Announcements from APPAM

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS AND PROFESSORS SELECTED FOR VARIOUS 2014 APPAM AWARDS

The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) selected winners for four distinguished awards: the Exemplar Award; the Steven D. Gold Award; the APPAM & ICPA-Forum Comparative Award; and the Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management. These awards were presented to the winners at the Association’s 2014 Fall Research Conference held in Albuquerque, NM, November 6 through 8.

Isabel Sawhill, Brookings Institution, was selected as the winner of the Exemplar Award. The Exemplar Award recognizes the work of an individual who has made major contributions to public policy by valuing the knowledge resident in academia and using research and analysis to craft innovative solutions to policy problems. This award serves to recognize extraordinary skills in policymaking and acts as a counterpart to those awards recognizing outstanding research.

Ronald C. Fisher, Professor of Economics and Adjunct Professor of Accounting and Information Systems, Michigan State University, was selected as the winner of the Steven D. Gold Award. The Steve Gold Award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to public financial management in the field of intergovernmental relations and state and local finance. The award is given annually by APPAM, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the National Tax Association, in memory of Steve Gold, an active member of all three organizations whose career and life tragically were shortened by illness.

Global Expansion of Renewable Energy Generation: An Analysis of Policy Instruments was selected as the winner of the APPAM & ICPA-Forum Comparative Award. The authors of the winning paper were Sanya Carley, Associate Professor, Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA); Jennifer Brass, Assistant Professor, SPEA; Elizabeth Baldwin, Ph.D. Candidate, SPEA; and Lauren M. MacLean, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington.

THE APPAM PH.D. DISSERTATION AWARD

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) has established a Ph.D. Dissertation Award to honor the best Ph.D. dissertation in public policy and management submitted through an institutional member of APPAM. The award includes an honorarium of $1,500, a plaque, a poster display of the research at APPAM’s annual Fall Research Conference, and travel funding to attend the award presentation at the conference. The selection committee for the 2014 award
consisted of Jodi Sandfort (Chair), University of Minnesota, Juliet Musso, University of Southern California, and Susan Dynarski, University of Michigan.

Anjali Adukia, Harvard University, was selected as the winner of the Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management Award for her paper entitled *The Role of Basic Needs in Educational Decisions: Essays in Education and Development Economics*. Anjali was nominated for the award by Laurence Katz, Harvard University, Richard Kremer, Dartmouth College, Bridget Terry Long, Harvard University, and Richard Murnane, Harvard University.

**THESIS ABSTRACT**

**The Role of Basic Needs in Educational Decisions: Essays in Education and Development Economics**

One in five children remain out of school in the world. This problem is especially stark in India, which is home to 25 percent of the out-of-school children in the world. Girls are disproportionately affected, with a quarter of them not completing primary school. When poor families are focused on the basic needs of household members, such as food, shelter, and clothing, it may be difficult to devote resources to educational investment. Children, particularly girls, are often neglected when resources are severely limited. Without access to adequate safety, clothing, sanitation, nutrition, and other fundamental needs, children may be unable to focus on education and other higher level functions. Addressing basic needs through schools provides an opportunity to target vulnerable children and to encourage school enrollment. In my dissertation, I analyze the potential to increase educational attainment in developing countries through school-based interventions that target basic needs. I focus on the impact of two government programs in India: a school-latrine-construction program that addressed concerns about sanitation and a free school-uniform program that removed a barrier to low-income families. Drawing on extensive school-level data and local variation in program resources over time, I use a difference-in-differences empirical strategy to estimate impacts on the educational outcomes of school children. I also estimate differential impacts on school enrollment gaps by student sex and socioeconomic status. In India, where 100 million children live in poverty, it is important to learn whether addressing basic needs through schools could have a meaningful impact on educational attainment and improve lives.