

Summary of the implementation, activities, and institutional controls related to the proposed Center for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (CRAEA)

The grant funds that support all CRAEA programs were awarded through and are managed by the MSU Office of Sponsored Programs. The grant is subject to all MSU procedures and oversight practices, and subject to the same levels of scrutiny as any other grant award. The University made the grant agreement associated with this grant publicly available as soon as the grant was awarded.

Immediately upon receipt of the award, the Co-Directors developed draft criteria and expectations regarding CRAEA governance and research grant awards. They also established an independent Internal Advisory Board comprised of the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dean of the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics (DAEE), Head of the Department of Political Science, and a Full Professor serving on the DAEE Advisory Committee, to review CRAEA processes and protocols and to provide direct oversight of CRAEA activities.

At the same time, the Co-Directors attended meetings with the Department Heads of the College of Letters and Science and the College of Engineering, and the faculty of the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship to discuss the grant and the criteria and expectations being developed regarding the proposed center's activities. A discussion about the grant was also held with the Department Heads of the College of Agriculture. The Co-Directors also held numerous meetings with individual faculty and students from a wide range of disciplines. The explicit purpose of these meetings was to share openly, receive input, and accept recommendations from the broadest possible range of stakeholders.

The Co-Directors do not serve on any DAEE search committees, promotion and tenure committees, or annual evaluation committees. We welcome suggestions for additional institutional controls and safeguards to support our programs while also ensuring academic freedom for MSU faculty and students.

The proposed center has engaged in several activities during its first year of operation:

1. **Research Fellows Program:** Since receiving the grant award, the proposed center has issued two requests for proposals (RFPs) inviting applicants for two-year Research Fellow awards. The MSU Office of the Vice President for Research distributed the RFPs as part of its regular funding announcement process. The Internal Advisory Board, which serves as the review committee for CRAEA research fellowships, reviewed the proposals and made fellowship awards using the NIH scoring framework and criteria described in the RFP. The proposed center currently funds five Research Fellows:
 - Anton Bekkerman (DAEE), whose research program assesses the impacts of the USDA Revenue Protection Program as well as the impact of natural gas industry regulations on the U.S. fertilizer industry, and thereby their indirect impact on the U.S. food supply chain.
 - Eric Belasco (DAEE), whose research program focuses on the impact and efficiency of the wide array of policies and regulations that form the federal agricultural safety net.
 - Peter Buerhaus (College of Nursing), whose research program studies the cost and quality of the nurse practitioner (NP) workforce and the impact of state-level regulatory restrictions on NP scope of practice.
 - Isaac Swensen (DAEE), whose research program focuses on criminal justice issues, including investigation of the effect of federal, state and university policies, information and awareness campaigns, and other prevention efforts on the incidence of sexual assault on and around college campuses.

- Randal Rucker (DAEE), whose research program examines the intersection of government regulations and technological change and the related impacts on regulation-generated assets including taxicab medallions and state liquor licenses.

2. **Research Grants Program:** Two RFPs inviting applicants for one-year research grant awards have been issued. The MSU Office of the Vice President for Research distributed the RFPs as part of its regular funding announcement process. The Research Fellows and Co-Directors, who serve as the review committee for CRAEA research grants, reviewed the proposals and made awards using the NIH scoring framework and criteria described in the RFP. The proposed center currently funds Research Fellows.

- Joe Atwood (DAEE): Assessing the Effects of Federal Money Laundering Reporting Requirements on the Comparative Performance of Small, Intermediate, and Large-Scale Banks
- Joe Atwood (DAEE): Freedom, Government, and Prosperity
- Gary Brester (DAEE): The Effects of Regulations on the Commercial Fertilizer Industry
- Gary Canton, Ed Gamble & Frank Kerins (JJCBE): What SOX should a bank be wearing? The Differential Impact of Sarbanes-Oxley on Privately- versus Publicly-Held Banks
- Gary Caton and Frank Kerins (JJCBE): The Differential Impact of Dodd-Frank on Small- and Medium-Sized Banks
- Gary Caton, Frank Kerins & Lisa Yang (JJCBE): The Market Impact of FDA Incentives on Antimicrobial Development
- Ed Gamble (JJCBE): Is Less More? Gift Tax Regulation in the US: §102 of the Internal Revenue Code
- Andrew Hill (DAEE): The Effect of School Closings on Teacher Retention and Teacher Productivity
- William Kleindl (LRES): Foundations of a Wetland Benefits Assessment (WBA) Tool
- Agnieszka Kwapisz (JJCBE): The Effect of Labor Market Regulatory Policy on Nascent Entrepreneurship
- Agnieszka Kwapisz (JJCBE): Occupational Licensing and Entrepreneurship
- Kristin Ruppel (Native American Studies): Land Tenure, Human Development, and Economic Well-being on the Crow Reservation
- Paul Sturman (Center for Biofilm Engineering), Frank Kerins and Omar Shehryar (JJCBE): The Impact of Biofilm Regulatory Policy on the Development of Healthcare-Related Products
- Lisa Yang (JJCBE): Are Credit Ratings Informative? Evidence from Regulatory Regime Changes
- Lisa Yang and Gary Caton (JJCBE): The Unintentional Consequences of Regulatory Regime Changes: Insider Trading Activities Surrounding Bond Rating Changes
- Lisa Yang and Gary Caton (JJCBE): Information Asymmetry, Regulatory Regime Change, and Market Efficiency: The Case of Bond Rating and Analysts' Earnings Forecasts

