of their policy scholarship and presentations in 2023. Wai was awarded the [International Mensa Award for Research Excellence](#) from the Mensa Education and Research Foundation. Cheng received the [Rising STAR Award](#) from the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Professions, and Wai received the [Impactful Scholarship Award](#) from the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Professions.

## **Goal 4: Conduct a comprehensive and coordinated program of research within five priority areas: School Choice, Education Policy, Teacher Quality, Leadership, and Accountability and Transparency.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students conducted a range of research within each of the priority areas, as is evidenced through 19 journal articles, 5 book chapters, and 36 reports or working papers published in 2023.

## **Goal 5: Translate research findings into informational resources useful to school practitioners, policymakers, and other interested parties.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students leverage a variety of channels to translate research findings into informational resources useful to school practitioners, policymakers, and other interested parties, including op-eds, blog posts, data visualizations, and interviews.

**Goal 6: Serve as a state and national information source for public education in order to provide knowledge generated by research to a broad audience.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students serve as a state and national information source through invited presentations, expert panels, and policy briefings.

**Goal 7: Facilitate the scholarly exchange of views about education reform.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students facilitate scholarly exchanges by presenting academic papers, attending conferences, and serving on editorial and review boards.

### **EDRE Mission-Related Accomplishments- 1/1/2023-12/31/2023 Detailed List**

**EDRE Goal 1: Improve the quality of education provided to Arkansas children.**

EDRE faculty and students improve the quality of education provided to Arkansas children through many avenues, including advising stakeholders, conducting research, holding service positions, and developing solutions. They achieved **99 accomplishments** related to this goal in 2023.

#### **Advising Stakeholders:**

- McKenzie presented to curriculum leaders from the NWA Educational Service Cooperative about Value-Added Measures on February 8, 2023.
- McKenzie presented about the Arkansas Teacher Corps to the Arkansas Joint Education Committee on November 7, 2023.
- Wai presented to CSDPG 2023 Annual Meeting, "Talk with The Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted." (October 2023).
- Wai presented to Northwest Arkansas Gifted Coordinators Meeting at NWAESC, "Field notes from "adventures" in G/T research and policy." (2023).
- Wai presented to Rogers, AR Gifted and Talented Coordinators Meeting, "How can we support more Arkansas talent? Linking research, policy, communication, and practice." (2023).
- Wai presented to Northwest Arkansas Gifted Coordinators at NWAESC, "Supporting gifted and talented students in Arkansas and beyond." (2023).
- Wolf provided consulting services for the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute from May 2021 through December of 2023.
- Wolf is an academic consultant for Ozark Catholic Academy in Tontitown, AR.
- Wolf spoke to the members of the Arkansas House and Senate Education Committees about the research facts surrounding school choice on February 6, 2023.

#### **Conducting Research:**

- Wolf is the principal investigator and director of the School Choice Demonstration Project.
- Wai leads the Wai Lab, which conducts research on social science and education policy problems from a multidisciplinary perspective to help improve the lives of students in Arkansas, the nation, and around the world.
- Zamarro and McGee continue working alongside their graduate students to study the

Arkansas Teacher Pipeline. This collaborative project between EDRE, the Office of Education Policy, the Arkansas Department of Education, and the ARData Team aims to help inform policy to better recruit and retain quality teachers in Arkansas.

Service Positions:

- Cheng serves as a Committee Member, College Council, University of Arkansas
- Cheng serves as a Committee Member, Off Campus Duty Assignment, University of Arkansas
- Cheng serves as a Committee Member, EDRE Department Personnel Committee
- Cheng serves as a Faculty Sponsor, Bridges International
- Cheng serves as a Program Organizer, Central Consortium for Classical Educators Conference
- Cheng serves as a Committee Member, Global Home Education Exchange Research Committee
- Costrell served as chair for the COEHP Tenure and Promotion Committee in the Spring and Fall of 2023
- Maranto served as a member of the COEHP College Curriculum and Program Committee starting August 1, 2023
- Maranto sits on the Board of Directors for the Society for Open Inquiry in the Behavioral Sciences
- Maranto is a member of the Arkansas Advisory Committee for the US Civil Rights Commission
- Maranto serves on the Board of Directors for Achievement House Cyber Charter School in Exton, PA
- Maranto served as an external reviewer for the tenure and promotion committee at Furman University from August 1, 2023 through November 1, 2023
- Maranto served as an external reviewer for the tenure and promotion committee at Florida Atlantic University from May 1, 2023 through June 28, 2023
- Maranto served as an external reviewer for the tenure and promotion committee at Virginia Tech University from June 1, 2023 through June 15, 2023
- Maranto participated in the Ohio House Education Committee's hearing on HB-103, which would establish a task force to revise Ohio K-12 social studies standards, May 9, 2023
- McGee serves on the WE CARE Service to Arkansas Committee
- McGee serves on the Department of Education Reform Lecture Series Committee
- McGee serves on the Department of Education Reform Admissions and Fellowships Committee
- McGee serves on the University of Arkansas Research Reproducibility and Replicability Committee
- McGee serves on the University of Arkansas Data Science Program's Technical Advisory Committee
- McGee sits on the EdFund Board of Advisors
- McGee sits on the Equable Institute Board of Directors
- McGee sits on the MDRC Board of Directors
- McGee serves as co-lead for the Northwest Arkansas Region, Arkansas Department of Education Data Science and Computing Ecosystem
- McGee serves as the Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Training Workgroup co-lead for the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute Arkansas Education Policy Initiative
- McGee serves on the Arkansas Department of Education's Educator Preparation Program State Review Task Force
- McGee serves as Chair of the State of Arkansas' Data and Transparency Panel
- McGee is the State of Arkansas' Chief Data Officer

- McKenzie serves on the Department of Education Reform's Department Head Search Committee
- McKenzie presented to the Dean's Education Advisory Board in March 2023
- Wai serves as a grant and scholarship reviewer for the COEHP Study Abroad Committee
- Wai serves on the COEHP Impactful Research Committee
- Wai serves on the COEHP International Affairs Committee
- Wai serves on the COEHP Strategic Planning Committee
- Wai is a grant reviewer for the COEHP WE CARE initiative
- Wai serves on the COEHP College Wide Scholarship Committee
- Wai serves as Chair of the COEHP College Course and Program Committee
- Wai serves on the University of Arkansas' Distinguished Doctoral Fellows Review and Selection Committee
- Wai serves as an Academic Reputation Reviewer for QS World University Rankings
- Wai serves as an Academic Reputation Reviewer for Times Higher Education World University Rankings
- Wai serves as an Academic Reputation Reviewer for US News Best Global Universities Rankings
- Wai serves on the Gifted Child Quarterly paper of the year panel
- Wai serves as a grant reviewer for the National Endowment of the Arts
- Wai serves as a grant reviewer for the Swiss National Science Foundation
- Wai serves as an External Tenure and Promotion Letter Writer at the University of Georgia
- Wai sits on the Board of Advisors for the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth
- Wai sits on the Board of Advisors for the Virtual Center for Advanced Potential, Schmidt Futures
- Wai serves as a Grant Reviewer for the Mensa Foundation's Fellowships, and their Early Career Research Grant
- Wai serves as a Grant Reviewer for the UAE Ministry of Education
- Wai serves as a Grant Reviewer for Schmidt Futures
- Wai is a Task Force Member for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute's Advanced Education Working Group
- Wai serves in the American Educational Research Association's SIG gifted connection mentoring program
- Wolf serves as the Department of Education Reform's Interim Department Head
- Wolf serves on the Department Head Search Committee
- Wolf serves as a member of the Dean's Executive Committee
- Wolf serves on the Department of Education Reform Lecture Series Committee
- Wolf serves on the Department of Education Reform's Admissions and Fellowships Committee
- Wolf serves as an Expert Witness for the Institute for Justice in the Franklin County, OH, EdChoice Program litigation
- Wolf sits on the Board of Advisors for the Institute for Citizens and Scholars, Princeton, NJ
- Wolf sits on the Board of Advisors for Harvard University's Program on Education Policy and Governance
- Wolf serves on the selection committee for the annual Edu-Scholars Public Influence Rankings
- Wolf serves on the planning committee for the annual International School Choice and Reform Conference
- Wolf served as a reviewer for AERA Open from December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023
- Wolf sat on the Board of Advisors for Admission Impossible: School Choice in Northern Europe through December 31, 2023
- Wolf served as a reviewer for Frontiers in Education from October 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023

