

HEATHER M. STEPHENS
Resource Economics and Management
West Virginia University
4211 Agricultural Sciences Building
P.O. Box 6108
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108
Email: heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

West Virginia University:

Associate Professor, Resource Economics and Management, 2020 – Present

Faculty Research Associate, Regional Research Institute (RRI), 2020 – Present

Assistant Professor, Resource Economics and Management, 2012 – 2020

California State University, Long Beach:

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, 2012 – 2015

Director, Office of Economic Research (OER), 2012 – 2015

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Agricultural, Environmental and Development (AED) Economics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2012.

- Dissertation Title: “Three Essays in Regional Economics.”
- Department of AED Economics graduate student and Ph.D. candidate, 2008–2012.
- Member of the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society.
- Completed microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics sequences in the Department of Economics.

M.B.A., Finance and Marketing, The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business, Columbus, OH, 2000.

- Graduated in top 5% of Class.
- Member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society and the Fisher College Pace Setters.
- Financed by the Moritz Family MBA Fund Scholarship, the W. Arthur Cullman MBA Fellowship for Excellence in Marketing, and a Fisher College Graduate Assistantship.

B.A., Public Policy Studies and Economics, Duke University, Durham, NC, 1994.

- Graduated with Honors: Cum Laude.
- Studied at London School of Economics, Spring Semester 1993.

RESEARCH

Refereed Journal Publications

Patrick, Carlianne, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2020. “Incentivizing the Missing Middle: The role of economic development policy.” *Economic Development Quarterly* 34(2): 154-170.
DOI: 10.1177/0891242420907160

Dobis, Elizabeth A., **Heather M. Stephens**, Mark Skidmore, and Stephan F. Goetz. 2020. “Explaining the Spatial Variation in American Life Expectancy.” *Social Science and Medicine* 246, 112759.
DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112759

Stephens, Heather M. 2019. "Understanding U.S. College Graduate Migration." *Journal of Geographical Systems* 21(4): 509-531. DOI: 10.1007/s10109-019-00310-5

Stephens, Heather M. and Amanda Weinstein. 2019. "Household valuation of energy development in amenity-rich regions." *Growth and Change* 50:1375-1410. DOI: 10.1111/grow.12335

Cai, Zhengyu, **Heather M. Stephens**, John Winters. 2019. "Motherhood, Migration, and Self-Employment of College Graduates." *Small Business Economics* 53(3): 611-629. DOI: 10.1007/s11187-019-00177-2

Harger, Kaitlyn, Amanda Ross, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2019. "What Matters the Most for Economic Development? Evidence from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund." *Papers in Regional Science* 98: 883– 904. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12396

Stephens, Heather M. and John Deskins. 2018. "Economic Distress and Labor Market Participation." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 100(5): 1336–1356. DOI: 10.1093/ajae/aay065

Goetz, Stephan, Mark Partridge, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2018. "The Economic Status of Rural America in the President Trump Era and Beyond." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* 40(1): 97–118. DOI: 10.1093/aep/ppx061

Spiller, Elisheba, **Heather M. Stephens**, and Yong Chen. 2017. "Understanding the Heterogeneous Effects of Gasoline Taxes Across Income and Location." *Resource and Energy Economics* 50: 74-90. DOI: 10.1016/j.reseneeco.2017.07.002

Patrick, Carlianne, **Heather M. Stephens**, and Amanda Weinstein. 2016. "Where are all the self-employed women? Push and pull factors influencing female labor market decisions." *Small Business Economics*. 46(3): 365-390. DOI: 10.1007/s11187-015-9697-2

Stephens, Heather M. and Mark D. Partridge. 2015. "Lake Amenities, Environmental Degradation, and Great Lakes Regional Growth." *International Regional Science Review* 38: 61-91. DOI: 10.1177/0160017613496632

Spiller, Elisheba, **Heather M. Stephens**, Christopher Timmins, and Allison Smith. 2014. "The Effect of Gasoline Taxes and Public Transit Investments on Driving Patterns." *Environmental and Resource Economics* 59(4): 633-657. DOI: 10.1007/s10640-013-9753-9

Stephens, Heather M., Alessandra Faggian, and Mark D. Partridge. 2013. "Innovative entrepreneurship and economic growth in lagging regions." *Journal of Regional Science* 53(5): 778-812. DOI: 10.1111/jors.12019

Stephens, Heather M. and Mark D. Partridge. 2011. "Do Entrepreneurs Enhance Economic Growth in Lagging Regions?" *Growth and Change* 42(4): 431–465. (Lead Article.) DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-2257.2011.00563.x

Book Chapter

Patrick, Carlianne, Amanda Ross, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2017. "Designing Policies to Spur Economic Growth: How Regional Scientists Can Contribute to Future Policy Development and Evaluation." In Regional Research Frontiers: The Next 50 Years, edited by R. Jackson and P. Schaeffer. Springer.

