

# Danielle Lowry

University of Pittsburgh School of Education  
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## EDUCATION

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**University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA, expected May 2020

Ph.D., Administrative and Policy Studies

Specialization: Quantitative Research Methods

**Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH

M.P.A. Public Administration, 2014

**Kent State University**, Kent, OH

B.A.S. History, 2012

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA, 2014-2019

*Research Assistant* to Lindsay C. Page

- Collaborated with colleagues to evaluate the impact of the Pittsburgh Promise on college access and early college persistence using methods of causal inference.
- Analyzed extant research on merit scholarships for comprehensive literature review.
- Designed study to investigate potential decreases in institutional aid generosity at local colleges in response to a place-based scholarship.
- Reviewed research studies incorporating cost-benefit analyses to calculate the social return on investment of the Pittsburgh Promise.
- Assisted team with the cleaning of school district administrative files and National Student Clearinghouse data from a randomized controlled trial testing the effectiveness of text messages on student FAFSA completion and college enrollment.
- Produced maps and used spatial analysis to analyze higher education markets and the prevalence of higher education deserts.

**The Pittsburgh Promise**, 2018-2019

*Contract Researcher*

- Assembled descriptive statistics and reports for Pittsburgh Public Schools, grant foundations, and other stakeholders detailing Promise-eligible student college persistence, retention, and graduation rates.
- Used Stata and ArcGIS to produce data visualizations of Promise Scholar progress to and through college.

**National College Access Network (NCAN)**, 2016-2018

*Graduate Fellow*

- Developed reports on FAFSA submission and completion trends using publicly available data; produced deliverables geared toward higher education policy audience.
- Contributed to NCAN blog and Success Digest on relevant financial aid topics.
- Reproduced National Student Clearinghouse graphics tracing student progress through postsecondary for NCAN members and their student data.

- Researched the history and intricacies of FAFSA verification; research used for NCAN white paper on the detriments of FAFSA verification on college access.

*Contract Researcher*

- Examined relationship between school district poverty levels and FAFSA completion and compiled findings into report published on NCAN website; findings utilized for public outreach campaign to increase FAFSA filing in low-filing school districts.
- Presented research findings at college access event for policymakers and practitioners in DC.

**Center on Education and Training for Employment**, Columbus, OH, 2013-2014

*Intern*

- Compiled existing research for the development and implementation of communities of practice for Ohio's system of adult education instructors.
- Assisted in the design of an evaluation plan for Ohio's community college student success initiative to increase student persistence from year one to year two.
- Synthesized GED student college persistence literature, created and disseminated student survey, and wrote paper detailing student persistence patterns in higher education.
- Utilized descriptive statistics for the presentation of adult education instructor surveys for publication in monthly statewide newsletter.
- Researched policies, programs, and strategies to increase adult student persistence, retention, achievement, and postsecondary and training transitions; research consolidated into documents disseminated to the field.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Ohio State University Arts and Sciences Career Services**, Columbus, OH, 2013-2014

*Career Advisor*

- Edited and critiqued undergraduate student resumes and cover letters during one-on-one walk-in sessions. Performed mock interviews with students, evaluated their performance, and provided feedback on successful interview methods. Counseled students on effective strategies regarding job searches and attending job fairs. Led job search information sessions.

**GED Scholars Initiative**, Kent, OH, 2010-2012

*Project Assistant*

- Supported GED-holding students in the transition to post-secondary education. Provided career and program advising. Assisted GED Scholars with scholarship and class essays; served as mentor to GED Scholars; and provided information to criminally convicted GED graduates in need of explanation statements for college admittance. Maintained organization communications, including social media and weekly email updates.

**FELLOWSHIPS**

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**School of Education Quant Sequence**, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 2016-2017

*Teaching Assistant*

- Assisted professors with grading of homework and term papers for the graduate-level quantitative methods course sequence. Held office hours and tutored students in

regression analysis and data visualization. Responded to student questions and concerns in class sessions and via email.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Page, L. C., Iriti, J. E., Lowry, D. J., & Anthony, A. M. (2018). The Promise of Place-Based Investment in Postsecondary Access and Success: Investigating the Impact of the Pittsburgh Promise. *Education Finance and Policy*.

Lowry, D. J. (2018). An analysis of the relationship between school district poverty and FAFSA completion. *National College Access Network*.

## WORKING PAPERS

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Lowry, D. J., Page, L. C., Anthony, A. M., & Iriti, J. E. (2019). To supplement or supplant: Institutional responses in financial aid to the Pittsburgh Promise.

Lowry, D.J., Guzman-Alvarez, A. (2019). Disproportionate access in US higher education markets.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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The *promise* of place-based investment in college access and success: Investigating the impact of the Pittsburgh Promise. Paper presented at:

- Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO, March 2016
- Annual Research Convocation on Place-Based Scholarships Sponsored by the Upjohn Institute, Kalamazoo, MI, November 2015
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA, October 2015

To supplement or supplant: Institutional responses in financial aid to the Pittsburgh Promise. Paper presented at:

- Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington, DC, March 2017
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Chicago, IL, November 2017

An analysis of the relationship between school district poverty and FAFSA completion. Paper presented at:

- National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs, Albuquerque, NM, October 2018.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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Quasi-Experimental Design and Analysis, The Institute of Education Sciences (70 hours) 2017

Cost-Effectiveness and Benefit-Cost Methods, The Institute of Education Sciences (35 hours) 2017

Financial Aid Bootcamp, The Postsecondary National Policy Institute (14 hours) 2018

Loan Servicing Bootcamp, The Postsecondary National Policy Institute (14 hours) 2019

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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American Educational Research Association

Association for Education Finance and Policy

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Association for the Study of Higher Education