- Wolf served as a reviewer for the International Journal of Education Policy and Leadership in September 2023
- Wolf served as a reviewer for the Journal of Japanese and International Education in August 2023
- Wolf served as a reviewer for Political Science Quarterly in April 2023
- Wolf served as a peer reviewer for Education Research and Evaluation in March 2023
- Wolf serves as a Judge for the annual Yass Prize, a \$1,000,000 annual award for innovation in K-12 education
- Zamarro serves on the COEHP Impactful Research Committee
- Zamarro serves on the COEHP Dean's Council of the Wise
- Zamarro is EDRE's College Council representative
- Zamarro serves as EDRE's Director of Graduate Studies
- Zamarro serves as the Principal Investigator in IES data licenses
- Zamarro is the chair of EDRE's personnel committee
- Zamarro serves on EDRE's Department Head search committee
- Zamarro is the chair of EDRE's Endowed Chair in Accountability and Transparency Search Committee
- Zamarro serves as a mentor for the "Adopt a Paper" initiative
- Zamarro sits on the SREE Women in Quantitative Methods Board of Advisors
- Zamarro served as Program Coordinator for the Teachers and Principal Effectiveness section at SREE February 2023 – June 2023

#### Developing Solutions:

- McKenzie conducted public charter lotteries at Founders Academy in Bentonville and Rogers in February 2023
- Wai served on the "Advancing Research Excellence Panel - COEHP," University of Arkansas
- Wai serves on the College Board Admissions Research Consortium Board of Advisors
- Wai is Committee Chair for the Association for Psychological Science [Global Collaboration on COVID-19](#) Education Working Group
- Wai serves on the International Society for Intelligence Research's Holden Speaker and Media Committee
- Wolf is a Member of the Advisory Committee on ESA Implementation Study
- Wolf participated in the LEARNS Act Townhall in Siloam Springs, AR on June 12, 2023
- Wolf presented in the Empower education tour in Gravette, AR on February 13, 2023, and Benton, AR on February 7, 2023.

#### **EDRE Goal 2: Develop & implement demonstration projects in public schools.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students develop & implement a variety of field evaluations in public schools that link research findings to classroom practice.

- [\*\*Society for Open Inquiry in the Behavioral Sciences:\*\*](#) Robert Maranto, Executive Board member.
- [\*\*Project for Reimagining School Boards:\*\*](#) Being launched by Robert Maranto, the purpose of this project is to offer board members advice on questions to drive change.
- [\*\*The Classical Education Research Lab:\*\*](#) Albert Cheng continues to conduct demonstration projects about the effects of poetry on student learning outcomes. [The first demonstration project](#) is complete; the second demonstration project (looking at the Effects of Poetry on Attitudes towards Nature) is underway. (Start 9/2021)

### **EDRE Goal 3: Enhance a positive perception of education quality in Arkansas.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students enhance a positive perception of education quality in Arkansas thus contributing to the ability of the state to attract new business and a highly qualified work force.

- The Office for Education Policy annually distributes [OEP Awards](#) to districts and schools with high academic growth
- EDRE Faculty received many awards including:
  - Cheng received the Rising STAR Award, College of Education and Health Professions, University of Arkansas
  - Maranto was included in the *Education Week* Top 200 Edu-Scholars Ranking
  - McGee was included in the *Education Week* Top 200 Edu-Scholars Ranking
  - McKenzie received the James E. McLean Distinguished Research Paper Award from the Mid-South Educational Research Association for a paper co-authored with her student, Kathryn Barnes.
  - Wai received the COEHP Impactful Scholarship Award for Scholarship/Research.
  - Wai received the International Mensa Award for Research Excellence from the Mensa Education and Research Foundation for three of his published papers
  - Wai was included on Stanford University's International Top 2% Cited Scientist list from 2019 – 2022, posted in 2023
  - Wolf was recognized in the Large N in Education Leaderboard
  - Wolf was included in the *Education Week* Top 200 Edu-Scholars Ranking
  - Zamarro was included in the *Education Week* Top 200 Edu-Scholars Ranking

EDRE graduates have moved into positions that enhance the visibility and demonstrate the quality of education in Arkansas. See Appendix for a full list of positions for our graduates. Here are the positions of our graduates from 2023:

- Marilyn Rhames (UA'23), Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Center for School Leadership, Baylor University

### **EDRE Goal 4: Conduct a comprehensive and coordinated program of research within five priority areas: School Choice, Education Policy, Teacher Quality, Leadership, and Accountability and Transparency.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students conduct a wide range of research within each of the priority areas, as evidenced through books, journal articles, book chapters, and working papers.

#### **School Choice:**

Journal Articles:

- Beck, D. E., Clark, T., Maranto, R. A., Tran, B. (2023). Forced Choice? Is Bullying Pushing transgender and gender diverse (TGD) Students into Cyber Schools? *Educational Review*, 76(5): 1180-1190.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00131911.2023.2167068>

- Wolf, P. J., DeAngelis, C. A. (2023). Funding students instead of systems: The case for school choice. *Challenges in classical liberalism: Debating the policies of today versus tomorrow*. (pp. 55-76). New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Wolf, P. J. (2023). Private school choice programs are delivering and not just on test scores. *Oklahoma Education Journal* (2nd ed., vol. 1, pp. 23-29). Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma. <https://oej.scholasticahq.com/article/89156-are-private-school-choice-programs-beneficial>
- Wolf, P. J., Greene, J. P., Paul, J. D., Ladner, M. (2023). Education freedom and student achievement: Is more school choice associated with higher state-level performance on the NAEP? *Journal of School Choice*. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15582159.2023.2183450>
- DeAngelis, C. A., Burke, L. M., Wolf, P. J., Dills, A. K. (2023). The effect of regulations on private school choice program participation: Experimental evidence from the United States. *Research in Educational Administration & Leadership*, 8(1), 142-186. <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/real/issue/76420/1138598>
- Heape, A., Camp, A., Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (2023). Revisiting Ethnic Differences in In-Person Learning During 2021-2022. *Journal of School Choice*.

#### Policy Reports & Working Papers:

- Cheng, A. A., Syftestad, C. (2023). The Demand of Texas Parents for Classical Charter Schools. Texas Public Policy Foundation.
- Cheng, A. A., Polk, B., Cook, E. (2023). The 2023 Society for Classical Learning School Thriving Schools Study: A First Look. Society for Classical Learning.
- Johnson, A., McGee, J. B., Wolf, P. J., May, J., Maloney, L. (2023). Charter school funding: Did initial pandemic relief advance equity in the city?
- Johnson, A., McGee, J. B., Wolf, P. J., May, J., Maloney, L. (2023). Charter school funding: Little progress towards equity in the city.
- Johnson, A., McGee, J. B., Wolf, P. J., May, J., Maloney, L. (2023). Still a good investment: Charter school productivity in nine cities.
- Heape-Johnson, A., McGee, J. B., Wolf, P. J. (2023). Charter School Funding Disparities: Los Angeles, California.
- Johnson, A. H., McGee, J. B., Wolf, P. J., Maloney, L. D., May, J. F. (2023). Charter School Funding Disparities: Los Angeles, California (pp. 1-38). Fayetteville, AR: School Choice Demonstration Project. <https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/wordpressua.uark.edu/dist/9/544/files/2023/04/charter-school-funding-disparities-los-angeles.pdf>
- Johnson, A. H., McGee, J. B., Wolf, P. J., May, J. F., Maloney, L. D. (2023). Charter school funding: Did initial pandemic relief advance equity in the city? (pp. 1-21). Fayetteville, AR: School Choice Demonstration Project. <https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/wordpressua.uark.edu/dist/9/544/files/2023/12/23-1214F-charter-school-funding-did-initial-pandemic-relief-advance-equity-in-the-city.pdf>
- Johnson, A. H., McGee, J. B., Wolf, P. J., May, J. F., Maloney, L. D. (2023). Still a good investment: Charter school productivity in nine cities (pp. 1-34). Fayetteville,



