

The mission of the proposed Center for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (CRAEA) is to engage undergraduate and graduate students with faculty in academic research that will further the understanding of economic regulation and policy's impact on societal well-being.

CRAEA is a research organization. We explicitly communicate to all of the researchers supported by the grant that we do not support research that aims to produce findings that align with any particular political affiliation or ideology. CRAEA-sponsored researchers are expected to conduct their work with the highest possible academic integrity and respect for the responsibility that comes with the academic freedom to pursue research questions without censorship or discrimination. Interference with or suppression of academic research because it does not match one's political leanings or financial interests ultimately harms our society. Thus, we support research conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the researchers themselves or those of any specific institution or advocacy group. All CRAEA activities are conducted in alignment with the values of Montana State University. These include:

Respect *Value respect for diversity in all its dimensions. Respect and civility foster collaboration and open communication, which in turn create productive local, regional, and global communities.*

CRAEA supported researchers are expected to pursue their research projects in a manner consistent with generating results that can stand as objective truths regardless of the researcher's place on the broad spectrums of political and religious belief, race, ethnicity, color, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or behavioral health status, and cultural background. CRAEA research support is offered to researchers from any academic discipline, and awards are made based on transparent criteria and processes widely used by other granting organizations. CRAEA explicitly encourages research by interdisciplinary teams in order to facilitate collaboration and communication between researchers with different intellectual training and perspectives.

Integrity *Value honesty and professionalism in all work. Each individual is personally accountable for his/her work and behavior.*

CRAEA supported researchers are expected to pursue research projects in an honest, open, and professional manner. Researchers are expected to submit their research to high quality peer-reviewed academic journals so that their work is evaluated by impartial third-party experts who perform arms-length reviews in order to ensure that the research can withstand the most rigorous critiques available from leading researchers in their disciplines. Researchers are expected to make their results publically accessible to further ensure that they are accountable for the integrity of their work.

Student Success *Value all students and believe in creating an environment in which they can be successful and reach their full potential.*

CRAEA research scholarships are open to all MSU students and provide opportunities for them to learn research methods through faculty mentorship that includes demonstrating respect for the crucial importance of integrity, diversity of perspective, and transparency in the research process. These research experiences help students develop their critical thinking skills, improve their job and graduate school opportunities, and contribute to the improvement of their communities.

Excellence *Belief in challenging the MSU community in the pursuit of the highest quality that can be attained.*

CRAEA sponsored researchers are explicitly challenged to pursue excellence by approaching their projects critically, by conducting their work in ways that generate unbiased results, and by subjecting their research to peer-review, public scrutiny, and objective assessment.

CRAEA has demonstrated our commitment to these values in myriad ways, and all of our processes, policies, institutional controls, and sponsored research projects are available for review on our website: montana.edu/regecon. Indeed, rather than pursuing our mission without being subjected to the intense scrutiny of our colleagues and peers, we have chosen to engage in the MUS and MSU process for naming the Center explicitly to invite and provide a forum for open discussion, faculty and administrative review, and ample opportunity for public comment on the proposed Center's activities.