



Office Hours at the Capitol - May 16, 2018 Contact Information and Key Takeaways

Adolescent Brain Development and Juvenile Offender Treatment



Michael Caldwell

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Areas of expertise: Adolescent development and brain science, effective treatment programs for juvenile offenders, school threat assessment models, adolescent risk assessment, cost-benefit analysis of juvenile treatment programs, sexually violent juvenile offenders, expert testimony in court cases, and reducing juvenile offender recidivism.

Short bio: Dr. Caldwell has taught the course “Psychology of Juvenile Delinquency” since 1999. He co-founded the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center, where he conducts evaluations and research on the treatment of juvenile offenders. Dr. Caldwell’s cutting-edge research focuses on the brain changes that occur when juveniles go through treatment. His research studies have been funded by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Institute of Mental Health. He is an international expert on the recidivism of juvenile sexual offenders. He speaks frequently to state and national organizations on the frontiers of adolescent brain science and the treatment of juvenile offenders. Dr. Caldwell, a licensed psychologist, has conducted court-ordered evaluations of juvenile offenders.

Michael Caldwell’s top three takeaways for legislators based on his research

- ★ The human brain undergoes a massive reorganization during adolescence that makes teens more prone to risk-taking, more susceptible to peer influences, and more likely to show poor judgment and impulse control.
- ★ Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) damage adolescents’ brain development, impair their ability to handle stress adaptively, and increase their risk for cancer and other diseases.
- ★ Effective treatment of the most unmanageable and aggressive juveniles can cut their risk of future violence in half and offers returns of \$7 for every dollar invested.



Economic and Workforce Development



Yunji Kim

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Areas of expertise: Fiscal stress of local governments, state policy constraints on local governments (e.g., revenues, expenditures, policy authority), levy limits, tax and expenditure limits (TELS), and community well-being indicators.

Short bio: Professor Kim’s research focuses on how local governments collect revenues and deliver services within the constraints of their demographics, the economy, and state policy and how these choices shape community well-being. Her newest project involves traveling around Wisconsin and talking with local government leaders to understand their fiscal stressors and how they are responding. She has given numerous presentations to county, town, and village officials on local government budget and finance. Kim received her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University.

Yunji Kim’s top three takeaways for legislators based on her research

- ★ Local governments are pragmatic and maintain services during fiscal stress by using alternative service delivery methods (e.g., privatization, inter-municipal cooperation) and alternative revenue tools (e.g., user fees, hotel occupancy taxes, developer fees, tax increment financing). However, the success of these strategies is constrained by the local economy, state policy, and geography.
- ★ Tax and expenditure limits (TELS; e.g., “levy limit”) constrain counties more than cities, because counties have fewer revenue tools and more state-mandated expenditures. The broader effects of TELS on government efficiency and democracy are unclear.
- ★ Compared to other states, Wisconsin local governments have limited revenue tools and are highly dependent on state aid and property taxes.

Economic and Workforce Development



Matt Kures

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Areas of expertise: Talent attraction and migration, population migration, rural human capital, industry clusters, regulation of industry compensation, entrepreneurship policy, geographic information systems (GIS), and changes in labor market characteristics.

Short bio: Matt Kures works with counties and regions in Wisconsin to identify demographic trends and economic development opportunities. He also conducts analyses on downtown economic development, Wisconsin’s labor force, rural migration patterns, and attracting and retaining talent. Kures was awarded the UW-Extension State Specialist of the Year for Community, Natural Resources, and Economic Development in 2016. He serves on the Transform Milwaukee Initiative Steering Committee and on the Economic Advisors Roundtable of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. He is co-author with Tessa Conroy of the report “Brain Drain, Brain Gain or Somewhere in the Middle? Thinking about Talent Attraction and Retention from a Sticky State Perspective” to be released in spring 2018. He earned his master’s degree in Geographic Information Systems and Cartography from UW-Madison.

Matt Kures’s top three takeaways for legislators based on his research

- ★ Rather than a skills gap, Wisconsin’s labor force increasingly faces a bodies gap due to its demographic structure. Between 2010 and 2025, the number of Wisconsin residents ages 18 to 64 is projected to remain largely unchanged. In contrast, the population age 65 and over is anticipated to increase by an estimated 480,000 residents.
- ★ Rates of job automation are difficult to predict with any degree of certainty and will depend on many factors, including labor availability, capital and labor costs, technological advances, regulatory issues, and the individual desires of a company’s ownership. Regardless, there is a considerable likelihood that many Wisconsin jobs will be subject to automation over the next two decades. While automation will create challenges for some communities, workers and businesses, automation could also help address a tight labor market and improve business competitiveness.
- ★ Wisconsin typically has some of the lowest rates of population in-migration and out-migration of any state in the nation. That is, it has very low rates of population churn or turnover. The inability of Wisconsin to attract a significant number of in-migrants partially stems from its urban-rural structure and its industrial composition.

Public Benefits for Low-Income Families



Tim Smeeding

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Areas of expertise: Poverty and social policy, at-risk populations, Wisconsin Poverty Measure, labor markets, child care subsidies, apprenticeships for young workers, tax policy (e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Short bio: Professor Smeeding helped create the Wisconsin Poverty Project in 2008 to get a more accurate and timely assessment of poverty throughout the state. His research focuses on social and economic mobility across generations; inequality of income, consumption, and wealth; and poverty, especially child poverty, in national and cross-national contexts. He serves on the Wisconsin Council of Churches' Stewardship Public Life Commission, National Academy of Sciences' American Opportunity Study Committee, and American Pediatrics Association's Taskforce on Child Poverty. Professor Smeeding was named the John Kenneth Galbraith Fellow from the American Academy of Political and Social Science in 2017. From 2008-14, he directed the UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tim Smeeding's top three takeaways for legislators based on his research

- ★ The bipartisan solution to poverty is economic self-sufficiency: a good job that supports a family. However, work alone does not eliminate poverty for most people, especially those with young children. Poor families usually require a wider safety net and income support programs such as the EITC and FoodShare to succeed.
- ★ Research shows that to encourage more work among low-income people, support services such as child care and transportation, as well as jobs that pay above the federal minimum wage, are necessary.
- ★ To give children a better chance of upward mobility from poverty, racial disparities, school failure, teen pregnancy, and concentrated poverty need to be addressed - especially in Milwaukee.

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