Other Publications

Rae, Alasdair, Stephen Hincks, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2017. "The role of open access in a changing academy: reflections on a new publishing paradigm." *Regional Studies, Regional Science* 4(1): 42-48. DOI: 10.1080/21681376.2017.1308063

Faggian, Alessandra, Elizabeth Mack, and **Heather M. Stephens**. 2013. "Editorial: Special issue on Current Issues in Regional Development." *International Regional Science Review* 36(3): 263-266. DOI: 10.1177/0160017613485243

Total citations based on Google Scholar (as of May 2020): 415.

Under Review

Hodges, Collin (PhD graduate) and Heather M. Stephens. "Does Municipal Incorporation Always Increase Property Values?"

Keeler, Zachary (PhD candidate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. "Valuing Shale Development in Resource-Dependent Communities." (Revision at *Resources Policy*).

Keeler, Zachary (PhD candidate), **Heather M. Stephens**, and Brad Humphreys. "The amenity value of sports facilities: Evidence from the Staples Center in Los Angeles."

Revise and Resubmit

Stephens, Heather M., Elena Irwin, and Mark D. Partridge. "How do pollution and other environmental disamenities affect business location?" (*Land Economics*).

Working Papers

Hodges, Collin (PhD graduate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. "West Virginia Death Certificate Analysis: Coal Country and the Opioid Crisis."

Keeler, Zachary (PhD candidate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. "The Capitalization of Metro Rail Access in Urban Housing Markets."

Taylor, Samuel (PhD candidate) and **Heather M. Stephens**. "Impact of Large Scale Water Contamination on Population Change."

Taylor, Samuel (PhD candidate), **Heather M. Stephens**, and Daniel Grossman. "Contribution of Overdose Death and Economic Distress to Rural Out-Migration."

Works in Prep

Do Urban-Rural Interactions Matter for Economic Vitality in U.S. regions? (with Elizabeth Dobis).

Research on the impact of shale oil and gas development on local economies (with Anil Rupasingha).

Research on how a spouse's employment risk affects women entrepreneurs (with Sisi Zhang).

Research on the spatial distribution of labor force participation (with Steven C. Deller).

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (FUNDED)

"ARC Coal Industry Ecosystem (CIE) Analysis Extensions." Appalachian Regional Commission. Co-Investigator. Funding: \$499,913 (Stephens' portion: \$79,749). Timeframe: 2019–2020.

"City Transportation and Air Pollution in China." International Cooperation Grant, Jinan University, 2018-XJCG030. Funding: 30,000 RMB. Timeframe: 2018.

Big XII Faculty Fellowship. Provided funding for collaboration with faculty at Oklahoma State University. Funding: \$2500. Timeframe: 2017–2018.

“Rural America and the Economic Impacts of Energy, the Environment, Entrepreneurship, and Health Care.” Hatch Project, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2017–2022.

“NE1749: Enhancing Rural Economic Opportunities, Community Resilience, and Entrepreneurship.” Official Station Representative, Multi-State Hatch Project, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2017–2022.

“NE1049: Community Health and Resilience.” Official Station Representative, Multi-State Hatch Project, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2017.

USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) Visiting Scholar. Worked with USDA economists on research and gained access to data worth approximately \$200,000. Timeframe: 2016–2017.

“Understanding U.S. College Graduate Migration.” Early Career Grant Scheme, Regional Studies Association (a UK-based international membership organization). Principle Investigator. Funding: \$15,000. Timeframe: 2013–2015.

“Leveraging natural amenities for sustainable development in the Great Lakes region.” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ohio Sea Grant Program. Co-Principle Investigator with Mark Partridge and Elena Irwin. Funding: \$180,000, plus match. Timeframe: 2010–2013.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

Applied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting: 2018, 2021 (forthcoming).

