



HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Dear fellow NBER affiliates,

We write in our roles as members of the committee appointed by the Dean to search for new faculty in the area of policy analysis/program evaluation in education. We have appended a copy of the position description. Note that we plan to hire more than one new faculty member, and may hire at either the junior or senior level. We are especially interested in hiring an economist.

The reason we are writing to you is to ask for your help in identifying strong candidates for this position. To help you in thinking about potential candidates, we provide a bit more information in the paragraphs below about the types of scholars we are looking for, and the reasons why we feel that the Harvard Graduate School of Education is a wonderful community in which to teach, to learn, and to be a productive researcher.

As stated in the position announcement, we are looking for scholars who use quantitative methods to conduct policy analyses and/or program evaluations on topics centrally concerned with education. We are open to considering scholars who study any particular topic, including policy initiatives to improve primary or secondary education, interventions aimed at improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged populations, and the consequences of educational reforms. As indicated in the position announcement, scholars who conduct high-quality policy analysis on issues related to education in settings other than the United States, including developing countries, would be appropriate candidates in this search.

The HGSE community of faculty and graduate students provides a supportive environment for scholars who want to make a difference in the real world. Our students are talented and typically have experience as educational practitioners and leaders. They want to improve education and come to HGSE to acquire critical skills and knowledge. Conversations with colleagues who know about child and adult development, about teaching and learning, about the politics of education – to name just a few areas well represented in our school – have enriched our knowledge immensely and improved the quality of our research. Moreover, as you know, Cambridge is a great place to work for an economist deeply interested in education. Both the Harvard and MIT economics departments have several faculty members with significant interest in education-related issues, and the NBER economics of education group has more than 120 members. We do want to point out, however, that HGSE is not a good match for an economist who only wants to talk with other economists and who wants to teach students who aspire to become professional economists.

We would appreciate your doing two things. First, we ask that you share our position announcement and this letter with your colleagues and potential applicants. Second, we ask that you provide us with the names of promising applicants – including yourself, if the position appeals to you. You can do this either by sending us a message at the following email address: policysearch@gse.harvard.edu. One of us will then follow up directly with individuals whom you recommend.

Best wishes,

Richard J. Murnane
Committee Chair

Bridget Terry Long

Position Announcement

Policy Analysis/Program Evaluation in Education Harvard Graduate School of Education

The Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) invites applications for faculty positions in Policy Analysis/Program Evaluation, at the rank of Assistant, Associate (untenured), or Full Professor.

We seek accomplished candidates who have strong training in a social science discipline and conduct rigorous quantitative research on educational policies, programs, or practice. We are casting our net broadly, seeking colleagues whose substantive interests focus on education either in the U.S. or in international contexts. We are particularly interested in appointing new colleagues whose research is concerned with improving educational opportunities for disadvantaged populations. In addition to potential for making a powerful substantive contribution to our curriculum, strong applicants will be distinguished by the quality of their research, their use of cutting-edge statistical methods, and the application of compelling research designs and methods for making causal inferences on questions related to educational policy, programs, or practice. We especially encourage applications from women and persons of color.

At HGSE, our mission is to conduct high quality research on issues related to education, and to teach, advise, and mentor a diverse community of graduate students, both at the master's and doctoral levels, in order to contribute to building the next generation of successful scholars, policy-makers and practitioners in education. Candidates should be prepared to engage in quantitative research with graduate students whose primary interests are in policy, programs, or practice.

The search committee will begin reviewing applications on November 15, 2010, and will continue until the positions are filled. Applicants should send: (1) a copy of their curriculum vitae (including home address and preferred e-mail address), (2) a cover letter describing their research interests, (3) three examples of their scholarship. Applicants for assistant professor or associate professor should include four letters of recommendation. Candidates who proceed to a short list may be asked to submit additional reference letters or materials, including teaching evaluations.

All applicants are encouraged to submit materials electronically as PDF files. Please contact policysearch@gse.harvard.edu to request instructions for submitting materials electronically. **Do not send application materials to this email account.** Applications in hard copy may also be sent to:

Professor Richard J. Murnane
Chair, Policy Analysis/Program Evaluation Search Committee
c/o Office of Academic Affairs
Harvard Graduate School of Education
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For background information about the *Harvard Graduate School of Education*, please visit our website at www.gse.harvard.edu.

The Harvard Graduate School of Education prepares students and professionals of diverse backgrounds for positions of leadership in research and practice in education, and is an affirmative action employer.