3. **Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program:** Three RFPs were issued university wide for CRAEA undergraduate research scholarships, which provide funding to support undergraduate researchers participating in faculty-led research projects. The Research Fellows and Co-Directors, who serve as the review committee for CRAEA undergraduate research scholarships, reviewed the proposals and made awards using the NIH scoring framework and criteria described in the RFP. The proposed center has funded 23 student research projects:

- Faisal Al-Saad (Economics and Finance) with Gregory Gilpin (DAEE): Investigating the effect of GDL Laws on Risk Behaviors
- Peter Asmuth (Economics) with Randall Rucker (DAEE): An Economic Analysis of the Causes and Consequences of Wilderness Designation

- Andrea Creel (Economics) with Gregory Gilpin (DAEE): Analyzing the Impact of GDL Laws on Youth Employment and Risk Behaviors
- Madeline Demaske (Agribusiness Management and Economics) with Eric Belasco (DAEE): Alternative Crop Insurance Subsidy Structures with WTO-compliance considerations
- Grace Dikeman (Economics) with Anton Bekkerman and Gregory Gilpin (DAEE): The Interaction Between Community Events in the Promotion of Public Institutions: A Geospatial Analysis to Understand Public Library Patrons Behavior
- Alec Dinerstein (Physics) with Wendy Stock (DAEE): Research on the History and Current State of Special Education Funding Laws in the U.S.
- Jacob Ebersole (Economics) with Vincent Smith (DAEE): The Agricultural Insurance Industry: A Case Study in Rent Seeking
- Tanner Edward (Accounting) with Gary Caton, Edward Gamble, and Frank Kerins (JJCBE): What SOX should a bank be wearing? The Differential Impact of Sarbanes-Oxley on Small, Medium and Large Banks
- Tyler Elkins (Finance) with Frank Kerins and Gary Caton (JJCBE): The Impact of Dodd-Frank on Mortgage Delinquency Rates for Large-, Medium-, and Small-Size Banks
- Athena Erickson (Economics) with Vincent Smith (DAEE): Assessment of US Food Aid Policy in the Context of Alternative Regulatory Requirements
- Colburn Field (Agribusiness Management and Economics) with Eric Belasco (DAEE): An Exploration into the contradictory definitions of “Good Farming Practices” across U.S. Government Agencies
- Allie Hale (Marketing) with Wendy Stock (DAEE): Research on the History and Current State of Regulations on Marketing Psychiatric Pharmaceuticals in the U.S.
- Allie Hale (Marketing) with Wendy Stock (DAEE): A Review of Regulations Related to Educator Recommendations and Mental Health Screening in U.S. Public Schools
- Seth Hedge (Accounting) with Ed Gamble (JJCBE): Prosocial Organizing and Regulation: Nonprofit Tax Status
- Laura Ippolito (Agroecology and Economics) with Bruce Maxwell (LRES) and Anton Bekkerman (DAEE): Toward a Market-based Solution for Improving the Cost-Effectiveness of Enforcing the US Grain Traceability Mandates
- Austin Larson (Marketing) with Agnieszka Kwapisz (JJCBE): The Effect of Labor Market Regulatory Policy on Nascent Entrepreneurship
- Joe Lazarus (Environmental Science) with Tony Hartshorn (LRES): WINSOME: Widening Interest in New Soil Organic Matter Economics
- Micah McFelly (Economics and Community Health) with Wendy Stock (DAEE): A Review of Mental Health Service Policy and Delivery in U.S. Higher Education Institutions
- Dan Penoyer (Finance and Economics) with Paul Sturman (Center for Biofilm Engineering), Frank Kerins and Omar Shehryar (JJCBE): The Impact of Biofilm Regulatory Policy on the Development of Healthcare-Related Products
- Alex Rickey (Finance) with Isaac Swensen (DAEE): Research on the Effects of Early Gun Regulations
- Sarah Rawlins (Economics) with Vincent Smith (DAEE): The US Cotton Subsidy Program
- Ryan Trefethen (Financial Engineering) with Vincent Smith (DAEE): Impacts of Potential Changes in Federal Medicaid Policy and Coverage in Montana
- John Walker (Agricultural Business) with Gary Brester (DAEE): The Effects of Regulations on the Commercial Fertilizer Industry