AR: School Choice Demonstration Project. <https://scdp.uark.edu/still-a-good-investment-charter-school-productivity-in-nine-cities/>

## Education Policy

### Journal Articles:

- McGee, J. B. (2023). Researchers should be cautious when generalizing findings. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22517>.
- McGee, J. B. (2023). Yes, money matters, but the details can make all the difference. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22519>.
- McGee, J. B., Paul, J., Greene, J. P., Cheng, A. A. (2023). The Value of College Athletics in the Labor Market: Results from a Resume Audit Field Experiment. *Journal of Sports Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.26300/bpqj-zg17>.
- McGee, J. B., Zamarro Rodriguez, G., Fuchsman, D. (2023). Teachers' Willingness to Pay for Retirement Benefits: A National Stated Preferences Experiment. *Economics of Education Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2022.102349>.
- Lee, M. H., Wai, J. (2023). Initial vs. retest GRE performance: A study of one million Graduate Record Examination test-retest observations. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 207.
- Wai, J., Kell, H., Worrell, F. C. (2023). Method considerations for school psychology from longitudinal research on gifted students. *Journal of School Psychology*. *Journal of School Psychology*.
- Wai, J., Liang, X. (2023). Some Knowns and Unknowns About Developing Cognitive Excellence: History, Research Methods, Policy, and Politics. *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*.
- Parra-Martinez, A., Wai, J. (2023). Talent Identification Research: A Bibliometric Study from Multidisciplinary and Global Perspectives. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- Parra-Martinez, A., Desmet, O., Wai, J. (2023). The evolution of intelligence: Bibliometric analysis of Journal of Intelligence and Intelligence. *Journal of Intelligence*, 11(2), 35. <https://www.mdpi.com/2079-3200/11/2/35>

### Policy Reports & Working Papers:

- Anaya, L. M., Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (2023). The role of student effort on performance in PISA: Revisiting the gender gap in achievement. *Oxford Economic Papers*. <https://www.edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/ai20-295.pdf> Published.

### Book Chapters:

- Maranto, R. A., Cheng, A. A. (2023). Parent Involvement, Family Structure, and Children's Economic Outcomes. *The Economics of Equity in K-12 Education: A Post-Pandemic Policy Handbook for Closing the Opportunity Gap and Using Education to Improve the American Economy* (pp. 13-36). Rowman and Littlefield.
- Wai, J., & Zhang, D. C. (2023). Careers and the gifted: Implications for society and education policy. In W. B. Walsh, L. Y. Flores, P. J. Hartung, & F. T. L. Leong (Eds.), *Career psychology: Models, concepts, and counseling for meaningful employment* (pp. 509–528). American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000339-024>

## Teacher Quality/ Labor Markets:

### Policy Reports & Working Papers:

- Camp, A., Zamarro Rodriguez, G., McGee, J. B. (2023). Arkansas Teacher Retention Entering the 2023-24 School Year.
- McGee, J. B., Zamarro Rodriguez, G., McKenzie, S. C., Camp, A., Wilson, T. (2023). Arkansas Teacher Workforce Report.
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G., Camp, A., McGee, J. B., Wilson, T., Vernon, M. (2023). Changes in Teacher Salaries Under The Arkansas LEARNS Act.
- Camp, A., Zamarro Rodriguez, G., McGee, J. B. (2023). Movers, Switchers, and Exiters: Teacher Turnover During COVID-19.
- Camp, Andrew, Alison H. Johnson, and Gema Zamarro. (2023). Revisiting Ethnic Differences in In-Person Learning During 2021-2022 . (EdWorkingPaper: 23-728). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University:  
<https://doi.org/10.26300/frc-y593>

## Leadership:

### Journal Articles:

- Cheng, A. A., Coady, E., Maranto, R. A. (2023). The Roles of Black Women Principals: Evidence from Two National Surveys. *Frontiers in Education*, 8.

### Book Chapter:

- Wolf, P. J. (2023). Benjamin Franklin. The Palgrave handbook of educational thinkers (pp. 1-12). New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.  
[https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-030-81037-5\\_40-1](https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-030-81037-5_40-1)

## Accountability and Transparency:

### Journal Articles:

- Costrell, R. M., & McGee, J. B. “[Toward an Economic Reformulation of Public Pension Funding](#),” Journal of Pension Economics and Finance, 20th Anniversary Special Issue, Online Nov. 3, 2023.
- Costrell, R. M. “[The Three R’s of Teacher Pension Funding: Redistribution, Return, and Risk](#),” Educational Researcher, Peer-reviewed. Published, March 2023 (Vol. 52, No. 2), pp. 91-97.
- Morris, S., Maranto, R. A., McKenzie, S. C. (2023). Examining Teacher Support for Equity Grading. 32(2). 2435 E Bristol Pl.
- McGee, J. B., Goldstein, J., Mills, J. (2023). The Effect of School District Consolidation on Student Achievement: Evidence from Arkansas. Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis. <https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737221133394>

### Policy Reports & Working Papers:

- Cheng, A. A., Hadley, S. (2023). Thriving Schools Study: A Report on Teacher and Administrator Salaries. Society for Classical Learning.
- McGee, J. B. (2023). Analysis of Arkansas’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs.
- Morris, S., McKenzie, S. C. (2023). Examining Disparities in Ninth-Grade Advanced Courses. <https://oep.uark.edu/examining-disparities-in-ninth-grade-advanced-courses/>

#### Book Chapters:

- Robert Maranto, Richard E. Redding, Jonathan Wai, and Matthew Woessner. Does psychology’s progressive ideology affect Its undergraduates? A National Test. In Frisby, C. L., Redding, R.E., O’Donohue, W.T., & Lilienfeld, S.O. (2023), (Eds.), Ideological and political bias in psychology: Nature, Sco, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4661105>

### **EDRE Goal 5: Translate research findings into informational resources useful to school practitioners, policymakers, and other interested parties.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students leverage a variety of channels to translate research findings into informational resources useful to school practitioners, policymakers, and other interested parties, including op-eds, blog posts, data visualizations, and videos.

Arkansas Department of Education used Zamarro, McKenzie, and McGee’s Teacher Workforce Report to respond to [Arkansas LEARNS Reporting requirement 3-A](#). The Zamarro and McGee research brief, “Movers, Switchers, and Exiters: Teacher Turnover during COVID-19” was used to inform the US Department of Labor Report, “[Lifetime Employment-Related Costs to Women Providing Family Care](#)” (May 11, 2023)

#### Op-Eds:

- Maranto, R. A. (2023). Six Questions to Ask the School Board Candidates. Harvard University: Education Next.
- Wai, J., Wai, M. (2023). A new philosophy of STEM work: More can be done to recruit, train, and retain scientific professionals, argues a sociologist. *Science*. 382 (6673) pp. 891. DOI: 10.1126/science.adk9377.
- Wai, J. (2023). Battling information bias: Do not wait for society to reject scientific disinformation, tout the truth now. *Science*. 381 (6659) pp. 739. DOI: 10.1126/science.adj2202.
- Wai, J. (2023). College towns as talent hubs. *Science*. 379 (6638) pp. 1195. 10.1126/science.adg8109
- Wai, J. (2023). Rethinking science education: If our goal is to increase science literacy and trust in science, we may need to reimagine science curriculum. *Science*. 380 (6643) pp. 351. DOI: 10.1126/science.adh9225
- Wolf, P. J. (2023). Realizing school choice. Law & Liberty. <https://lawliberty.org/forum/realizing-school-choice/>

- Wolf, P. J. (2023, November 28). [Charters yield more learning, higher earnings than district schools per \\$1 spent](#). *The 74*.

