



DEPARTMENT of Economics

SHATTERING
EXPECTATIONS
The Campaign for Liberal Arts

The Department of Economics

Building on a Distinguished Legacy

Nine Nobel Prize winners are affiliated with the University of Minnesota's historic, influential, and policy-shaping Department of Economics. For more than half a century, brilliant scholars, first-rate students, and illustrious alumni have changed the course of the discipline. They have guided national policy, driven private industry, and enriched academic institutions worldwide.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Our scholars and alumni have advanced seminal work in areas like mechanism design and monetary and fiscal policy; made field-changing contributions to macroeconomic and international trade theory; provided new insights into industrial organization and economic decision-making; developed microeconomic theories related to public transportation and income distribution; and delved into areas with immediate policy implications like climate change, health care financing, and income inequality.

The department's reputation rests on the work of these scholars who have nurtured an environment that is not only committed to academic rigor, but also to the belief that excellence is best achieved

where ideas are critiqued and debated, and where challenging the status quo is encouraged.

The department's strong partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis has produced a unique environment that cultivates a constant interchange of ideas and research. Faculty and graduate students gain access to visiting scholars and a collaborative environment that inspires new work and builds relationships that last a lifetime. More than half the department's faculty members have appointments at the Federal Reserve Bank while numerous graduate students serve as research assistants there each year.

Advancing the Field

Because nearly every facet of society rests on economic underpinnings, our understanding of these systems has enormous consequences for societal growth and well-being. In short, economics has limitless potential for improving the human condition.

More than ever, we need analysis and evidence to guide policies that will ensure the welfare of our world population. In short, we need the kind of forward-thinking, exacting work the University's economics department is known for producing.

That's why we're asking for your help in the following areas—to keep Minnesota Economics strong, for generations to come.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Research and Innovation

As Minnesota's land-grant university, we have both a responsibility and a desire to put our discoveries to work, bettering our communities and the world. To do that, we must reach new levels of excellence by hiring and retaining top faculty who will conduct field-shaping research and provide students with an outstanding educational experience.

Your gifts for **endowed chairs and professorships** will help us recruit and retain the world's most promising and accomplished faculty. You'll fuel discoveries that will not only preserve our Minnesota legacy, but also shape the knowledge and ideas that will lead to sound global policy and a stronger economy for all.

You can also **help disseminate economic research by supporting outreach and engagement.** You'll make it possible for the department to host prominent speakers and organize conferences and workshops—the

lifeblood of academia. These gatherings will facilitate the exchange of ideas and ensure Minnesota's faculty and students are contributing to research at the forefront of the field.



Fatih Guvenen, Curtis L. Carlson Professor of Economics and director, Minnesota Economics Big Data Initiative, is advancing research on income inequality.

Using a unique, confidential, and very large dataset on earnings histories from the United States Social Security Administration, the project estimated the distribution of lifetime earnings for individuals in the US.

The data was used to address questions such as: (1) How much inequality is there in lifetime earnings among US individuals? (2) How much dispersion is there across men and women and workers with different racial backgrounds in lifetime earnings? (3) How should lifetime earnings inform tax policy? and, (4) Given that current Social Security benefits are calculated based on the maximum 35 years of earnings during the working life, what are some alternatives?

Guvenen's findings have recently been featured in publications such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*.



Thomas Holmes, the Curtis L. Carlson Professor of Economics

"The Carlson Chair plays a crucial role in contributing to the success of both my research and my teaching. My work is extremely data intensive, and over the years, Carlson funds have been used to purchase core data sets being analyzed, to purchase sophisticated computers and software to do the number crunching, and to fund graduate and undergraduate research assistants needed to advance projects.

"Carlson funds not only have been essential to moving research projects forward, but they also have provided great learning opportunities for the graduate and undergraduate students with whom I work.

"The Carlson Chair is instrumental in the work I do here at Minnesota, and it is a great honor for me to hold it."

Student Success

Minnesota is consistently ranked among the top graduate programs in the world. An infusion of private investments will secure our spot among the most respected schools.

Graduate students are essential for creating new knowledge and developing innovative teaching methods. Your gifts for **competitive fellowship packages** will ensure we continue to beat our Big 10 and Ivy League peers in recruiting tomorrow's academic and industry leaders.

Your gifts for **undergraduate scholarships** will help us recruit the brightest minds from Minnesota and to Minnesota, competing for talent as the number of undergraduate economics majors booms nationwide. Your gifts will provide these students with critical access to experiential learning opportunities like internships, undergraduate research, and study abroad. With your help, every one of our students will chart a path to success.



Erik Katovich, former Douglas and Jane Gorence Scholarship recipient

Recent economics alumnus Erik Katovich made the most of his time at Minnesota, taking advantage of research and internship opportunities here and abroad. Now, as a Fulbright Research Fellow, he's collaborating with Dr. Alexandre Gori Maia at the University of Campinas in Brazil on an econometric study of the impact of education on productivity and inequality. Katovich previously engaged in field research with USAID in Nepal and has worked as a refugee services intern at The Advocates for Human Rights.

"I have always been troubled by issues of poverty and inequality, and I was drawn to economics in the hope that a better understanding of economic processes would give me the tools to combat these problems."



Kathleen McKiernan, former Leonid Hurwicz Graduate Fellowship recipient and current assistant professor at Vanderbilt University

"My research interests are in macroeconomics and government policy. I study how the government provides services like Social Security. My goal is to make an impact on both the economics community and the people affected by these government policies. My fellowship was critical to choosing Minnesota, and it gave me freedom to focus on my work to become the best economist I can be."