

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Michelle Miller-Adams

Senior Researcher, WE Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
Professor, Department of Political Science, Grand Valley State University
miller-adams@upjohn.org • millmich@gvsu.edu
269-501-2453 (cell) / 269-385-0436 (office)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, Columbia University (1993-97)

Major field: International Relations, Minor field: Comparative Politics
Dissertation: *The World Bank in the 1990s: Understanding Institutional Change*

Master of International Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University (1980-82)

Internships at the U.S. Department of State and Amnesty International

B.A., *magna cum laude*, History, University of California, Santa Barbara (1976-80)

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society)

Volunteer director of Capitol Hill Internship Program

Internship at Common Cause (Washington, DC)

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Senior Researcher (2018-present); Research Fellow (2006-18)

W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Kalamazoo, MI

- Carry out research, convene stakeholders, and engage in media and community outreach
- Co-Project Director, “Investing in Community,” a major research initiative on place-based community development strategies (2018-21)
- Co-Project Director, “Investigating the Workforce Outcomes of Promise Programs,” funded by Strada Education Foundation (2017-21)
- Co-Project Director, Lumina Foundation grant to create Promise Research Consortium and investigate post-secondary outcomes of Promise programs (2014-16)
- Recipient of two W.K. Kellogg Foundation grants to conduct research on the Kalamazoo Promise; results published as *The Power of a Promise: Education and Economic Renewal in Kalamazoo* (2009), *Promise Nation: Transforming Communities Through Place-Based Scholarships* (2015), and related working papers

Professor (2017-present); Associate (2010-17); Assistant (2006-10)

Department of Political Science, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

- Courses taught: *International Relations; Poverty, Inequality, and U.S. Public Policy; Senior (Capstone) Seminars in Political Science and International Relations*
- Recipient, Sabbatical funding (2019-20 and 2012-13)
- Recipient, Russell G. Mawby Fellowship in Philanthropic Studies (2013 & 2014)
- Recipient, Pew Teaching Excellence Award (2012)
- Advise International Relations majors
- Chair, Student Awards committees
- Member, Community Engagement Impact Assessment Team (2013-15)
- Participated in GVSU faculty exchanges to Perugia (Italy) and Debrecen (Hungary)

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science (2002-05)
Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI**

- Courses taught: *International Politics, Politics of Latin America, U.S. Foreign Policy, International Political Economy, International Development*
- Supervised Senior Individualized Projects (undergraduate theses)
- Advised international students and served as mentor to undergraduates

Principal Investigator, Western Michigan University (1997-2000)

Recipient of a three-year grant from the Ford Foundation to write a book on asset-building strategies for fighting poverty. Research was carried out from 1997 through 2001 at multiple sites around the United States. Results of research published as *Owning Up: Poverty, Assets, and the American Dream* (Brookings Institution Press, 2002).

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science (2001-02)
Adjunct Professor (1998-2004), Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI**

- Courses taught: *International Relations, U.S. Foreign Policy, Latin American Politics*
- Graduate seminars taught to M.A. Ph.D., and Masters of International Development Administration (MIDA) students: *The World Bank, Poverty and Social Policy*
- Served on doctoral dissertation committee and on thesis committees for undergraduate honors students

Consultant, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI (2004-10)

Provided support to the office of the Senior Vice President for Programs and Battle Creek Programming area with research, writing, strategic planning, and preparation of reports.

Writer and Editor, Kalamazoo, MI (1994-2004)

Principal author of publications for the Century Foundation and the Inter-American Dialogue. Development and editing of publications for the Americas Society, the City University of New York, Harvard University's Civil Rights Project, the Haynes Foundation, Salomon Brothers, the Century Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and others.

**Manager, Digital Publishing Department (1994-98)
The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI**

Responsible for developing electronic publishing program for scholarly press. Acquired projects, presented proposals to executive committee, supervised full-time and freelance staff, and managed editorial and production process for CD-ROM and Internet-based publications. Facilitator of press-wide strategic planning process.

**Vice President for Programs (1990-94)
The Twentieth Century Fund/Century Foundation, New York, NY**

As senior member of program staff, supervised projects on U.S. foreign policy, economic policy, and Latin America at non-profit public policy research foundation. Responsible for all phases of program development and execution, including identification of potential authors, formulation of project ideas, presentation of proposals to Board of Trustees, supervision of authors, and dissemination of research to policymakers and the press.

**Vice President, Research Department (1986-90); Analyst (1984-86)
Salomon Brothers Inc, New York, NY**

Analyzed politics and economics of foreign countries, public sector borrowers, and multilateral development institutions. Developed credit and market views and communicated these to sales force, traders, and customers worldwide.