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting: 2011, 2018, 2019, 2020 (canceled).

Regional Science Association International: 2020 (postponed).

Southern Regional Science Association Meeting: 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (canceled).

North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI): 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference: Renewing the Promise of the Middle Class: 2019. Audience included researchers, policymakers, and community development professionals.

American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association International Conference: 2018.

Regional, Urban, and Spatial Economics (RUSE) Meeting: 2018.

Regional Studies Association North American Conference: 2016.

National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation: 2015.

US Association for Energy Economics (USAEE)/International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) North American Conference: 2015. (Attendees include academic and non-academic professionals.)

Urban Economics Association Meeting: 2014.

Lincoln Scholars Program, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts: 2014 (Invited Presentation).

Rural Wealth Creation and Livelihoods: A National Conference and Conversation: 2011. Participants included economic development practitioners, researchers, and policymakers.

Invited Seminar Presentations

Pennsylvania State University (2019); Oklahoma State University (2017); University of Akron (2016, 2012); Jinan University, Guangzhou, PRC (2016); University of Southern California (2014); New Mexico State University (2012); University of Alaska Anchorage (2012); Washington State University (2012); John Glenn School of Public Policy, The Ohio State University (2012); Denison University (2011); Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, Ohio University (2010).

MEDIA COVERAGE

“West Virginia’s census response rate third lowest in country.” By Anthony Conn. May 15, 2020. WCHS (online article and local television story, Charleston, WV). <https://wchstv.com/news/local/west-virginias-census-response-rate-third-lowest-in-the-country>

“West Virginia Chamber of Commerce release 12-point recovery plan.” By Joe Buchanan. April 29, 2020. WDTV (online article and local television story, Bridgeport, WV). <https://www.wdtv.com/content/news/West-Virginia-Chamber-of-Commerce-release-12-point-recovery-plan-570024361.html>

“Some States’ Unemployment Claims Surged as National Rate Fell.” By Gwynn Guilford. April 23, 2020. The Wall Street Journal. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/some-states-unemployment-claims-surged-as-national-rate-fell-11587681889>

“How long will it take for small businesses to recover from pandemic?” By Suzanne Elliott. The Dominion Post. April 18, 2020. <https://www.dominionpost.com/2020/04/18/how-long-will-it-take-for-small-businesses-to-recover-from-pandemic/>

“WVU economist discusses vulnerabilities that could hinder economic recovery in the state.” By Rodney Lamp. WBOY-TV Online. April 3, 2010. <https://www.wboy.com/news/health/coronavirus/wvu-economist-discusses-vulnerabilities-that-could-hinder-economic-recovery-in-the-state/>

“Tax incentives for businesses could be harmful.” The Dominion Post. March 14, 2020. <https://www.dominionpost.com/2020/03/14/tax-incentives-for-businesses-could-be-harmful/>

“Colorado homes near oil wells face lower values, new study finds.” By Aldo Svaldi. The Denver Post. December 8, 2019. <https://www.denverpost.com/2019/12/08/colorado-homes-near-oil-wells-lower-values/>
(Also ran in The Sacramento Bee, The San Antonio Express News, and The Charleston Gazette.)

“Study shows shale development adversely affects home values.” The Dominion Post. November 18, 2019. <https://www.dominionpost.com/2019/11/17/wvu-study-shows-shale-development-has-negative-impact-on-home-values/>

“Report: Oil, Gas Drilling Impacts Housing Prices.” By Jess Mancini. The Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register. November 20, 2019. <https://www.theintelligencer.net/news/top-headlines/2019/11/report-oil-gas-drilling-impacts-housing-prices/>

“WVU working to help boost state’s economy.” By Steven Adams. The Weirton Daily Times. October 8, 2019. <https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/news/local-news/2019/10/wvu-working-to-help-boost-states-economy/>

“Analysts want, need legislators’ attention.” By Erin Beck. The Register-Herald (Beckley, West Virginia). October 8, 2019. https://www.register-herald.com/news/state_region/analysts-want-need-legislators-attention/article_04357f90-d17f-5e6d-a9c5-9c418219c75e.html

“The real (surprisingly comforting) reason rural America is doomed to decline.” By Andrew Van Dam. The Washington Post. May 24, 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/05/24/real-surprisingly-comforting-reason-rural-america-is-doomed-decline/>