## Blog posts

- Syftestad, C., Cheng, A. A. (2023). Classical Charter School Enrollment Skyrockets in Texas. Thomas B. Fordham Institute.
- Maranto, R. A., Reilly, W., Wolf, P. J. (2023). Academia as a Status Game: Which BLM research gets cited? Center for the Study of Partisanship and Ideology.
- Maranto, R. A., Mills, M. (2023). Ending Woke Culture Wars: Different Worldviews Require Different Institutions. *Minding the Campus*.
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G., McGee, J. B., Camp, A. (2023). Teacher Labor Market Research and the Arkansas LEARNS Act.
- Camp, A., Zamarro Rodriguez, G., McGee, J. B. (2023). Three Years Later: Arkansas Teacher Turnover During and After COVID-19.
- McKenzie, S. C. (2023). New Map! EFA-Approved Private Schools. *Office for Education Policy Blog*. <https://oep.uark.edu/new-map-efa-approved-private-schools/>
- McKenzie, S. C. (2023). OEP Growth Awards for Gifted and Talented!. *Office for Education Policy Blog*. <https://oep.uark.edu/oep-growth-awards-for-gifted-and-talented/>
- Morris, S., McKenzie, S. C. (2023). Should All High-Ability Students Have the Same Likelihood of Enrolling in Advanced Courses? *Office for Education Policy Blog*. <https://oep.uark.edu/should-all-high-ability-students-have-the-same-likelihood-of-enrolling-in-advanced-courses/>
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- McKenzie, S. C. (2023). “Best Freshman Success”. *Office for Education Policy Blog*. <https://oep.uark.edu/the-best-high-schools-for-arkansas-students/>

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## Podcasts

- Cheng hosts the Learning Curve Podcast
  - "Carol Zaleski on The Lord of the Rings & Narnia," The Learning Curve Podcast (December 20, 2023).
  - "Francine Klagsbrun on Golda Meir’s Leadership and the State of Israel," The Learning Curve Podcast (December 6, 2023).
  - "Hillsdale’s Dr. Kathleen O’Toole on K-12 Classical Education," The Learning Curve Podcast (November 29, 2023).
  - "National Alliance’s Nina Rees on Charter Public Schools in America," The Learning Curve Podcast (November 22, 2023).
  - "Harvard Prof. Leo Damrosch on Jonathan Swift & Gulliver’s Travels," The Learning Curve (November 15, 2023).
  - "Vanderbilt’s Dr. Carol Swain on U.S. History, Race, & 1776 Unites," The Learning Curve (November 8, 2023).
  - "Pioneer’s U.S. History & Civics Book with Chris Sinacola," The Learning Curve (October 25, 2023). <https://pioneerinstitute.org/featured/pioneers-u-s-history-civics-book-with-chris-sinacola/>.
  - "UCLA’s Prof. James Stigler on Teaching & Learning Math," The Learning Curve (October 4, 2023).
  - "On Classical Education & School Choice," The Learning Curve (August 30, 2023).

- Cheng appeared on "Are Master's Degrees Overrated? The Dark Secret of Teacher Quality," The Informed Simplicity podcast (December 11, 2023).
- Cheng appeared on, "Data Driven Education," Quiddity (August 7, 2023).  
<https://shows.acast.com/quiddity/episodes/data-driven-education>.
- Cheng appeared on, "The Growth and Health of the CCE Movement," Basecamp Live (August 3, 2023).
- "Albert Cheng on the Demand for Classical Charter Schools in Texas," Anchored Podcast (May 25, 2023).
- Wolf was interviewed about the LEARNS Act for the Stand Together Arkansas podcast on July 17, 2023.
- Zamarro was featured on "Diarios de la Calle," Capital y Trabajo (December 5, 2023).  
[https://www.ivoox.com/t7e5-diarios-calle-audios-mp3\\_rf\\_120537358\\_1.html](https://www.ivoox.com/t7e5-diarios-calle-audios-mp3_rf_120537358_1.html).
- Zamarro was interviewed for "College tours aren't just for high schoolers," Access Granted-Alabama Community College System (October 30, 2023).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jTaeoD8RZM>.

#### Radio:

- "Lincoln Consolidated School District trims school week to benefit mental health," KUAF- Ozarks at Large (November 22, 2023). McKenzie's student, Kate Barnes, discussed her work on school calendars
- McKenzie, "Discussing how Arkansas schools make the grade," KUAF- Ozarks at Large (October 4, 2023).
- "Studying Grade Equity," KUAF- Ozarks at Large (May 9, 2023).  
<https://www.kuaf.com/show/ozarks-atlarge/2023-05-09/studying-grade-equity>. This was a 20 minute segment with McKenzie's student, Sarah Morris.
- "Why Schools Consider Four-Day Weeks," KUAF- Ozarks at Large (March 30, 2023).  
<https://www.kuaf.com/show/ozarks-at-large/2023-03-30/why-schools-consider-four-day-weeks>. This was an 8 minute segment with McKenzie's student, Kate Barnes.

#### Webinars:

- Maranto, R. A., "Problems in Higher Education Today," University of Wisconsin's Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy, University of Wisconsin Fluno Center, online at <https://clipchamp.com/watch/SGSxLZwzcYn>, Madison, WI. (April 13, 2023).

#### Magazine Articles:

- Maranto, R., Cheng, A. A. (2023). What Detractors Don't Get about Homeschooling. *National Review*.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). How American Schools of Education Burked Education in America's Schools (3rd ed., vol. 28, pp. 23-29). *The Skeptic*.

- Maranto, R. A. (2023). The Biden Administration Politicizes an Education Crisis. Published.
- McGee's work was featured in "A Chance for Education Compromise in Arkansas?" *Forbes* (2023).
- Wai, J. (2023). Fads and fallacies of education reform: Why education policy and practice have become research-free zones *Skeptic Magazine*.
- Wai, J. (2023). GPT retook the GRE and improved: Could you? *Forbes*.
- The School Choice Demonstration Project's November 2023 publication, "Still a good investment: Charter school productivity in nine cities" was written about in Reason Magazine, "Charter schools get less funding but achieve similar test scores to public schools."
- Wai was quoted in, "The one per cent are not as clever as they think," Financial Times Magazine (February 16, 2023). <https://www.ft.com/content/f716bea0-21eb-4ac5-923e-e268d307f3e6>.

#### Newspaper:

- Maranto was quoted in a January 2, 2023 article in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette by Neal Early "Sanders" order on teaching weighed, "commenting on Governor Huckabee Sanders' executive orders on teaching critical theory in public schools.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). The DEI Cosa Nostra: Why Claudine Gay will survive Harvard's antisemitism scandal (not the title I would have chosen!). The Hill.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). Postcolonial Theory: Why students back Hamas and what educators should do about it. Minneapolis Star-Tribune.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). The Murder of a Great Educator (pp. A17). Wall Street Journal.
- Maranto, R. A., Marshall, D. (2023). Report suggests Philly charter school authorizing needs overhaul. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Tribune.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). A fourth choice: LEARNS to spark school competition. Arkansas Democrat Gazette (pp. 7B). Arkansas Democrat Gazette.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). I'm a conservative---is there still a place for me in the field of political science? The Hill.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). Celebrate Juneteenth---and the Fall of the Wall. Realclear PublicAffairs.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). Let's Censor Less: Defusing our culture wars. Arkansas Democrat Gazette.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). Public Schools Must Listen to Be Competitive. RealClearEducation.
- Maranto, R. A., Marshall, D. (2023). How Georgia-born education leader made mark before 1973 assassination. Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- Maranto, R. A., McGee, J. B. (2023). How Arkansas aims to boost teacher quality and gender equity. Washington, DC: The Hill.
- Maranto, R. A., Mitchell, S. (2023). Marcus Foster has much to teach us today about schools. New York Post.
- Maranto, R. A. (2023). A third way: Fight racism with science and Jesus (pp. 7B). Arkansas Democrat Gazette.



