

Christopher T. Bennett

RTI International
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EMPLOYMENT

2022-pres. *Research Education Analyst*
RTI International

2021-22 *Statistician, Office of the Chief Data Officer, Analytics & Evaluation Team*
U.S. Department of Education

2016-21 *Graduate Research Assistant to Angela Boatman and Matthew Shaw*
Vanderbilt University

2008-16 *Education Analyst*
RTI International

EDUCATION

2021 *Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy Studies (Higher Education)*
Vanderbilt University, Peabody College, Nashville, TN

2008 *A.B. in Public Policy & American Institutions*
Brown University, Providence, RI

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023 AERA Palmer O. Johnson Memorial Award for outstanding research article

2021 Innovation Award, ED Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development

2020-21 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship

2018-21 Peabody Dean's Fellowship

2016-21 University Graduate Fellowship

2007 U.S. EPA National Network for Environmental Management Studies Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Bennett, C. T. (2023). On the tenuous track: Contingent faculty unionization at private, nonprofit institutions. *The Review of Higher Education*, 46(4). [Link](#).

Bennett, C. T. (2023). Labor market returns to MBAs from less-selective institutions: Evidence from a field experiment during COVID-19. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 42(2), 525-551. [Link](#).

Bennett, C. T. (2022). Untested admissions: Changes in application behaviors and student demographics under test-optional policies. *American Educational Research Journal*, 59(1), 180-216. [Link](#).

Ecton, W. G., **Bennett, C. T.**, Nienhusser, H. K., Castillo-Montoya, M., & Dougherty, S. M. (2021). If you fund them, will they come?: Findings from a Ph.D. student fellowship program. *AERA Open*, 7(1), 1-26. [Link](#).

Kane, T. J., Boatman, A. R., Kozakowski, W., **Bennett, C. T.**, Hitch, R., & Weisenfeld, D. (2021). Is college remediation a barrier or a boost? Evidence from the Tennessee SAILS program. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 40(3), 883-913. [Link](#).

Bennett, C. T., Evans, B. J., & Marsicano, C. R. (2021). Taken for granted? Effects of loan-reduction initiatives on student borrowing, admission metrics, and campus diversity. *Research in Higher Education*, 62(5), 569-599. [Link](#).

Boatman, A. R., & **Bennett, C. T.** (2021). A switch in time: The academic effects of shifting math remediation from college to high school. *Education Finance and Policy*, 16(3), 464-492. [Link](#).

TECHNICAL REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Madoo, B., & **Bennett, C. T.** (2021). Drawing insights from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) reporting for 2020. Data Matters blog, Office of the Chief Data Officer, U.S. Department of Education. [Link](#).

Kane, T. J., Boatman, A. R., Kozakowski, W., **Bennett, C. T.**, Hitch, R., & Weisenfeld, D. (2020). Is college remediation a barrier or a boost? Evidence from Tennessee. *Education Next*, 20(2), 64-71. [Link](#).

Cataldi, E. F., **Bennett, C. T.**, & Chen, X. (2018). First-generation students: College access, persistence, and postbachelor's outcomes (NCES 2018-421). National Center for Education Statistics. [Link](#).

Kane, T. J., Boatman, A. R., Kozakowski, W., **Bennett, C. T.**, Hitch, R., & Weisenfeld, D. (2018). Remedial math goes to high school: An evaluation of the Tennessee SAILS program. Research Report. Cambridge, MA: Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University. [Link](#).

Wine, J., Janson, N., Siegel, P., & **Bennett, C. T.** (2013). 2008/09 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:08/09) full-scale methodology report (NCES 2014-041). National Center for Education Statistics. [Link](#).

PRESENTATIONS

Baker, D. J., Shook, L. M., Ramirez-Mendoza, J., & **Bennett, C. T.** (2023). To borrow a phrase: An investigation of the news media's role in racialized student loan policy communication. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Denver, CO.

Bennett, C. T., Madoo, B., Morrison, E. L. & Shankster, A. (2021, August). Education Stabilization Fund reports: Insights and lessons for data quality. Presented virtually at the U.S. Department of Education's NCES STATS-DC Conference.

Bennett, C. T. (2021, May). Untested admissions: Effects of test-optional policies on undergraduate applications and student body composition. Invited virtual presentation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's SSTAR Lab. Madison, WI.

