



# WISCONSIN HOPE LAB



*Wisconsin HOPE Lab graduate students (from L to R) Anthony Hernandez, Kathy Villalon, Katie Broton, and Minh Mai pose with Hunter College political scientist Sanford Schram (second from right) following his October talk at UW-Madison.*

## Fall Speaker Series Is a Hit

Packed rooms, positive reviews, and thoughtful dialogue—all signs point to success for our inaugural Wisconsin HOPE Lab [Fall Speaker Series](#).

The Series kicked off September 14th and 15th with two presentations by Anthony Jack, the Harvard University sociologist whose research has revealed hunger and food insecurity at an elite university. Tony, who is also

a Wisconsin HOPE Lab Affiliate, met with local students at the Urban League of Madison, and then presented results from an intensive study of a no-loan financial aid program intended to increase campus diversity. As [reported](#) by *The Daily Cardinal*, his work uncovered a host of ways in which these efforts failed to adequately support their educational success.

On October 6th, Kathryn Edin, of Johns Hopkins University, and Luke Schaefer, of the University of Michigan, presented research from their new book, [\\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America](#), to a standing-room-only crowd. People from across the university, including noted poverty scholars from the Institute for Research on Poverty and the La Follette School of Public Affairs, joined in the discussion.

Then, on October 19th and 20th, political scientist [Sanford Schram](#) of Hunter College, delivered remarks on, respectively, the way that society treats the poor and the [implications of the public higher education crisis for American democracy](#).

Another Wisconsin HOPE Lab Affiliate, Micere Keels of the University of Chicago, has studied the consequences of gender imbalances in higher education; she spoke and [shared her research](#) on November 2nd.

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab Fall Speaker Series will close with [a November 30th presentation](#) on "If You Can Weather the Storm: Identity and Survival Among Urban Youth," by Stefanie DeLuca of Johns Hopkins University.



Harvard University sociologist Anthony Jack join the Wisconsin HOPE Lab staff following his September talk in Madison.

## Research Informs Lawmakers

As a translational research laboratory, part of our mission is to inform state and national policymakers of the most current research on aspects of college affordability. That's why the Wisconsin HOPE Lab provided [informational commentary](#) in August on a bill pending (at press time) in the Wisconsin State Senate to change a state scholarship program.

We also submitted testimony to the National Commission on Hunger about food insecurity among college undergraduates. Brooke A. Evans, undergraduate research assistant, wrote [one report](#), while Wisconsin HOPE Lab colleagues Katharine M. Broton and Sara Goldrick-Rab [co-authored another](#).

In September, Katie and Sara traveled to Washington, D.C., for a convening at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The meeting concerned housing insecurity among community college students. It was precipitated by a [policy brief](#) the two scholars had written in 2014. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from community college organizations, leaders from New York and Philadelphia community

colleges, members of the White House Domestic Policy Council and the U.S. Department of Education, Single Stop USA, and others. Sara delivered an hour-long presentation on the latest research, and participants engaged in a detailed discussion about possible federal efforts to create safer housing options for students.

## Impact and Influence

Sharing research with practitioners and students is an important part of our work. This fall—in addition to the events mentioned above—we reached out by publishing, keynoting, and even Tweeting.



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### Speaking Out

Sara Goldrick-Rab spoke about college affordability to multiple audiences this fall: at Waunakee High School, [Lake Superior State University](#), the [SHEEO](#) Higher Education Policy

### Collaborating

Our workshop, "Equity & Reasonable Costs in Higher Education," drew higher education leaders from around the country to define ways to measure equity in the context of college costs, and explore how

### Twitter Chats

PBS NewsHour invited Sara Goldrick-Rab to join other nationally known higher educational policy experts in a moderated online Twitter chat. The topic was need-based versus merit-based financial aid

Conference, a [federal advisory committee](#), and Maynooth University in Ireland. With Research Specialist Minhtuyen Mai and undergraduate research assistant Brooke Evans, she presented to Chadbourne Hall Living-Learning Community at UW-Madison.

research can inform equity policy. We published [a convening summary](#), and Sara Goldrick-Rab and Affiliate Tammy Kolbe wrote an [op-ed for Inside Higher Ed](#).

for college students, which is one of many aspects of college affordability we study. [Click to see](#) how a complex discussion truly can take place in a 140-character world.



*During HOPE's October convening on higher education costs and funding, national experts discuss models for deriving institutional costs of providing adequate educational experiences.*

# Up and Running

This fall we completed several research reports on the true costs of college attendance for the [Lumina Foundation](#), which provided majority funding. Look for public reports on these studies in the coming months.

## Meal Plans

Healthy minds must be fed, and undergraduates sometimes struggle to obtain enough nutritious and affordable food. We carefully examined the meal plans at multiple public universities through Wisconsin to identify how and why students on these plans may nonetheless find themselves insufficiently nourished. The results reveal that profits derived from meals missed while students are in class or at work may come at substantial costs for individuals.

## Time Use

How students allocate their time can contribute to what they pay for college. While retrospective surveys are typically used to measure time use, they can miss a lot. We used an innovative smartphone app, along with a unique time-use measuring practice known as the experience sampling method, to measure how students in the University of Wisconsin Colleges spend their days.

## Hidden Costs

Parents and students often report that college costs more than the sticker price, despite the availability of financial aid. Our team conducted ethnographic research at four public universities, with additional data collection at two other campuses. Costs seem to accrue throughout the undergraduate experience, arising from surprising fees, shortages of planned housing and medical resources, and many other ways institutions appear to pass on their expenses to students.

# Recommended Reading

Here's a chance to read what we write—and what others write about us. After all, part of our mission is to conduct and share research and information on all aspects of college access and affordability.

## Net Prices

Want to compare prices by college or within educational systems? Now you can. The Wisconsin HOPE Lab [compiled data](#) on the net price of attending each of Wisconsin's public postsecondary institutions. Included are the schools of the Wisconsin Technical College System and the two- and four-year schools of the UW System.

## Data Briefs

As a means of translating our research into information that's most useful for students, families, practitioners and policymakers, the Wisconsin HOPE Lab [issues data briefs](#) on issues affecting college affordability. Click above to read about our research on FAFSA completion times and the meaning of Satisfactory Academic Progress.

## Press Updates

News media reports regularly feature the research and the people of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab. We provide data and expert commentary to publications ranging from *The Economist* and the *Wall Street Journal* to *Madame Noire* to *The Daily Cardinal*, *The Washington Post*, *Politico*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and more. Check the [News](#) section of our website for updates.

# Staff Updates

Want to get to know the talented and dedicated staff of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab? Visit the [staff page](#) on our website for bios and more. In the meantime, join us in welcoming the newest Wisconsin HOPE Lab staffers.



## David Monaghan

**David Monaghan** completed his Ph.D. in Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2015 and is now a senior researcher at the Wisconsin HOPE Lab. His research focuses on nontraditional undergraduates and broad-access higher educational institutions. He



## Karole Dachelet

**Karole Dachelet** will graduate from the La Follette School of Public Affairs in December. Before joining the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, she worked at the Institute for Research on Poverty from 2010 to 2014. Karole has experience in social work, political science and poverty studies. Currently



## Anthony Hernandez

**Anthony Hernandez** is a UW-Madison Educational Policy Studies master's student and project assistant at the Wisconsin HOPE Lab. He earned an undergraduate and graduate degree at Harvard University. He is currently working on housing- and food-insecurity projects, and

studies the impact of socioeconomic inequality on credentials, college experiences, and outcomes.

she is investigating best practices in emergency aid program at higher education institutions across the country.

assisting in the AVID/TOPS program evaluation.



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