PUBLICATIONS

Books (peer-reviewed)

The Path to Free College: In Pursuit of Access, Equity, and Prosperity, Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press, 2021

Promise Nation: Transforming Communities Through Place-Based Scholarships, Kalamazoo, MI: The W.E. Upjohn Institute (WE Focus), 2015

The Power of a Promise: Education and Economic Renewal in Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, MI: The W.E. Upjohn Institute, 2009

Owning Up: Poverty, Assets, and the American Dream. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution Press, 2002

The World Bank: New Agendas in a Changing World. London: Routledge, 1999

Other publications

“The best medicine for a COVID-19 economy? More education and training” (with John C. Austin), *The Hill*, October 2, 2020.

“We Need Tuition-Free College. For Adults,” *New York Times* op-ed, May 14, 2020

“Tuition-free college plan is smart investment in Michigan’s future,” *Bridge*, May 1, 2020

“Fiscal freefall for state and local governments: The crisis we are not (yet) addressing” (with John Austin and Timothy Bartik), *The Hill*, April 6, 2020.

“Investing in Community: A Playbook for Connecting Economic and Skills Development” (with co-authors), W.E. Upjohn Institute, March 2020

“A free-college tradeoff – what should the 2020 candidates promise?” (with John C. Austin), *The Hill*, November 21, 2019

“What the Free College Movement Can Learn from Kalamazoo,” *Washington Monthly*, August 23, 2019

“How Promise Programs Can Help Former Industrial Communities” (with John C. Austin), *The Avenue*, Brookings Institution, July 18, 2019

“Building Shared Prosperity: How Communities Can Create Good Jobs for All” (with co-authors), W.E. Upjohn Institute, March 2019

“How Free College Programs Can Increase Equity in Our Schools,” *Education Post*, December 4, 2018 (invited post)

“Promise Scholarship Programs and Local Prosperity,” Policy Paper and Policy Brief. Co-authored with Edward Smith, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. October 2018.

“Don’t Dismiss the Value of Free-College Programs. They Do Help Low-Income Students.” Op-ed in *Chronicle of Higher Education* with Sara Goldrick-Rab, September 7, 2018

“Promise Programs Database.” Co-developed with Brad Hershbein and Bridget Timmeney. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. 2017 (updated 2019 and 2020).

“Understanding the Philanthropic Character of Communities: Developing and Applying a Methodology in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan.” Co-authored with Grace Denny, Teri Behrens, and Michael Moody. Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, May 2017.

“Promise Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.” Co-developed with Jennifer Iriti. Web-based tool for Promise stakeholders created with funding from the Lumina Foundation. 2016.

“The Road Toward K-12 Excellence in Michigan: How an Upgraded Financing System Can Better Support Enhanced Student Achievement.” Co-authored with Kevin Hollenbeck, Timothy Bartik, Randall Eberts, and Brad Hershbein. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2015.

“Growing in Place: an analysis of cradle-to-career educational initiatives, including The Harlem Children’s Zone, Promise Neighborhoods, and StriveTogether,” in Ekaterina Travkina, ed., *Youth employment*. Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programs, unpublished book chapter.

“The Kalamazoo Promise and Changing Perceptions of the Kalamazoo Public Schools” (with Jenna Fiore), Policy Brief 2013-016, W.E. Upjohn Institute, December 2013

“The Impact of the Kalamazoo Promise on College Choice” (with Bridget Timmeney), Policy Brief 2013-014, W.E. Upjohn Institute, February 2013

“The Value of Universal Eligibility in Promise Scholarship Programs,” *Employment Research*, W.E. Upjohn Institute, October 2011

“A Simple Gift: The Impact of the Kalamazoo Promise on Economic Revitalization,” *Employment Research*, W.E. Upjohn Institute, Volume 13, Number 3, 2006

“Breaking Into the Bank: The Challenge of Gaining Meaningful Access to the World Bank” (with Charles T. Myers). Chapter in *Gaining Access to Research Sites: The Inside Story*, Martha S. Feldman et al., eds., Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2003

“Financial Markets in 1986: The Paradox of Liberalization.” Chapter in *Italian Politics: A Review*, vol. 2, Raffaella Nanetti, et al., eds. London and New York: Pinter Publishers, 1988

“The World Bank and Private Capital” (with John F.H. Purcell). Chapter in *Between Two Worlds: The World Bank's Next Decade*, Richard E. Feinberg, ed. Washington, DC: Overseas Development Council, 1986

Conference papers

“The Evolution of the Promise Scholarship Movement: Policy Diffusion, Reinvention, and Critical Design Issues,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Chicago, April 2015

“The Economic Development Impact of Place-Based Scholarship Programs: Initial Results from Kalamazoo, Michigan,” paper presented at the 71st Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2013