- McKenzie’s work was referenced in the December 24, 2023, Arkansas Democrat Gazette article titled “Analysts examine schools’ calendars”
- McKenzie’s work was referenced in the December 1, 2023, Arkansas Democrat Gazette article titled, “Student outcomes most important”. This was a response from Jonny Key and Denize Airola to the McKenzie and Morris op-ed about grading practices.
- McKenzie’s work was referenced in the November 26, 2023, Arkansas Democrat Gazette article titled, “State grades Arkansas public schools.”
- McKenzie’s work was referenced in the August 29, 2023 Arkansas Democrat Gazette article titled, “Northwest Arkansas well represented in U.S. News & World Report rankings of state’s public high schools.”
- Barnes, K., & McKenzie, S. (2023, April 27). Opinion | Kate Barnes & Sarah McKenzie: bold... or risky? caution on changing school calendar. Arkansas Democrat Gazette. Retrieved 2024, from <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/apr/27/bold-or-risky/>.
- McKenzie was featured in the March 2, 2023 Arkansas Democrat Gazette article titled, “\$3.6M Walton grant boosts Teacher Corps.” <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/mar/02/36m-walton-grant-boosts-teacher-corps/>
- McKenzie was featured in the March 2, 2023, Arkansas Democrat Gazette article titled, “Office for Education Policy at the University of Arkansas releases its school grades.” <https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2023/jun/04/office-for-education-policy-at-theuniversity-of/>
- McGee and Zamarro’s work was featured in “Department of Education Reform's Research Helps Inform Policy for Governor's LEARNS Act," University of Arkansas News (2023).
- The School Choice Demonstration Project’s work was featured in, "New report finds charters deliver more bang for the buck than district schools," The74 (2023).
- The School Choice Demonstration Project’s work was featured in, "Why are we cheating public charter schools out of funding?" RealClearEducation (2023).
- Wai was quoted in, "Researchers are using technology to communicate psychological science to a wider audience," American Psychological Association Monitor (January 1, 2023). <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2023/01/trends-communicating-psychological-science>.
- Wai was quoted in "Fight between 'gifted' and 'advanced' programs exposes deeper problems," The Washington Post (September 3, 2023). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/09/03/gifted-versus-advanced-classes-debate/>
- Wai was quoted in "What if we're the bad guys here?," The New York Times (August 2, 2023). <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/02/opinion/trump-meritocracy-educated.html>
- Wai’s work was cited in "How Arkansas aims to boost teacher quality and gender equity," The Hill (March 15, 2023). <https://thehill.com/opinion/education/3894773-how-arkansas-aims-to-boost-teacher-quality-and-gender-equity/>
- Wai’s work was cited in "George Santos' college education is a myth. Is he the only one lying? We checked," USA Today (January 21, 2023). <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2023/01/20/george-santos-congress-members-degrees-education/11034419002/>



- Wai was featured in "2023 RHSU edu-scholar public influence: Top 10 lists," Education Week (January 6, 2023). <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/opinion-2023-rhsu-edu-scholar-public-influence-top-10-lists/2023/01>.
- Zamarro's work was featured in "The teaching profession is facing a post-pandemic crisis," Chalkbeat (June 27, 2023). <https://www.chalkbeat.org/2023/6/27/23774375/teachers-turnover-attribution-quitting-morale-burnout-pandemic-crisis-covid>.
- Zamarro and McGee's work was reported on in "Department of Education Reform's Research Helps Inform Policy for Governor's LEARNS Act," University of Arkansas News (April 26, 2023). <https://news.uark.edu/articles/64204/departement-of-education-reform-s-research-helps-inform-policy-for-governor-s-learns-act>.
- Zamarro's work was featured in "Under Huckabee Sanders, Red-State Reforms Now Roll Through Arkansas," The 74 (February 16, 2023). <https://www.the74million.org/article/sarah-huckabee-sanders-arkansas-governor-education-plan-parents/>.
- Zamarro was featured in "2023 NNERPP Yearbook," The National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (December 20, 2023). [https://drive.google.com/file/d/18cuaLfA6e5L344sdT9vJdj0gtipz\\_Puo/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18cuaLfA6e5L344sdT9vJdj0gtipz_Puo/view).
- Zamarro was quoted in "More principals are quitting K-12 schools, reports show," The Washington Times (December 12, 2023). <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/dec/12/more-principals-are-quitting-k-12-schools-reports/>.
- Zamarro was quoted in "Las 10 claves que España debe copiar a Inglaterra para recuperar el curso de retraso en lectura," EL Mundo (May 17, 2023). <https://www.elmundo.es/espana/2023/05/17/6463cb29fc6c83bb408b45b5.html>.
- Zamarro was quoted in "Los alumnos de 10 años de España van en lectura casi un curso escolar por detrás de los de Inglaterra," El Mundo (May 16, 2023). <https://amp.elmundo.es/espana/2023/05/16/6461edbl1e4d4d83b4f8b458d.html>.
- Zamarro was quoted in "Arkansas schools keep eye on employee exits," Arkansas Democrat Gazette (May 5, 2023). <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/may/15/schools-keep-eye-on-employee-exits/>.
- Zamarro was quoted in "Study: Arkansas teacher turnover higher during covid-19," Arkansas Democrat Gazette (March 20, 2023). <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/mar/20/study-teacher-turnover-higher-during-covid-19/>.
- Zamarro was quoted in "La Lectura-Las Ideas- Educacion," El Mundo (March 10, 2023). [gzamarro/medcont/La Lectura-LA LECTURA-10\\_03\\_2023-8-1.pdf](https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/mar/20/study-teacher-turnover-higher-during-covid-19/)

#### Public Scholarship:

- McKenzie organized the Office for Education Policy Conference in Little Rock, AR on February 16, 2023.
- McKenzie presented to GT Coordinators at the Guy Fenter Educational Service Cooperative about Value Added Measures (VAM). (December 12, 2023).
- McKenzie presented VAM data to LISA Academy Fayetteville, Fayetteville, AR.

(November 30, 2023).

- McKenzie presented about VAM to superintendents at the DeQueen/ Mena Educational Service Cooperative. (November 14, 2023).
- McKenzie presented on VAM to the West Fork School Board, West Fork, AR. (November 13, 2023).
- McKenzie gave a VAM presentation to Curriculum leaders in the NWA Educational Service Cooperative. (November 9, 2023).
- McKenzie presented on VAM to superintendents in the NWA Educational Service Cooperative. (November 9, 2023).
- McKenzie presented on VAM to superintendents in the NWA Educational Service Cooperative. (November 9, 2023).
- McKenzie made a presentation about VAM to superintendents and school leaders in the Great Rivers Educational Service Cooperative, Helena/ West Helena, AR. (November 8, 2023).
- McKenzie presented on VAM to superintendents and school leaders in the Arkansas River Educational Service Cooperative, Pine Bluff, AR. (November 7, 2023).
- McKenzie presented to superintendents about VAM, NWA Educational Service Cooperative. (November 2, 2023).
- McKenzie presented on Gifted and Talented VAM to GT coordinators and principals in the Ozarks Unlimited Resource Educational Service Cooperative. (November 2, 2023).
- McKenzie gave a virtual presentation about VAM to superintendents and school leaders in the Great Rivers Educational Service Cooperative, AR. (October 11, 2023).
- McKenzie served on a panel to discuss the state of education at the Walton Family Foundation K-12 Education National Summit, Bentonville, AR. (October 10, 2023).
- McKenzie gave a presentation about VAM data for leaders in the Bentonville Public School District, Bentonville, AR. (September 9, 2023).
- McKenzie presented on VAM to superintendents in the NWA Educational Service Cooperative. (September 7, 2023).
- McKenzie gave a presentation about VAM to GT Coordinators in the NWA Educational Service Cooperative. (August 29, 2023).
- McKenzie gave a presentation about LEARNS to the Rogers/Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Rogers, AR. (July 13, 2023).
- McKenzie presented GT VAM and local norms to the Ozarks Unlimited Resource Educational Service Cooperative, Harrison, AR. (June 20, 2023).
- McKenzie was a guest speaker for the Ozarks Unlimited Resource Educational Service Cooperative. (May 2023).
- McKenzie was a guest speaker for the Ozarks Unlimited Resource Educational Service Cooperative. (March 2023).
- McKenzie, S. (2023, March). Ozarks Unlimited Resource Educational Service Cooperative GT Research Update. OURESC GT Coordinator Meeting. Harrison, AR.
- Wolf served as a panel discussant in the 11th annual International School Choice and Reform Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL on January 15, 2023.
- Wolf served as a session chair in the 11th annual International School Choice and Reform Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL on January 14, 2023.
- Wolf serves on the LEARNS Act Implementation Work Group, Parental Empowerment – Charter School Subgroup.
- Wolf serves on the Arkansas Education Policy Working Group.
- Wolf advised the Non-Governmental Organization, EdChoice, in Indianapolis, IN. (May 2023).
- Wolf participated in the semi-annual “Future of American Education Project Working Group”

for the American Enterprise Institute.

