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Executive Profile

Nationally recognized economist, academic leader, and institution builder with a record of expanding research capacity, securing external funding, developing faculty and student talent pipelines, leading scholarly organizations, and creating innovative academic programs. Extensive experience building partnerships among universities, government agencies, foundations, and national research organizations. Proven success leading initiatives designed to strengthen research productivity and grant competitiveness.

Research Capacity Building and Faculty Development

I have extensive experience building the research capacity of faculty and researchers through three major leadership roles: (1) Co-Director and HBCU Initiative Leader of the NBER Retirement and Disability Research Center, (2) Principal Investigator of the National Science Foundation-funded Boosting Applications and Awards at MSIs, and (3) Research Director of the Center for Black Entrepreneurship. Across these initiatives, I have developed and led scalable models for faculty mentoring, grant development, research funding, scholarly dissemination, and network building. Key successes include:

1. Built the research capacity of more than 60 scholars (faculty, researchers, and entrepreneurs) through a comprehensive model of mentorship, funding, and professional development.
2. Awarded more than \$1 million in competitive grants to support these scholars in writing grant proposals or executing research projects.
3. Facilitated the generation of more than \$3 million in subsequent federal funding by supporting the development and submission of over 25 grant proposals, strengthening participants' ability to compete successfully for external research support.
4. Created research dissemination platforms that produced at least two presentations per scholar at national symposia, workshops, and data roundtables.
5. Organized more than 20 research training workshops on proposal development, federal funding opportunities, administrative data resources, retirement and disability policy, AI, and the use of large-scale datasets.
6. Established partnerships among universities, foundations, government agencies, and research organizations to strengthen scholarly networks and create sustainable pathways for collaborative research.
7. Leveraged leadership positions within NBER and J-PAL to expand opportunities for faculty at teaching-intensive institutions to access premier research networks, mentorship, data resources, and federal funding opportunities.

Fundraising and Strategic Partnerships

I have demonstrated success in aligning institutional priorities with external funding opportunities and strategic partnerships. Across multiple leadership roles, I have cultivated relationships with federal sponsors, philanthropic organizations, corporations, and international partners to support research excellence, faculty development, educational innovation, and commercialization and entrepreneurship. These efforts have resulted not only in significant external investment, but also in durable partnerships that expand institutional visibility, strengthen collaborative networks, and create pathways for future growth. Key successes include:

1. Secured and managed more than \$9 million in external funding from federal agencies, foundations, corporations, and international organizations, including the Department of Education, US Agency for International Development (USAID), Kauffman Foundation, Mastercard, the Urban Institute, the World Bank, and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.
2. Developed and sustained partnerships with organizations including NBER, J-PAL, Social Security Administration, NSF, Black Economic Alliance Foundation, Brookings Institution, Urban Institute, Federal Reserve Banks, and private foundations to advance research, faculty development, entrepreneurship, and student success.
3. Raised philanthropic support and strengthened stewardship efforts for the National Economic Association, enhancing its financial sustainability and organizational capacity.
4. Organized and secured funding for numerous conferences with institutions such as Georgia Institute of Technology and University of California, San Diego.
5. Built collaborative networks linking higher education institutions, policymakers, foundations, corporations, and practitioners to advance research innovation and US competitiveness.

Academic Governance

I have extensive experience in academic governance through service and leadership at the university, disciplinary, and national research-program levels. My governance contributions have focused on faculty affairs, research policy, strategic planning, organizational oversight, and the development of programs that strengthen research, innovation, and institutional effectiveness. Across these roles, I have worked with faculty, administrators, public officials, and external stakeholders to guide decision-making, establish priorities, oversee resource allocation, and advance initiatives that support academic excellence and institutional mission. Key successes include:

1. Served on faculty governance bodies, including the Faculty Council, Faculty Welfare Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee, helping shape institutional policies related to faculty advancement, research support, shared governance, and academic affairs.
2. Contributed to faculty recruitment and talent development through service on departmental search committees, external and internal mentoring initiatives, and tenure and promotions.
3. Held leadership positions within major professional associations, including as President of the National Economic Association and Second Vice President of the Midwest Economics Association, providing strategic direction, overseeing organizational initiatives, and contributing to the governance and long-term sustainability of some of the nation's premier associations of economists.

