



Wisconsin HOPE Lab Research Leads to Awareness and Action

The food pantry set to open at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this fall is a great example of how our translational research works. When [leading-edge studies](#) from Wisconsin HOPE Lab researchers showed that food insecurity and housing instability were affecting students and their odds for college success, we quickly put the data and analysis into the hands of practitioners, students, and reporters.

We also presented papers and posters and spoke at national conferences. In March, for example, Wisconsin HOPE Lab staff [participated in a panel discussion](#) on this topic at the United States Student Association Legislative Conference that was sponsored by Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. USSA President Maxwell Love reported back to us: "Students in attendance were so moved by the presentations that many have gone back to campus and started exploring the options for supporting students who are housing and food insecure."

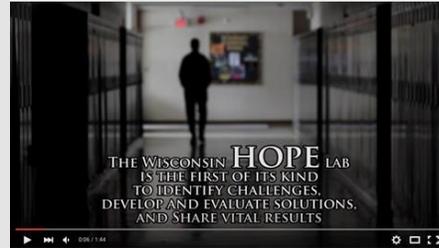
In addition, Sara Goldrick-Rab and Wisconsin HOPE Lab affiliate Clare Cady conducted a workshop on the issues of student homelessness and food insecurity as part of the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference, held in New Orleans in March. Read Sara's pre-conference interview [here](#).

We are pleased to have raised awareness and provided evidence-based information to a conversation that has since yielded local and national

results. Locally, as mentioned, UW-Madison and Associated Students of Madison will be opening a food bank for students. In addition, Sara Goldrick-Rab has collaborated with the Working Class Student Union to launch a task force on food and housing insecurity at UW-Madison. Nationally, the conversation that started less than a year ago continues, with ever more-informed voices in the mix.

Time flies!

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab officially launched one year ago this month. Here's a look back at the video that premiered on our first day:



Impact and Influence

Sharing Wisconsin HOPE Lab research with practitioners and students is an important part of our work. Wisconsin HOPE Lab researchers have presented papers, given testimony, served on panels, and more. Among the highlights:

AERA Presentations

From the American Educational Research Association [annual meeting](#) in Chicago last month: Peter Kinsley and Hannah Miller presented papers; Minh Tuyá»n LÃ¡a Mai and Jesus Rentiera presented posters; Kathy Villalon was a discussant. In addition, Sara presented the AERA Early Career Award Lecture and gave a paper.

Education Writers Association

Sara Goldrick-Rab contributed to a [lively panel discussion](#) of free community college as part of the Education Writers Association National Seminar in Chicago last month. She joined the Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education and the chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago in talking about expanding public education to grades K-14.

Federal Reserve Board

Student debt was the topic when the Federal Reserve Board and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [met in New York](#) earlier this year. Sara Goldrick-Rab provided findings from Wisconsin HOPE Lab research in her testimony about Pell Grants, family incomes, and the real costs of college attendance and completion.



Up and Running

Our staff has been busy with research projects and engagement. Our work delves deep into issues of college affordability, perception, persistence, time to degree, and ultimate success. Read on for our updates:

Internship Program

We've engaged interns across Wisconsin on a project aimed at discovering and documenting how their communities view college opportunities. Included are undergraduates and faculty members at UW-Fond du Lac, UW-Marathon County, Nicolet Technical College, Mid-State Technical College, and UW-Madison.

Time Use Study

How do college students spend their time? Do students who receive a Pell Grant apportion their days differently from students who don't? Preliminary results are in from our pilot program using the experience sampling method and a smartphone app to survey students at 13 UW College campuses and UW Colleges Online. A full analysis will be released later this summer.

STEM Study

Funding from the National Science Foundation and Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation supports this study of 2,000 students at 10 colleges and universities in Wisconsin. Survey results on how students understand the requirements of financial aid and satisfactory progress will be published on wihopelab.com in early summer.

Recommended Reading

College affordability and the role it plays in the lives of students and their families is the topic of much of our research—and, lately, many of our papers and op-eds, too. Click below to see what the data reveal:

The logo for Money magazine, featuring the word "Money" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.The logo for The Atlantic magazine, featuring the word "the Atlantic" in a white, serif font on a black rectangular background.

College and Living Costs

Time magazine published "What Your College Isn't Telling You About Costs" on [their Money blog](#) last month. Using Wisconsin HOPE Lab research, the authors detailed the serious problems that students and families can face when colleges and universities estimate their costs of living inaccurately.

Living Cost Calculations

Sara Goldrick-Rab co-authored [this policy brief](#) with Wisconsin HOPE Lab affiliates Robert Kelchen of Seton Hall University and Braden J. Hosch of Stony Brook University. Our research contributed to findings that cost-of-living statistics are regularly under- or over-estimated by colleges and universities.

Early Pell Grants

Sara Goldrick-Rab and Wisconsin HOPE Lab affiliate Robert Kelchen of Seton Hall University are co-authors of [this look into Pell Grants](#). Their research on simplifying the application process and informing students of possible eligibility in eighth grade has been picked up by [The Atlantic](#) magazine.

Staff Updates

Want to get to know the talented and dedicated staff of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab? Visit our website for [bios and more](#). In the meantime, join us in saying welcome and congratulations to the people below:



Ja'Dell Davis

Welcome to **Ja'Dell Davis**, who has joined the Wisconsin HOPE Lab as a project assistant. She is a first-year graduate student at the UW-Madison Department of Sociology and is researching the hidden costs of college attendance along with participating in an evaluation of the AVID/TOPS program in

Ben Emmel

Welcome to **Ben Emmel**, who is now a project assistant at the Wisconsin HOPE Lab. Ben recently graduated with his master's degree from the La Follette School of Public Affairs and previously spent two years as a consultant at the UW DesignLab. He is lending his talents in design to our communications and promotional efforts.

Kathy Villalon

Welcome to **Kathy Villalon**, who is a project assistant for the Wisconsin HOPE Lab and involved with research on the hidden costs of college attendance and an evaluation of the AVID/TOPS program operating at Madison Metropolitan School District. Kathy is a third-year graduate student in Educational Policy Studies.

Madison schools.



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