- Zamarro Rodriguez, G., NPR Education Symposium 2023, "Long Effects of COVID-19 and the Education Landscape," NPR, online. (March 28, 2023).
- Zamarro served as session chair for the APPAM Conference on November 9, 2023.
- Zamarro served as session chair for the AEFPP Conference on March 23, 2023.

**EDRE Goal 6: Serve as a state and national information source for public education in order to provide knowledge generated by research to a broad audience.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students serve as a state and national information source to share expertise with a broad audience.

Legislative and Court Testimony:

- Costrell was retained by the Office of the Attorney General of New Hampshire, and testified in the school finance case between Contoocook Valley School District et al. and the State of New Hampshire, et al.
- Maranto, [Guest Speaker](#), Philadelphia City Council Education Committee, Philadelphia, PA. (February 22, 2023). Lead witness in the hearings on disproportionate closing of charter schools run by and serving African Americans.
- Wolf testified to the Illinois State Legislature in May 2023.
- Wolf testified to the Texas House Public Education Committee in April 2023.
- Wolf testified to the Texas Senate Committee on Education in March 2023.
- Wolf advised the Kansas Special Committee on Education, Topeka, United States. (October 2023).
- Wolf provided litigation consultation for the Institute for Justice in Arlington, VA. (April 2022 – Present).

Invited Presentations:

- McGee, J. B. (presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (coauthor), Camp, A. (coauthor), Walton Private Philanthropy Group Day of Learning, "Arkansas' teacher pipeline, opportunities and challenges." (2023).
- McGee, J. B. (presenter), Wolf, P. J. (presenter), Walton Family Foundation, "Education reform research trends and interests." (June 30, 2023).
- McGee, J. B. (moderator), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (panelist), Camp, A. (presenter), OEP-EDRE Conference, "Moving Arkansas Education Forward." (2023).
- McGee, J. B. (presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (coauthor), Camp, A. (coauthor), Wilson, T. (coauthor), Winthrop Rockefeller Institute (WRI) Education Policy Initiative Fall Meeting, "Teacher Workforce Update." (2023).
- Wolf, P. J. (Panelist), National School Choice Week, "School choice: Past, present and future," Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, United States. (January 13, 2023).
- Cheng, A. A., Religious Liberty in Arkansas, "Religious Liberty, School Choice, and the Opportunities before Us." (November 2023).

- Maranto, R. A., 2023 Texas School Board member Conference, "Using Research to Inform Your Policy Decisions," Pacific Research Institute, Lorenzo Hotel, Dallas, TX. (September 28, 2023).
- Maranto, R. A., Flyover-State Scientists Integrating Evolution (FOSSIL), "Why education scholars ignore evolution and how that harms kids," University of Arkansas, Gearhart Hall, Fayetteville, AR. (August 10, 2023).
- Maranto periodically advises Harmony Public Schools in Houston, TX. In 2023, he spent October 6<sup>th</sup> and November 15-16 working with this charter school network that consists of over 60 campuses.
- McGee presented "Arkansas P-20W Data." To the Walton Private Philanthropy Group Day of Learning.
- Morris, S., McKenzie, S. C., Office for Innovation in Education, "Equitable Grading Practices," Office for Innovation in Education in Rogers, AR. (June 2023).
- Parra-Martinez, A., Wai, J., ISIR, "Evolution of intelligence research: First decade of the Journal of Intelligence.," Berkeley, CA. (2023).
- Cheng, A. A., Anthem Classical Academy Annual Fundraiser, "An Education in Discernment." (November 14, 2023).
- Maranto, R. A., "Comparing U.S. and Japanese Schools," Toho University, Toho University, Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan. (July 8, 2023).
- Maranto, R. A., Keynote Address, Grand Opening at LISA Academy, Fayetteville. (October 6, 2023). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3xBGZspZ7c>
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (Presenter), Camp, A. (coauthor), McGee, J. B. (coauthor), University of Texas- Dallas, "Education Sector Turnover and Retention During COVID." (2023).
- Morris, S., McKenzie, S. C., NWAESC, "Study: What Grading Practices are Best for Students?" (April 2023).
- Wai, J., Dept. of Educational Neuroscience/Educational Psychology, "Psychology and education research, method plurality, science communication, and evidence-based policy," University of Alabama. (2023).
- Wolf, P. J. (Presenter), Contemporary policy issues roundtable, "What we know and need to learn about Education Savings Accounts," University of Austin, Omni Austin Hotel, Austin, United States. (November 13, 2023).
- Wolf, P. J., Reform Leaders' Summit, "The research on the effects of school choice," Notre Dame University, Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans, LA, United States. (June 25, 2023).
- Wolf, P. J., "Exigencies, incrementalism, equity and experimentation: The development of private school choice in the U.S.," Institute of Education, University College London, London, United Kingdom. (April 27, 2023).
- Wolf, P. J., Book launch, "The case for parental choice: God, family, and educational liberty," University of Notre Dame, Virtual. (March 30, 2023).
- Wolf was a guest speaker for the Van Lunen Institute in Grand Rapids, MI from November 2, 2023 – November 3, 2023.
- Wolf participated in a webinar entitled "Learn about LEARNS" hosted by The Reform Alliance on October 24, 2023.

- Wolf spoke at the EdChoice Legislator Training in Dallas, TX on September 18, 2023.
- Wolf was a guest speaker at ACE Scholarships in Denver, CO from August 26 – 27, 2023.
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G., Undergraduate Class, "An Introduction to Teacher Labor Markets," Colorado College, Virtual. (February 18, 2023).
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (Presenter), Prados, M. (Coauthor), Camp, A. (Coauthor), "School Re-openings, Educational Arrangements, and Labor Outcomes During Covid-19", Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Virtual invited lecture, Madrid, Spain. (January 18, 2023).
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G., COEHP Dean's Executive Advisory Board Meeting, "Impactful Research." (October 20, 2023).

#### **EDRE Goal 7: Facilitate the scholarly exchange of views about education reform.**

EDRE faculty, staff, and students present papers, attend conferences, and serve on editorial boards.

#### **Papers presented at peer-reviewed international academic conferences:**

- Maranto, R. A., ISCRC 2023, "Between elitism and populism: a case for pluralism in schooling and homeschooling," Sonesta, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. (January 15, 2023).
- Maranto, R. A., ISCRC 2023, "Do Intersectional Identities Affect Cyber School Enrollment and Student Success?," VARIOUS, Sonesta, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. (January 15, 2023).
- Wolf, P. J. (presenter), Johnson, A. (coauthor), McGee, J. B. (coauthor), May, J. (coauthor), Maloney, L. (coauthor), 11th International School Choice & Reform Conference, "Charter school funding: Inequity at the dawn of the pandemic." (2023).
- Wai, J., International Society for Intelligence Research, "Historical, global, multidisciplinary, current, and future perspectives on giftedness and talent," University of California, Berkeley. (2023).
- Parra-Martinez, A., Wai, J., International Society for Intelligence Research, "Talent identification research: Building bridges across disciplines," University of California, Berkeley. (2023).
- Schilling, J., Wai, J., International Society for Intelligence Research, "Talent search 2.0: The landscape and coming future of new talent initiatives," University of California, Berkeley. (2023).
- Rhames, M. (Presenter), Wolf, P. J. (co-author), 11th International School Choice & Reform Conference, "One or the other: Parent religiosity or private school choice may reduce crime in Milwaukee," EdChoice, Fort Lauderdale, FL, United States. (January 15, 2023).
- Shakeel, M. D. (co-author), Wolf, P. J. (co-author), Johnson, A. H. (co-author), Harris, M. (presenter), Morris, S. (co-author), 11th International School Choice & Reform Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL, "The public benefits of private schooling: A civic outcomes meta-analysis," EdChoice, Fort Lauderdale, FL, United States. (January 14, 2023).