4. Contributed to the governance of the economics profession through service on American Economic Association committees, advancing initiatives related to research, professional development, and the future of the discipline.
5. Participated in national advisory and review activities, including the Congressionally mandated evaluation of the NASA Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR-STTR) programs led by the National Academies of Sciences and service on the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change.
6. Served in governance and advisory capacities associated with major research organizations and networks, including J-PAL, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, and University of Southern California, helping guide research agendas, program development, and collaborations that connect scholarship to evidence-based policymaking.
7. Contributed to the oversight and administration of large, externally funded research centers and initiatives, including responsibility for strategic planning, program development, budgeting, performance assessment, and stakeholder engagement.

Scholarly Leadership and Recognition

I am a nationally and internationally recognized scholar whose research spans experimental and behavioral economics, development economics, household finance, and entrepreneurship. My scholarly record includes peer-reviewed publications in leading journals in economics and related fields, including outlets such as *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Small Business Economics*, and other highly regarded interdisciplinary and policy-oriented journals. Through this work, I have contributed to both fundamental academic debates and the development of evidence-based public policy. Key successes include:

1. Became the first HBCU faculty member to be inducted into premier research networks such as the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and J-PAL.
2. Serve as Associate Editor for *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.
3. Served as Guest Editor for *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*.
4. Served as reviewer for more than 50 journal submissions, including *American Economic Review*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Experimental Economics*, and *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.
5. Served as reviewer for more than seven funding panels, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Kauffman Foundation.
6. Provided expert commentary and research-based analysis to national media outlets including the Atlanta Business Chronicle, NPR, Univisión/VIX, VoxDev, and the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

7. Delivered more than 100 invited seminars, keynote addresses, conference presentations, and research talks at institutions including Amherst College, American University, Center for Responsible Lending, Duke University, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Fordham University, Harvard University, Howard University, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indiana University, MIT, Morgan State University, Pepperdine University, Stanford University, Texas A&M University, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University, and Wellesley College.
8. Authored more than 25 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, reports, and scholarly publications.
9. Visited institutions such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Duke University, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and MIT.

Student Development and Curricular Innovation

I am committed to developing student talent and creating opportunities that prepare future scholars, researchers, and leaders for success. Through innovative teaching, research mentoring, curricular development, and experiential learning, I have helped students build the analytical, professional, and research skills necessary to thrive in graduate education and competitive career pathways. Since founding VLab in 2012, I have provided research opportunities to more than 40 Spelman students while fostering a culture of inquiry, collaboration, and scholarly excellence. My contributions to teaching and mentoring have been recognized through the Vulcan Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Provost Award for Excellence in Mentoring at Spelman College, as well as the Theodore C. Boyden Excellence in Teaching Economics Award from Georgia State University. Key successes include:

1. Developed a growth plan for the management and organization minor at Spelman, several components of which have been implemented such as a minor in entrepreneurship and additional courses in finance and accounting.
2. Infused significant mathematical foundations into the economics major at Spelman facilitating the creation of a BS track and classifying economics as a major eligible for STEM-OPT.
3. Mentored and facilitated placement of VLab research assistants at institutions such as the Brookings Institution, Columbia University, Duke University, Emory University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, MIT, NYU, and Yale University. More than one third of VLab research assistants have gone on to graduate school.
4. Mentored more than five students as part of the Economics Department's Lisa D. Cook Scholars Program funded by the Sloan Foundation.
5. Supported more than 30 presentations and trips by undergraduate students at venues such as Duke University, the Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Federal Reserve Board, J-PAL, the PhD Excellence Initiative, Stanford University, and University of California, San Diego.
6. Co-authored two peer-reviewed journal publications (*Small Business Economics* and *Review of Black Political Economy*) and five USAID policy reports with undergraduate students.
7. Co-authored two peer-reviewed journal publications (*Journal of Development Economics* and *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*) with graduate students (others in progress).

8. Designed behavioral game theory as a cross-listed course between the economics major and the management and organization minor within the Economics Department at Spelman. The course has drawn students from economics, computer science, and international studies, as well as other institutions such as Morehouse College and Pomona College.
9. Redesigned intermediate microeconomic theory at Spelman by flipping the classroom (using [UCSD video handbooks](#)) and including significant math (multivariable calculus and constrained optimization), thus leading to mathematical economics as a prerequisite.