“WVU experts weigh in on gubernatorial debate.” By Wendy Holdren. The Register-Herald (Beckley, West Virginia). October 6, 2016. <https://wvpress.org/copydesk/insight/wvu-experts-weigh-gubernatorial-debate/>

“WVU experts react to the gubernatorial debate.” By Austin Weiford. The Exponent-Telegram (Clarksburg, West Virginia). October 4, 2016. https://www.wvnews.com/theet/news/free/wvu-experts-react-to-the-gubernatorial-debate/article_98cf1207-1b2b-5282-9508-8f0ded9b0412.html

“Focus on Managing a Job Search as a Couple: More on Timing and Strategy.” CSWEP News. 2016 Issue II. <https://www.aeaweb.org/content/file?id=2327>

“Long Beach economy improving — but some challenges loom ahead.” By Andrew Edwards. Long Beach Press-Telegram. April 24, 2015. <https://www.presstelegram.com/2015/04/24/long-beach-economy-improving-but-some-challenges-loom-ahead/>

“Long Beach’s middle class, then ... and now.” By Tim Grobaty. Long Beach Press-Telegram. February 28, 2015. <https://www.presstelegram.com/2015/02/28/long-beachs-middle-class-then-and-now/>

“Cal State Long Beach graduations economic boon for businesses.” By Karen Robes Meeks. Long Beach Press-Telegram. May 20, 2014. <https://www.presstelegram.com/2014/05/20/cal-state-long-beach-graduations-economic-boon-for-businesses/>

“Long Beach’s economy needs to diversify as manufacturing diminishes, economist says.” By Andrew Edwards. Long Beach Press-Telegram. March 21, 2014. <https://www.presstelegram.com/2014/03/21/long-beachs-economy-needs-to-diversify-as-manufacturing-diminishes-economist-says/>

“CSULB regional economic forum: more gain, some pain ahead.” By Josh Dulaney. Long Beach Press-Telegram. April 26, 2013. <https://www.presstelegram.com/2013/04/26/csulb-regional-economic-forum-more-gain-some-pain-ahead/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

West Virginia University

ARE 150: Agricultural and Agribusiness Economics (Microeconomics), Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019 (including honors).

ECON 201: Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2016.

ARE 445: Energy Economics, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019 (including honors), Spring 2020 (including honors).

ARE 793B: Advanced Applied Econometrics (New PhD Class which I developed), Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020.

California State University, Long Beach

ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2013.

ECON 333: Managerial Economics, Fall 2012.
ECON 437: Urban Economics, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015.
ECON 438: Regional Economics, Fall 2014.
ECON 485: Introduction to Econometrics, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014.

ADVISING

PhD Dissertation Committee Chair:

Completed:

Collin Hodges, Ph.D. “Three Essays in Applied Econometrics,” 2019. Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Central Arkansas.

Samuel Taylor, Ph.D. “Three Essays in Applied Econometrics: Understanding Population Changes,” 2020.

In progress: Zachary Keeler.

PhD Dissertation Committee Member: Arijit Ray (2020; WVU, Department of Economics), Caleb Stair (2018), and Brianne Zimmerman (2018).

Undergraduate Advisor and Honors Advisor, West Virginia University, Fall 2015 to Present.

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Michelle Charochak (2016), Marissa Meltzer (2017), Hannah Lopez (2018), Tatianna Evanisko (2019), Elijah Dempsey (2019), Liam O’Hara (2019), Sullivan Moore (2020), Jack Steketee (2020 – winner of WVU Library’s award for best thesis).

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor: Alfred Leone (2014-2015), Stephanie Garcia Marquez (2015).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorships

Growth and Change. Editorial Board. December 2018 to Present.

Regional Studies, Regional Science. North American Editor, March 2015 to March 2019.
Associate Editor, January 2014 to March 2015, September 2019 to Present.

International Regional Science Review. Guest Editor, Special Issue on Regional Economic Development, July 2013.

Journal Referee

Annals of Regional Science; Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy; Choices; Energy Policy; Growth and Change; International Regional Science Review; Journal of Economic Studies, Journal of Regional Science; Land Economics, Papers in Regional Science; Real Estate Economics; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Regional Studies, Regional Science; Resource and Energy Economics; Resources Policy; Small Business Economics; The Review of Regional Studies.