#### **Papers at peer-reviewed national academic conferences:**

- Sude, Y. (Non-presenting Author), Wolf, P. J. (Presenting Author), Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, "Whose turn now? The enactment and expansion

- of private school choice programs across the U.S.," Southern Political Science Association, St. Pete's Beach, FL, United States. (January 12, 2023).
- Daniels, D. L. (Non-Presenting Author), Wolf, P. J. (Presenting Author), 45th Annual Fall Research Meetings of the Association for Policy Analysis & Management, "Does private school choice threaten democracy? Evidence from private and public schools in New York and Dallas," Association for Policy Analysis & Management, Atlanta, GA, United States. (November 10, 2023).
  - Shakeel, M. D. (co-author), Wolf, P. J. (presenter), Johnson, A. H. (co-author), Harris, M. (co-author), Morris, S. (co-author), Paul, J. D. (co-author), 80th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, "The Public Purposes of Private Education: A civic outcomes meta-analysis," Chicago, IL, United States. (April 14, 2023).
  - Camp, A. (presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (coauthor), McGee, J. B. (coauthor), AERA, "Changes in Teachers' Mobility and Attrition in Arkansas During Three Years of the COVID-19 Pandemic." (2023).
  - Maranto, R. A., National Hybrid Schools Conference, "Hybrid Schools as New Institutions: What Are You Trying to Build?," Kennesaw State University, Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA. (April 29, 2023).
  - Maranto, R. A., Martha, B.-D., American Political Science Association annual meeting, "Are Campus Speech Codes white savior behavior: correlates of student support," APSA, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA. (September 1, 2023).
  - Maranto, R. A., American Political Science Association, "Authors Meet Critics: Teodoro, Zuhlke & Switzer's "The Profits of Distrust"," APSA, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA. (September 2, 2023).
  - Maranto, R. A., AERA, "Making Schools Work: Lessons from Oakland School Superintendent Marcus Foster 50 Years After His Assassination," AERA, Chicago. (April 16, 2023).
  - Costrell, R.M., McGee, J.B. "[Toward An Economic Reformulation of Public Pension Funding Policy](#)," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, 35th Annual Research Conference (Denver), Accepted June 2023; presented October 27, 2023.
  - Maranto, R. A., American Political Science Association, "Between Elitism and Populism: A case for pluralism in schooling and homeschooling," APSA, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA. (September 2, 2023).
  - Maranto, R. A., Wolf, P. J., Reilly, W., American Political Science Association, "Ranking Police Departments to Make Black Lives Matter," APSA, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA. (September 2, 2023).
  - Maranto, R. A., Wolf, P. J., Reilly, W., Dupont Summit on Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy, "Ranking Police Departments to Make Black Lives Matter," Policy Studies Organization, online, Washington, DC. (February 17, 2023).
  - Camp, A. (presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (coauthor), McGee, J. B. (coauthor), AEFPP, "Education Sector Turnover and Retention During Covid." (2023).
  - Camp, A. (presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (coauthor), McGee, J. B. (coauthor), APPAM, "Looking Back and Moving Forward: COVID-19's Impact on the Teacher Labor Market and Implications for the Future." (2023).

- McGee, J. B., Fuchsman, D., APPAM, "Teachers' Valuations of Current Versus Deferred Compensation: Evidence from a Discrete Choice Experiment." (2023).
- Camp, A. (presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (coauthor), McGee, J. B. (coauthor), SREE, "The Career Transitions and Trajectories of Paraeducators." (2023).
- Wilson, T. (presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (coauthor), Camp, A. (coauthor), McGee, J. B. (coauthor), APPAM, "Trajectories into Teaching Among Arkansas Educator Preparation Programs Enrollees." (2023).
- Wilson, T. (Presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (Coauthor), Camp, A. (Coauthor), AEFPP 2023, "Do Educator Preparation Programs Differ? Self-Perception of Preparedness Among Novice K-12 Teachers in Arkansas," Denver, CO, United States. (March 23, 2023). Poster presentation.
- Morris, S., Maranto, R., McKenzie S. C., MPSA, "Arkansas Teachers' Political Ideologies, Personal Responsibility, and Grading Practices." (April 2023).
- Djita, R., Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. C., AEFPP, "English Language Learners and their Postsecondary Education Outcomes: Evidence from Arkansas." (March 2023).
- Barnes, K., McKenzie, S. C., AEFPP, "Impacts of Categorical Funding Policies on Alternative Learning Placements." (March 2023).
- Parra-Martinez, A., Vernon, M., Wai, J., NAGC, "The asset-burden paradox across fields and the lifespan: A systematic review," Orlando, FL. (2023).
- Parra-Martinez, A., Wai, J., NAGC, "'Don't say gay': The impact of anti-LGBTQ legislation on public opinion and gifted learners," Orlando, FL. (2023).
- Sass, T. (Presenter), Ali, S. (Coauthor), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (Coauthor), Fuchsman, D. (Coauthor), AEFPP 2023, "Testing and Student Achievement," Denver, CO. (March 24, 2023).
- Prados, M. (Presenter), Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (Coauthor), Camp, A. (Coauthor), Population Association of America Annual Meeting 2023, "Too Little too Late? School Reopenings and Labor Outcomes During COVID," New Orleans, LA, United States. (April 15, 2023).
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G. (Panelist), Goldhaber, D. (Panelist), Bruno, P. (Panelist), Haug, C. (Panelist), Saenz-Armstrong, P. A. (Chair), AEFPP 2023, "Getting the story right on teacher shortages." (March 25, 2023).
- Zamarro Rodriguez, G., APPAM, "Promises and Pitfalls on the Road to COVID Recovery in 2023-24 and Beyond." (November 10, 2023).

#### **Editorial Boards & Manuscript Reviews:**

- Cheng
  - International Journal of Educational Research
  - Principia: A Journal of Classical Education
  - Czech Science Foundation, "The Development of English Language Learning Motivation Among Czech Students in Different Types of Schools at Upper Secondary Level"
  - American Educational Research Journal
  - International Journal of Educational Development
  - International Journal of Christianity and Education

- Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis
- Gifted Child Quarterly
- Neither Angel Nor Beast: Thinking Christianly and Classically About the Social Sciences Tradition
- Teachers College Record
- Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics
- Journal of Psychology and Theology
- Sustainability
- Current Psychology
- Journal of School Choice
- Costrell
  - Education Finance and Policy, June 2023
  - AERA Open, May 2023
- Maranto
  - Appointed member of the International School Choice and Reform Conference Best Paper Committee (2023-2022)
  - Oxford University Press: Reviewed *Resetting Education Reform* by Derek Gottlieb
  - Editorial Board Member, Journal of School Choice. (October 2016 - Present).
  - Editorial Board Member, Public Voices. (October 2016 - Present).
- McGee
  - "Journal of Pension Economics and Finance." (2023 - Present).
  - "Education Next." (2022 - Present).
  - "Journal of Education Human Resources." (2022 - Present).
  - "National Tax Journal." (2022 - Present).
  - "Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis." (2021 - Present).
  - "Educational Researcher." (2020 - Present).
  - "Journal of School Choice." (2013 - Present).
  - "Education Finance and Policy." (2011 - Present).
- Wai
  - Standard Editorship, "Humanities and Social Sciences Communications" (2023 – Present).
  - Editorial board member, "Journal of Intelligence," International (2021 – Present).
  - Editorial board member, "Journal for the Education of the Gifted," International (2019 – Present).
  - Editorial board member, "Gifted Child Quarterly," International (2018 – Present).
  - Editorial board member, "Journal of Expertise," International (2017 – Present).
  - Editorial board member, "Intelligence," International (2016 – Present).
- Zamarro
  - Associate Editor, "Evaluation and Policy Analysis (EEPA)" (November 2020 – December 2023).
  - Editorial Board, "AERA Open." (May 2023 – Present).
  - Reviewer, "AERA Open." (2019 – Present).
  - Reviewer, "Economic Journal." (2019 – Present)
  - Reviewer, "Economics of Education Review." (2014 - Present)
  - Reviewer, "Education Finance and Policy." (2014 - Present)



- Reviewer, "Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis." (2014 - Present)
- Reviewer, "Educational Researcher." (2014 - Present)
- Reviewer, "Labor Economics." (2014 - Present)

## **Grants Activity:**

### Funded Projects:

Cheng, A. A. (Primary Investigator), "SCL Thriving Schools Study," Sponsored by Society for Classical Learning, Private Non-Profit, \$11,173.00. (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).