Personnel and Budget Management

In my various academic leadership roles, I have:

1. Recruited, supervised, and mentored a broad range of personnel, including administrative assistants, contractors, graduate students, and undergraduate researchers.
2. Overseen the full personnel lifecycle, including position creation, job description development, candidate recruitment and evaluation, hiring decisions, contract administration, performance management, and approval of timesheets, stipends, subawards, and vendor agreements.
3. Co-managed four administrative assistants supporting large federally funded initiatives, providing strategic direction on proposal development, reporting, event management, travel coordination, contracting, financial administration, and stakeholder engagement.
4. Managed faculty-facing mentoring programs serving more than 60 faculty researchers, entrepreneurs, and scholars through NSF-, NBER-, and Center for Black Entrepreneurship-supported initiatives.
5. Supervised and mentored research assistants through VLab, supporting research training, conference participation, graduate-school preparation, and placement at leading universities, think tanks, and policy institutions.
6. Built organizational capacity through the creation of new administrative positions, supervision of external contractors, and mentorship of student researchers, while streamlining operational processes to enhance efficiency and long-term sustainability.
7. Coordinated closely with university offices such as Budgets and Contracts, Procurement, Sponsored Programs, Institutional Advancement, and Government Relations.
8. Managed budgets associated with research centers, professional associations, and externally funded projects totaling more than \$12 million. Oversaw grant expenditures, subawards, contractor agreements, participant support, reporting requirements, compliance activities, and financial coordination with institutional and external partners.
9. Established scalable administrative systems supporting multimillion-dollar grants, faculty mentoring initiatives, and collaborative research programs

Current Appointments

Spelman College

Full Professor of Economics, 2023-present
Research Director, Center for Black Entrepreneurship, 2024-present
Director, [VLab](#), 2012-present

NBER

Research Associate, 2019-present
Affiliated with two programs: Aging and Productivity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT

Affiliate, J-PAL, 2025-present

Editorial Appointments

Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 2022-present

Board Appointments

Advisory Council, Julian Bond Institute, Center For Responsible Lending, 2026-present
Member, J-PAL Racial Equity Advisory Committee, 2024-present
Member, AEA Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in Economics, 2023-present

Research Administration and Fundraising

Principal Investigator for more than 20 external grants (\$12 million+), 2009-present

Past Appointments

Spelman College

Carnegie-Rockefeller Distinguished Researcher, 2021-2022
Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), 2018-2023
Assistant Professor of Economics, 2012-2018

NBER

Co-Director, NBER Retirement and Disability Research Center (RDRC), 2023-2025
Leader, NBER RDRC HBCU Initiative, 2021-2023

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT

Invited Researcher, J-PAL, 2024-2025

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Research Fellow, 2012
Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2007-2012

Editorial Appointments

Editorial Board, *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, 2020-2026
Co-Editor, *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* (Special Issue), 2020-2021

Visiting Positions

Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 2025
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Phyllis Wallace Visiting Professor, MIT, 2023-2024
National Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 2020-2021
Counterpart, RTG GlobalFood, University of Göttingen, 2011-2020
Visiting Professor of Economics, Duke University, 2015-2016
Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 2014

Past Appointments (Continued)

Board Appointments

Julian Bond Institute Fellow, Center For Responsible Lending, 2025-2026
Member, NASA SBIR/STTR Evaluation Committee, National Academies, 2023-2026
Immediate Past-President, National Economic Association, 2024-2025
President, National Economic Association, 2023-2024
Member, Executive Committee USC's AD/ADRD RCMAR, 2023-2024
Member, ICPSR Research Data Ecosystem External Advisory Board, 2022-2024
President-Elect, National Economic Association, 2022-2023
Second Vice President, Midwest Economics Association, 2022-2023
Member, USAID Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change, 2022-2023
Member, AEA Task Force on Outreach to Undergraduate/High School Students, 2019-2022
Board Member, National Economic Association, 2019-2022
Affiliate, USAID Research Technical Assistance Center, 2018-2024

Education

PhD	2008	Economics	Georgia State University
MA	2005	Economic Policy	Georgia State University
MA	2004	Economics	Boston University
MBA	2001	International Business	Temple University
BS	2001	Accounting	University of Curaçao

Additional Details

For additional details, see the standard academic CV [at this link](#).