Boards and Other Service

Reviewer of abstracts for the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, 2018-2020.

Multistate Hatch Project NE1749, “Enhancing Rural Economic Opportunities, Community Resilience, and Entrepreneurship.” Secretary, 2019 to 2020. Member, 2018 to Present.

RSAI 13th World Congress Scientific Committee, 2019 to 2020.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD), based at Pennsylvania State University. Chair, 2019 to 2021. Member, 2016 to 2021.

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA). Executive Council Member, 2018 to 2021.
Treasurer/Co-Executive Director, 2016 to 2018.

Outreach

Academic Media Day, West Virginia University, October 2019.

Media Expert for West Virginia University. October 2016 to Present.

California State University, Long Beach's Regional Economic Forum. Annual event highlighting the challenges and opportunities in the regional economy. Attendees included business, government, and education leaders. Conducted analysis and presented the keynote address at the event. Responsible for organization of and fundraising for the event. April 26, 2013, March 21, 2014, April 24, 2015.

University Service

West Virginia University

Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design:

Faculty Support Committee, 2019 – 2020.

Student Research and Creative Scholarship Committee, 2016 – 2018. Co-Chair: Academic Year 2017 – 2018.

Division of Resource Economics and Management:

Graduate Committee, 2015 – Present.

Seminar Organizer, 2016 – Present.

New Faculty Hiring Committee, Spring 2019.

Qualifying Exam Committee, 2019 – Present.

Second Year Paper Reviewer, 2017 – 2019.

Annual Review Committee, 2017 – 2019.

California State University, Long Beach

College of Liberal Arts:

Faculty Council, Academic Year 2014 – 2015.

Department of Economics:

Undergraduate Committee, Fall 2013 – Spring 2015.

Seminar Committee, 2013 – 2015.

Faculty Recruitment Committee, Academic Year 2013 – 2014.

Elections Committee, Fall 2014 – Spring 2015.

Information Committee, Fall 2012 – Spring 2015.

Assessment Committee, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Grade Appeals Committee, Fall 2012 – Spring 2014.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

American Economic Association (AEA)

North American Regional Science Council (NARSC)

Regional Science Association International (RSAI)

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)
Urban Economics Association (UEA)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Government Relations and Outreach Associate, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2006–2008.

- Helped manage the Consortium for Energy, Economics, and the Environment (CE3), a university-wide interdisciplinary research consortium.
- Worked with academic researchers and regional, state, and federal officials to organize regional and statewide conferences related to energy and its potential as a tool for economic growth, especially in Appalachian Ohio.
- Wrote successful federal and foundation grant proposals.
- Provided government relations support to the School and the University.
- Mentored and supervised undergraduate and graduate students.

Executive Director, Washakie Development Association (a local non-profit economic development organization), Worland, WY, 2003–2005.

- Led this local economic development organization and managed its projects and budget.
- Wrote successful grant proposals and reports on local economic issues.
- Orchestrated the passage of a local optional sales tax to support regional development.
- Served on various local boards.

Independent Consultant, providing strategic marketing, general business, economic development, and public policy consulting services, 2002–2003.

- Clients included the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce (WY), the State of West Virginia, and Cinergy Corporation.

Business Development Manager, MCI, Arlington, VA, 2000–2002.

- Identified and established new consumer marketing partnerships. Responsibilities included analyzing the financial terms and negotiating the contracts.
- Ensured successful execution of new partnerships by managing: the relationship with the partner company, systems integration, coordinated marketing campaigns, financial transactions and reporting, and the communications and public relations plan strategy.
- Recipient of company leadership award for coordinating internal constituencies for the launch of a new line of business.

Legislative Assistant, Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 1994–1998.

- Senior Advisor to the Congressman. Helped develop and implement the Congressman's legislative agenda. Worked on issues related to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Negotiated on the conference committee for an omnibus job training bill. Legislative successes included passage of the Congressman's health information legislation.
- Wrote and edited legislative summaries, memos, press releases, speeches, newsletters, and letters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Proficient with STATA, ArcGIS, SAS and MATLAB.

Worked as a seasonal Interpretive Park Ranger at Badlands National Park (2005) and on the Blue Ridge Parkway (2006).

Taxicab Driver, Blackboard Transportation, Jackson, WY, 2003.