

Cairen C. Withington
Assistant Academic Director for Research, Evaluation, and Public Relations
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
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Education

- M.A., Economics; B.A., English

Major Areas of Expertise

Career and Technical Education as a Dropout Prevention Strategy; Data Management and Research in the Economics of Education; Data Management and Research in Socioeconomic Factors Relating to Educational Attainment; Data Management of Large Demographic and Trend Data; Research, Writing, Editorial

Professional Experience

Assistant Director, 2013 to present. National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson University.

- Providing key leadership to the organization.
- Developing, analyzing, and implementing research grants and contracts
- Leading the organization's research and evaluative efforts
- Serving as a point of contact for inquiries and dissemination of information
- Coordinating the organization's Research and Practitioners Fellows Program
- Coordinating the organization's model program database
- Coordinating all public relations efforts
- Providing fiscal management and expertise
- Providing evaluative and technical assistance
- Serving as a critical member of the Executive Director's Leadership Team

Recent research: "A Longitudinal Study of the South Carolina Personal Pathways to Success Initiative."

- Development of longitudinal database
- Analysis of longitudinal data, archival/secondary data, and qualitative data
- Assistance with all aspects of research design and report writing
- Participation in site visits and data collection. Primary liaison with sample school personnel

Research Associate, 2006-2013. National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson University.

Current research: "A Longitudinal Study of the South Carolina Personal Pathways to Success Initiative."

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Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2005. Department of Applied Economics and Statistics, Clemson University.

- Teaching Assistant, Econ 211, microeconomics
- Full-time graduate student, Ph.D. program in Applied Economics

Adjunct Instructor, 2003-2004 and 1990-1991. Department of Economics, Tri-County Technical College, Pendleton, SC.

- Instructor for introductory economics classes: macroeconomics, microeconomics and basic economics

Owner/Sole Proprietor, 1997-2006. Multicom. Consultant primarily to the Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience Affecting Higher Education.

- Grants writing, coordination, and reporting
- Data analysis
- Program evaluation and federal reporting for several schools' 21st CCLC Afterschool Programs and Community Learning Centers (Greenville county, SC), development of surveys for data collection at field sites, and presentation of workshops for site directors
- Socioeconomic, education pipeline, and higher education research and writing
- Newsletter production, including interviewing subjects and writing articles
- Member, editorial board, *Challenge*, the newsletter of the Houston Center

Public Information Specialist, 1994-1997. The Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience Affecting Higher Education, Clemson University.

- Newsletter production
- Database maintenance - African Americans in South Carolina's Institutions of Higher Education
- Research and writing papers with center director. Assistance with grants writing

Data Management/Research Analyst III, 1988-1990. Department of Agricultural Economics, Clemson University.

- Analysis of demographic and socioeconomic trends in South Carolina and the South
- Analytical research
- Report writing
- Assistance in economic impact studies

Data Management/Research Analyst II and Data Management/Research Analyst I, 1983-1988. College of Engineering, Clemson University.

- Writing and editing
- Construction and maintenance of longitudinal datasets for federal and state reporting as well as information for professional engineering organizations and PR