“The Importance of Universality in Promise Programs,” paper presented at the APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 2011

“Can Universal, Place-Based Scholarships Reduce Inequality? Lessons from Kalamazoo, Michigan,” paper presented at the 68th Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2010

“Reducing Inequality Through Universal College Scholarships: Lessons from the Kalamazoo Promise,” paper presented at the annual conference of the Latin American Studies Association, Rio de Janeiro, June 2009

“The Diffusion of Policy Innovation: The Case of the Kalamazoo Promise,” paper presented at the 67th Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2009

PRESENTATIONS

“Scaling and Strengthening Tuition-Free College: Lessons from Tennessee and New Jersey” (roundtable organizer and speaker), APPAM Fall Research Conference, November 13, 2020.

“tnAchieves from a National Perspective,” panel sponsored by tnAchieves, November 6, 2020.

Election 2020 Panel, Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Grand Valley State University, October 22, 2020.

“How Communities Can Connect Economic and Skills Development” (with Tim Bartik and Brad Hershbein), presentation to the Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy, July 14, 2020.

“Doing More with Less: Education and Job Training Policies in a Crisis Environment,” panel presentation, Research for Equity in Recovery series co-sponsored by Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the W.E. Upjohn Institute, July 10, 2020.

“The Promise Landscape in Michigan,” presentation to the Michigan Political Leadership Program of Michigan State University, July 2, 2020.

“Statewide Tuition-free College: Program Design and Impact,” presentation to the State of Pennsylvania Treasury Department, March 26, 2020.

“Tuition-free college for the public and private good,” Keynote address at *Making Public Colleges Tuition Free: A Workshop for State Leaders*, Campaign for Free College Tuition, Detroit, Michigan, December 2019

“Research, policy, and outcomes for students and communities,” Research plenary presentation (with Jennifer Iriti), PromiseNet 2019, Berkeley, CA, November 2019

“Local Promise Programs: Overview and Impact,” Annual Meeting of Research/Communications Staff, Independent Colleges Association, Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 2019

“The Promise Landscape in Michigan,” presentation to the Michigan Political Leadership Program, Michigan State University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, July 2019

Testimony to a Joint Meeting of the Committee on Economic and Small Business Development and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Talent and Economic Development, Michigan State Senate, Lansing, MI, June 2019

“An Introduction to Statewide Promise Programs,” Meeting of Michigan state legislative staff, Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lansing, MI, May 2019

“What states can learn from local Promise programs,” presentation at Free College/Debt-Free College convening, Century Foundation/Roosevelt Institute/Demos, Washington, DC, February 2019

“The Impact of Student Loan Debt on the Workforce,” panelist, APPAM Webinar, October 2018

“Promise Scholarship Programs: Design and Impact,” with Bridget Timmeney, presentation at National College Access Network conference, Pittsburgh, PA, September 2018

“Local Strategies for Broadly Shared Prosperity,” panelist, Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, DC, June 2018

“Improvement Efforts in Higher Education,” with Martha Kanter, presentation at Carnegie Foundation Summit on Improvement in Education, San Francisco, CA, April 2018

“Taking Stock, Moving Forward: Learning from Promise Research” (with Jennifer Iriti), PromiseNet 2017 Research Plenary, Kalamazoo, MI, November 2017

“Evidence for Program Design and Evaluation,” White House Community College Convening, Washington, DC, October 2016

“The Impact of Place-Based Scholarship Programs: What Do We Know?” (with Jennifer Iriti), PromiseNet 2016 Research Plenary, Washington, DC, October 2016

“College Promise: Transforming Communities through Place-Based Scholarships,” Keynote speech at Michigan Community College Association Fall Board Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, October 2016

“Growth, Scope, and Impact of College Promise Programs,” National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges, Mackinac Island, MI, August 2016

“Growth, Scope, and Impact of the College Promise Movement” (with Jennifer Iriti), Educational Testing Service Summit on College Affordability, Princeton, NJ, June 2016

Remarks to Education Scholars Convening on Community College Research, The White House, January 2016

“What Do We Know About Promise Programs?” organizer and presenter at plenary session of PromiseNet 2015, Kalamazoo, MI, November 2015

“The Kalamazoo Promise: The Ten-Year Record,” presentation to the Michigan Political Leadership Program, sponsored by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Michigan State University, Kalamazoo, July 2015

“Promise Scholarships: A College Access Agenda,” Alliance for Excellent Education Webinar, Washington, DC, May 2015

“The Evolution of the Promise Movement and the Research Challenge,” presentation at PromiseNet 2014, New Haven, CT, November 2015

“The Kalamazoo Promise: Progress and Challenges,” presentation to the Michigan Political Leadership Program, sponsored by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Michigan State University, Kalamazoo, July 2014