- Bennett, C. T.** (2021, March). Master's for hire: Experimental evidence on employers' perceptions of master's degrees from for-profit institutions. Paper presented virtually at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2021, February). Master's for hire: Experimental evidence on employers' perceptions of master's degrees from for-profit institutions. Paper presented virtually at the annual conference of the Sociology of Education Association.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2020, November). Back to the books: Predictors of graduate enrollment for Great Recession-era bachelor's recipients. Paper presented virtually at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. New Orleans, LA.
- Ecton, W., **Bennett, C. T.**, Castillo-Montoya, M., Dougherty, S. M., & Nienhuser, H. K. (2020, November). If you fund them, will they come?: Findings from a graduate student fellowship program. Paper presented virtually at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, New Orleans, LA.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2020, November). Untested admissions: Effects of test-optional policies on undergraduate applications and student body composition. Paper presented virtually at the fall research conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Washington, DC.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2020, April). Perceptions of MBA degrees from for-profit universities: Evidence from a survey experiment. Paper scheduled to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA. [Conference cancelled.]
- Ecton, W., **Bennett, C. T.**, Castillo-Montoya, M., Dougherty, S. M., & Nienhuser, H. K. (2020, April). If you fund them, will they come?: Findings from a graduate student fellowship program. Paper scheduled to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA. [Conference cancelled.]
- Bennett, C. T.** (2020, March). Untested admissions: Effects of test-optional policies on undergraduate applications and student body composition. Paper presented virtually at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Fort Worth, TX.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2019, November). Untested admissions: Effects of test-optional policies on undergraduate applications and student body composition. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Portland, OR.
- Bennett, C. T.**, Evans, B. J., & Marsicano, C. R. (2019, April). Taken for granted?: Effects of loan-reduction initiatives on student borrowing, application behaviors, and campus diversity. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Toronto, ON.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2019, April). Untested admissions: Effects of test-optional policies on undergraduate selectivity and diversity. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Toronto, ON.

- Bennett, C. T.**, Evans, B. J., & Marsicano, C. R. (2019, March). Taken for granted?: Effects of loan-reduction initiatives on student borrowing, application behaviors, and campus diversity. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Kansas City, MO.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2018, November). On the tenuous track: Contingent faculty unionization at private, nonprofit institutions. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Tampa, FL.
- Bennett, C. T.** (2018, March). Institutional expenditures and economic mobility for college students from low-income backgrounds. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR.
- Kozakowski, W., **Bennett, C. T.**, Boatman, A. R., & Kane, T. J. (2018, March). Pre-college math remediation programs in Tennessee. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR.
- Boatman, A. R. & **Bennett, C. T.** (2017, November). Examining the effects of a statewide high school math remediation course: Evidence from Tennessee's SAILS program. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Houston, TX.
- Bennett, C. T.** & Arbeit, C. (2017, November). Growth from abroad: Women in U.S. STEM graduate programs, 2004-2014. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Houston, TX.
- Boatman, A. R. & **Bennett, C. T.** (2017, November). Examining the causal effects of early intervention in developmental education: Evidence from Tennessee's SAILS program. Paper presented at the fall research conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Chicago, IL.
- Bennett, C. T.** & Arbeit, C. (2017, April). Growth from abroad: Women in U.S. science and engineering graduate programs, 2004-14. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Antonio, TX.
- Einaudi, P. B., **Bennett, C. T.**, & Phou, K. (2016, March). NSF Early Career Doctorates Survey (ECDS): Preliminary findings from the pilot survey. Invited town hall presentation at the annual meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association. Grand Rapids, MI.
- Cominole, M. B., **Bennett, C. T.**, & Caves, L. R. (2013, May). Building a history: Collecting comprehensive employment data in a web-based, multimode survey. Paper presented at the American Association for Public Opinion Research annual conference. Boston, MA.
- Janson, N., **Bennett, C. T.**, Caves, L. R., Cominole, M. B., Shepherd, B. C., & Wine, J. S. (2013, May). Can embedded help text links in web survey items improve data quality? Paper presented at the American Association for Public Opinion Research annual conference. Boston, MA.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. EPA Region 2, New York, NY
Public Affairs Fellow

2007

Quest Scholars Program (precursor to QuestBridge), Stanford, CA 2004 & 2005
Academic Curriculum Counselor

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 2005
Congressional Intern for David Price (NC-04)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

AD HOC REVIEWER

AERA Open
American Educational Research Journal
Education Finance and Policy
Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis
educational policy analysis archives
Journal of Higher Education
Research in Higher Education
Review of Higher Education

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION FINANCE AND POLICY

Graduate student member of the AEFPP Membership and Outreach Committee (2018-19)

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Admissions Co-Representative, Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations (2019)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)