4. **Graduate Student Assistantship Program:** The Graduate Student Assistantship Program provides annual research assistantships for graduate students in the DAEE Masters of Science in Applied Economics program, which is housed in the Colleges of Agriculture and Letters and Science. Following processes and procedures previously established in collaboration with the DAEE Graduate Affairs Committee for awarding DAEE graduate assistantships, funding is available for students working on research projects related to the initiative's mission. The DAEE Graduate Affairs Committee distributes these awards, and the Co-Directors do not serve on that committee and do not make decisions about who receives the assistantships.
5. **Visiting Scholars Program:** The program facilitates visiting scholars to come to MSU for both short- and long-term visits to conduct research with MSU faculty and students, present seminars or workshops related to the research, and participate in other activities. Proposals from MSU faculty members interested in hosting visiting scholars are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Visiting Scholars Selection Committee (comprised of the Co-Directors and Research Fellows). The program has facilitated visits for several scholars:
 - Dr. Firat Bilgel (Okan University, Istanbul Turkey): One-year visitor currently conducting research on "Legislative Default Policies and Organ Donation"
 - Professor John Siegfried (Vanderbilt University): Presented a research seminar on "Economics of NCAA Regulations," and presented "Better Living through Economics," (a book of essays by leading economists that summarizes the positive impact of economics research on a wide array of outcomes) to Dr. Stock's ECNS 251: Honors Economics class.
 - Professor Jon Skinner (Dartmouth University): presented a research seminar on "The Health Benefits of Medicare Expenditures: Evidence from the Healthcare Cost Slowdown," to faculty and students. Dr. Skinner also participated in the CRAEA-sponsored *Poverty and Policy Conference* in April 2017.
 - Professor Jason Lindo (Texas A&M University): presented a research seminar on "How Much Can Expanding Access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives Reduce Teen Birth Rates?" to faculty and students.
 - Professor Todd Kuethe (University Illinois): presented a research seminar on "A disequilibrium evaluation of public intervention in agricultural credit markets," to faculty and students.
 - Professor Jeremy Goh (Singapore Management University): presented a research seminar on "Are Bond Ratings Informative? Evidence from a Quasi-Natural Experiment," to faculty and students.
 - Mr. James Banovetz (Ph.D student at the University of California, Santa Barbara): presented a research seminar on "The impact of Montana liquor licensing regulations on the Montana hospitality sector" to faculty and students.
6. **Conference Program:** The proposed center holds a major conference on major regulatory and policy issues for MSU faculty, students, the general public, stakeholders and policy makers each year. Planning begins well in advance with the formation of a conference planning committee to suggest conference sessions and speakers and to facilitate coordination with local, state, and regional agencies that may have particular interest in the conference topic.
 - *Poverty and Policy: Understanding the causes, consequences, and current programs to address poverty in Montana and the U.S.*, was held on April 7, 2017. Full details about the conference mission, conference agenda, and the conference speakers and their biographies are available at http://www.montana.edu/regecon/poverty_policy.html.

- The second annual conference, on Healthcare Policy, will be held in April 2018.

7. **Workshop Program:** The Workshop Program shares state-of-the-art scholarly research on important regulatory and policy issues with Montana and regional stakeholders and policymakers, with the goal of broadening knowledge in areas directly relevant to the proposed center's mission. Two workshops have been held so far:
- An Indigenous Planning Workshop based on Dr. Kristin Ruppel's "Land Tenure, Human Development, and Economic Well-being on the Crow Reservation" research grant brought together indigenous planners from reservations around Montana to share their experiences and expertise in a facilitated gathering designed to identify best practices and challenges with regard to Indigenous land planning and tenure.
 - A Research Methodology Workshop organized by Wendy Stock taught students about the key components of the research process and brought top scholars from both academia and the private sector to MSU to meet with students, discuss how they use research in their careers, and provide feedback on student research proposals. Several DAEE alums participated and also met with students to discuss how they use the economic analysis and research skills they learned at MSU in their careers.