Current Research

- State-Level Implications of Federal Tax Policies
- The Economic Impact of a New Metallic Mine in Wisconsin
- UW-Madison and the State of Wisconsin
- Evidence of Minnesota’s Minimum Wage Increases

Blog Posts

- Household Income Growth Across States Since 2005
- Family Income and Taxes in Wisconsin Since 2010
- Impacts of Tax Structure at the State Level

Help us Grow

CROWE honors the substantial contribution that our supporters make in advancing our understanding of the economy and improving economic policy in Wisconsin and beyond. We appreciate support of any amount! Those who are able to make an annual contribution of $5,000 or more join the Director’s Circle, and will receive frequent updates on our work, have access to special events, and receive special recognition for their support. Please contact us at croweuw@wisc.edu to learn more.

Annual Fall Event

John Cochrane of the Hoover Institution visited the UW-Madison campus this October to speak at the second annual, “Wisconsin and the National Economy” event. Students, faculty, local community members and policymakers gathered for his presentation, “Free to Grow”.

CROWE Director Noah Williams also gave an overview of research at CROWE, which in its first year of operation has produced a number of research reports and blog posts that have influenced the policy debate in Wisconsin and beyond. Williams also discussed recent trends in the Wisconsin economy, which is experiencing a labor market that is historically tight. He then touched on CROWE research evaluating policies: the Manufacturing and Agriculture Credit which has boosted employment, and the increase in the minimum wage in Minnesota which has reduced employment of young and low skill workers in that state. Both of the aforementioned posts and their related media coverage are available online at www.crowe.wisc.edu.

Following Williams’ introduction, John Cochrane gave a presentation entitled “Free to Grow,” which focused on the importance of economic growth. He discussed a number of policy applications, where reforms could reduce inefficiencies and encourage competition, which would spur faster growth. In his wide-ranging discussion, Cochrane touched on applications in health care, financial markets, regulation, taxes, social programs, and state and local policy. In each setting he sought to move past the stale policy debates between political actors on the right and left by focusing on the underlying economic principles. His key message was that in all cases incentives matter, and that by trying to fix one problem, policymakers have often implemented “solutions” which have caused further problems. He argued for more direct policy solutions, exhorting policymakers that, “If you’re going to do it, do it efficiently (and publicly).”

The evening concluded with a Q&A session let by graduate students in the department. Over the course of the year, the Center has been greatly assisted by the efforts of UW students, both undergraduate and graduate students. If you are interested in learning more about CROWE’s annual event or getting involved with the Center, please contact us.
Student Engagement

CROWE has become an important resource on campus at UW-Madison, providing engagement to students through coursework, research opportunities, and public events. Over the past year, CROWE faculty have taught courses with a combined enrollment of over 400 undergraduate and 120 graduate students. In addition, students have become increasingly involved in research at CROWE, from assisting with ongoing work to undertaking their own projects.

"As a research assistant with CROWE, I worked on constructing a state-level series to analyze productivity and economic growth across states over the last 45 years. I appreciated being involved in the production of a public good, as we hope this dataset will be useful to other researchers."

Joel McMurry, PhD Candidate

Fu Tan, PhD Candidate

"In our project, (joint with an undergrad) we are interested in the effect of enterprise tax credit programs on business dynamics in Wisconsin. Our preliminary results indicate that the program has been effective in promoting employment growth, but had little impact on wage growth. We plan to conduct more formal empirical analysis to validate our preliminary results."

In the Community

In addition to our annual event, CROWE co-sponsored two public events on campus over the past year. The first was a Fireside Chat with Robert Kaplan, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in April 2018. The second was a Co-Sponsored Public Lecture by Caroline Hoxby of Stanford University, a leading researcher in the economics of education and educational policy, titled “Taking Productivity in Education Seriously: Neuroscience, Adolescence, and Evidence,” in May 2018. Both of these events featured a capacity crowd of students and members of the broader economic and policy community, and highlighted speakers with viewpoints which would not otherwise be heard on the UW campus.

Beyond campus, CROWE has been engaged in outreach to the broader public. Both Prof. Williams and Mr. Guo have spoken on the Wisconsin economy to several local business and community groups. Williams in particular has featured in several key events with Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (the state chamber of commerce), as well as the University Alumni Association, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, as well as several student groups on campus. Williams has met with legislators and staff at the state capitol, and has testified on tax policy before State Assembly Ways and Means Committee. He has become a key reference on statewide economic issues for the media, providing significant comment in recent stories featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and Wisconsin State Journal, among other outlets. He has been featured regularly on Wisconsin Public Radio, and filmed a segment discussing a CROWE report for the “Here and Now” program on Wisconsin Public Television.

For 2019, have already lined up some speaking events about the economy and economic policy issues in Wisconsin and the nation. Please contact us if you are interested in having us meet with your group.

Media Mentions

- New York Times
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
- Wall Street Journal
- Wisconsin State Journal

"I had a great experience working with CROWE this year. I felt constant support from everyone, and I got hands-on experience doing real economic research. This was a tremendous first experience in research, and it has paved a way for me to continue in the field."

Jacob Goss, Undergraduate