Cheng, A. A. (Primary Investigator), Wolf, P. J. (Co-Investigator), Maranto, R. A. (Co-Investigator), "The Center for the Study of Classical Education," Sponsored by The Kern Family Foundation, Foundation, \$0.00. (December 15, 2021 - June 30, 2025).

Maranto, R. A. (Primary Investigator), "Yelling FIRE on campus: Exploring campus free expression through FIRE data," Sponsored by Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, Private Non-Profit, \$33,593.00. (March 21, 2023 - October 31, 2024).

Wai, J. (Primary Investigator), "Validity Evidence on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Spatial Test for Instruction and Evaluation of Spatial Interventions," Sponsored by U.S. Department of Education, Federal, \$73,713.00. (January 1, 2022 - July 20, 2025).

Wai, J. (Primary Investigator), Liang, X. (Co-Investigator), Chen, J. (Co-Investigator), Lakin, J. M. (Co-Investigator), "Exploring the links between spatial reasoning and vocational or 'middle-skill jobs' using a machine learning approach," Sponsored by COEHP WE CARE Field Advancement Funds, University of Arkansas, College/School, \$2,500.00. (2023 - 2024).

Liang, X. (Primary Investigator), Wai, J. (Co-Investigator), Edeh, E. (Co-Investigator), Cao, C. (Co-Investigator), "Testing Bayesian measurement invariance with unbalanced groups: Method advancement and application in gifted education," Sponsored by COEHP WE CARE Field Advancement Funds, University of Arkansas, College/School, \$14,000.00. (2023 - 2024).

Wai, J. (Primary Investigator), "A Multidisciplinary Literature Review/Exploration and Synthesis of Talent Research," Sponsored by Schmidt Futures, Private Non-Profit, \$100,000.00. (June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2024).

### External Grants:

Maranto, R. A. (Primary Investigator), "Program on Open Inquiry in the Behavioral Sciences," Sponsored by Apgar Foundation, Private Non-Profit, \$37,215.00.

McGee, J. B. (Co-Investigator), McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), "NWA Education Partnership, Strategic Planning and Outcomes Review," Sponsored by NWA Public Education Foundations, \$80,000.00. (2023).

McGee, J. B. (Co-Investigator), McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), "Operational Support for the OEP," Sponsored by Walton Family Foundation, \$904,532.00. (2023).

McGee, J. B. (Co-Investigator), Wolf, P. J. (Primary Investigator), "Charter School Funding Equity," Sponsored by Walton Family Foundation, Foundation, \$363,592.00. (2021 - 2023).

McGee, J. B. (Primary Investigator), Wolf, P. J. (Co-Investigator), "Equitable Finance Study," Sponsored by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Foundation, \$100,000.00. (October 19, 2022 - September 30, 2023).

McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), "Arkansas Teacher Corps," Sponsored by The Walton Family Foundation, Foundation, \$3,672,500.00. (October 6, 2022 - September 30, 2025).

McKenzie, S. C., "LRSD Community Schools Project," Sponsored by Windgate Foundation, Foundation, \$48,750.00. (November 2021 - December 2024).

McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), "School Quality Matrix (SQM) 5.0," Sponsored by The Walton Family Foundation, Foundation, \$362,768.88. (January 1, 2022 - May 31, 2024).

McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), Wai, J. (Co-Investigator), "Universal Screening in Gifted Identification in Arkansas," Sponsored by The Walton Family Foundation, Foundation, \$50,000.00. (July 26, 2019 -December 31, 2023).

McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), "NWA Public Education Foundation Coop," Sponsored by NWA Public Education Foundation Coop, Foundation, \$80,000.00. (April 7, 2023 - October 31, 2023).

McKenzie, S. C., "Operational Support for the Office for Education Policy," Sponsored by The Walton Family Foundation, Foundation, \$904,532.00. (March 2021 - July 2023).

McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), "Arkansas Teacher Corps," Sponsored by Arkansas Department of Education, State, \$205,800.00. (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

McKenzie, S. C. (Primary Investigator), "NWA Public Education Foundation Coop," Sponsored by NWA Public Education Foundation Coop, Foundation, \$80,000.00. (2022-2023).

## **Appendix: Current Positions of EDRE Graduates**

- Lina Anaya ('21) Data Scientist, Qomodo
- Kaitlin Anderson ('17) Researcher, American Institutes for Research
- Jennifer Ash ('15) Director of the National Center for Rural Education Research Networks, Harvard University Center for Education Policy Research
- Joshua Barnett ('07) Chief Executive Officer, National Institute for Excellence in Teaching
- Molly Beck ('20) Research Associate and Data Fellow, Saint Louis Public Schools
- Daniel Bowen ('13) Associate Professor, Educational Administration & Human Resource Development, Texas A&M University
- Alexandra Boyd ('18) Executive Director of Public-School Partnerships, Saint Louis University
- Martha Bradley-Dorsey ('21) Social Entrepreneur, Bradley-Dorsey & Associates
- Benton Brown ('18) Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor, School of Education, Utah Valley University
- Stuart Buck ('12) Executive Director, Good Science Project
- Matthew Carr ('09) Director of Strategy, Learning & Evaluation, Walton Family Foundation
- Albert Cheng ('16) Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas
- Emily Coady ('22) Director, Program Development and Improvement, Gwinnett County (Ga.) Public Schools
- Jeffrey Dean ('15) Senior Officer, Strategy, Learning, and Evaluation, Walton Family Foundation
- Corey DeAngelis ('18) Senior Fellow, The American Federation for Children
- Anna Egalite ('14) Associate Professor, North Carolina State University
- Leesa Foreman ('18) Elementary Special Education Teacher, Portland Public Schools
- Dillon Fuchsman ('20) Senior Research Associate, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Nathan Gray ('09) Associate Professor of Business and Public Policy, Young Harris College
- Collin Hitt ('16) Executive Director, Saint Louis University PRIME Center
- Marc Holley ('09) Philanthropist, Walton Family Foundation

- Heidi Holmes Erickson ('19) Assistant Professor in Educational Leadership, Brigham Young University
- Nate Jensen ('12) Vice President of District Research, Northwest Evaluation Association
- Ian Kingsbury ('19) Director of Academic Analytics Research, Stride K12
- Brian Kisida ('15) Assistant Professor, University of Missouri
- Katherine Kopotic ('20) Manager of External Reporting, Saint Louis University Office of Institutional Research
- Matthew Lee ('21) Director of Research, The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Martin Lueken ('14) Director of Fiscal Research and Education Center, EdChoice (formerly the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice)
- Joshua McGee ('11) Research Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas and Chief Data Officer, State of Arkansas
- Michael McShane ('13) Director of National Research, EdChoice (formerly the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice)
- Jonathan Mills ('15) Research Scientist, Coleridge Initiative
- Sarah Burks Moore ('15) Member, Arkansas State Board of Education 29
- Malachi Nichols ('18) Director of Data and Strategy, ForwARd Arkansas
- Evan Rhinesmith ('17) Senior Program Officer, Walton Personal Philanthropy Group
- Caleb Rose ('13) Senior Research Analyst, Strategy and Policy Division, University of North Carolina System
- Charlie Ruiz-Belin ('18) Science Department Chair, Arlington Independent School District, TX
- M. Danish Shakeel ('18) Director of the Centre for Educational Entrepreneurship, University of Buckingham, UK
- James Shuls ('13) Associate Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, University of Missouri- St. Louis
- Yujie (Beth) Sude ('18) Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas
- Elise Swanson ('19) Senior Research Manager, Center for Educational Policy Research, Harvard University
- Sivan Tuchman ('17) Founder, Datability

- Angela Watson ('19) Senior Research Fellow & Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University
- Marcus Winters ('08) Department Chair for Educational Leadership & Policy Studies and Faculty Director, Wheelock Educational Policy Center, Boston University
- James (Lynn) Woodworth ('13) Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University