“Support and Accountability: Developing Research Projects for Millennials,” presentation and facilitation at CLAS Teaching Roundtable, Allendale, November 2013

“What do we know? The impact of Promise programs to date,” facilitator and member of planning committee, PromiseNet 2013, Kalamazoo, November 2013

“An Introduction to Promise Scholarship Programs” and “Community-Level Effects of the Kalamazoo Promise,” Lumina Foundation convening of Promise researchers, Indianapolis, October 2013

“The Kalamazoo Promise: Progress and Challenges,” invited presentation for senior administrators at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, August 2013

“The Kalamazoo Promise and the Revitalization of an Urban School District,” presentation at *Looking Back, Moving Forward: A conference on race, class, opportunity and school boundaries in the Richmond region*, Richmond, VA, March 2013

“Promise Scholarship Programs: Building Assets for Community Change,” presentation to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Policy Summit on Housing, Human Capital, and Inequality, June 2012

“Can Universal Scholarship Programs Reduce Inequality? Lessons from Kalamazoo,” Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration at Grand Valley State University, January 2011

“The Kalamazoo Promise and the Path to College Readiness” and “Universal, Place-Based Scholarship Programs: A New Model for College Access” (with Shelley Strickland), presentations at Michigan Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference, Ann Arbor, November 2009

“Changing a Community’s College Culture with a Promise: The Transformative Impact of the Kalamazoo Promise and the Potential for Promise Zones,” 14th Annual Governor’s Education Summit, Lansing, April 2009

Additional speeches / presentations (2006-19): City Club of Cleveland; W.K. Kellogg Foundation Board of Trustees; Pi Sigma Alpha, Grand Valley State University (Allendale); Kalamazoo Area Labor Management (KALM); Kalamazoo Community Foundation; Kalamazoo College; Kalamazoo Public Library; Kiwanis Club of Greater Kalamazoo; Institute of Government and Politics, Western Michigan University; Rotary Clubs of Kalamazoo, Frankfort, and Gull Lake; Rotary District International Conference; Hadassah, Dorothy Slavin Chapter; Council on Michigan Foundations Program Officers Network; National meeting of lead program officers of private foundations (Detroit).

Media interviews (2006-20) – *Print (national):* Associated Press, The Atlantic, Chronicle of Higher Education, Chronicle of Philanthropy, Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, Education Week, Inside Higher Ed, Marketwatch, New Republic, New York Times, New York Times Magazine, Politico, Time, USA Today, Wall Street Journal. ***Print (state/local):*** Bridge Magazine, Buffalo Business First, Chicago Tribune, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Crain’s Detroit Business, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Grand Rapids Press, Kalamazoo Gazette, LaCrosse Tribune, Michigan Education Report, New Haven Register, Pittsburgh Business Times, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Southwest Michigan’s Second Wave, Washington Post, Washington Times, Windsor Star, Wisconsin State Journal, Yale Daily News. ***Television/radio:*** AlJazeera America, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, KCBS (San Francisco), MSNBC, Marketplace Morning Report, Michigan Radio, Michigan’s Big Show, Minnesota Public Radio, WGUV (Grand Rapids), WKZO (Kalamazoo), WMUK-FM (Kalamazoo), WOOD-TV (Grand Rapids), WZZM-TV (Kalamazoo). ***Internet:*** frank news, Next City, Southwest Michigan’s Second Wave, Vox.

Consultation with stakeholder groups designing Promise programs (2009-20): Birmingham (AL), Washington (DC); Baltimore (MD); Battle Creek, Buchanan, Charlevoix, Evart, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Saranac (MI); Kansas City (MO); Jackson (MS); Newark (NJ); Indianapolis (IN), Toledo and Springs Valley (OH); Hamilton (Ontario); Lancaster (PA); Austin, Corpus Christi, McKinney (TX); Lynchburg, Richmond (VA); Seattle (WA); Beloit, LaCrosse (WI); State of Michigan; State of Illinois; State of Pennsylvania.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY

Associate Editor, *Economic Development Quarterly* (2015-present)

Peer reviewer for journals *American Educational Research Journal*, *Educational Policy*, *Evaluation Review*, *International Journal of Educational Development*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *Poverty and Public Policy*, and others

PromiseNet annual conference planning and participation (2008-present)

Member, Steering Committee, College Promise Research Network (2018-present)

Board Member, First Day Shoe Fund, Kalamazoo, MI, (2011-19); chair of Fund Development Committee (2012-18)

Board Member, Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers, Kalamazoo, MI, (2012-19); convener of Dance Academy Task Force (2017-19)

Member, American Association of University Professors (2020)

Volunteer coordinator for group supporting Syrian refugee family (2016-present)