Selected Publications

- Hammond, C., Withington, C., Sharp, J., Mobley, C., Drew, S. F., Springfield, N. S., . . . Griffith, C. (2014). *Programs of study as a state policy mandate: A longitudinal study of the South Carolina Personal Pathways to Success Initiative* (Unabridged Final Technical Report Years 1-5, Executive Summary and Implications of Findings), National Dropout Prevention Center/Network. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/publications/research-reports/personal-pathways>
- Hammond, C., Withington, C., Sharp, J., Mobley, C., Drew, S. F., Springfield, N. S., . . . Griffith, C. (2014). *Programs of study as a state policy mandate: A longitudinal study of the South Carolina Personal Pathways to Success Initiative* (Unabridged Final Technical Report Years 1-5), National Dropout Prevention Center/Network. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/publications/research-reports/personal-pathways>
- Withington, C., Hammond, C., Mobley, C., Stipanovic, N., Sharp, J. L., Stringfield, S. C., & Drew, S. (2012). Implementing a statewide mandated career pathways/programs of study school reform model: Select findings from a multisite case study. *International Journal of Education Reform*, 21:138-158.
- Sharp, J. L., Mobley, C., Hammond, C., Withington, C., Drew, S., Stringfield, S., & Stipanovic, N. (2012). A mixed methods sampling methodology for a multisite case study. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 6(1): 34-54. doi:10.1177/1558689811417133
- Mobley, C., Hammond, C., Withington, C., Stringfield, S., Stipanovic, N., Sharp, J. L., & Drew, S. (2011). Developing POS via a state career-focused reform policy. *Techniques: Connecting Education and Careers*, 87:1, 24-27. <http://bluetoad.com/publication/?i=92674&p=24>
- Hammond, C., Drew, S., Withington, C., Mobley, C., Sharp, J. L., Stringfield, S. C., & Stipanovic, N. (2011, August). *Programs of study as a state policy mandate: A longitudinal study of the South Carolina Personal Pathways to Success initiative - Year 3 technical report*. Louisville, KY: National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE), University of Louisville. <http://www.nrccte.org>
- Lewis, M. V., Alfeld, C., Hammond, C., Castellano, M., Shumer, R., Bhattacharya, S., Mobley, C., Sundell, K., Digby, C., Withington, C., Overman, L. T., Sharp, J., Aliaga, O. A., Drew, S., Stringfield, S., & Kosine, N. Programs of Study Joint Technical Working Group. (2011, July). *Programs of study: Year 3 joint technical report*. Louisville, KY: National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE), University of Louisville. <http://www.nrccte.org>
- Smink, J., Drew, S., Hammond, C., Withington, C., Mobley, C., Sharp, J., Stringfield, S., & Kosine, N. (2010, February). *A longitudinal study of the South Carolina Personal Pathways to Success initiative: Year 2 technical report (2008-2009)*. Louisville, KY: National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCTE), University of Louisville. <http://www.nrccte.org>
- Lewis, M. V., Alfeld, C., Hammond, C., Castellano, M., Mobley, C., Sundell, K., Withington, C., Overman, L. T., Sharp, J., Drew, S., Stringfield, S., & Kosine, N. Programs of Study Joint Technical Working Group. (2010, January). *Programs of study: Year 2 joint technical report*. Louisville, KY: National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE), University of Louisville. <http://www.nrccte.org>

- Withington, C. (1995-2003). *Challenge stats*, a series of statistical graphs and tables published in *Challenge*, Clemson, SC: Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience Affecting Higher Education.
- Green, H. G., Schmittou, D., & Withington, C. (1999). SAT coaching and test prep in South Carolina, *Challenge*, Clemson, SC: Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience Affecting Higher Education.
- Green, H. G., & Withington, C. (1996). A general model for predicting societal conditions, *Challenge*, Clemson, SC: Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience Affecting Higher Education.
- Green, H. G., Nyankori, J., & Withington, C. (1995). Childhood aspirations of professional engineers, *Challenge*, Clemson, SC: Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience Affecting Higher Education.
- Green, H. G., & Withington, C. (1995). Sensitivity and specificity of the scholastic aptitude test, *Challenge*, Clemson, SC: Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience Affecting Higher Education.
- McLean, E. L., London, J. B., & Withington, C. (1990). Forecast of population for South Carolina's census county divisions through the year 2015, Clemson, SC: The Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

Selected Presentations

- Chappell Moots, S., O'Connor, P., Stegelin, D., & Withington, C. (2014, April). *A meta-analysis of dropout prevention program characteristics' on dropout and graduation rates*. American Educational Research Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA.
- Hammond, C., Stipanovic, N., Sharp, J., Withington, C., Mobley, C., Drew, S., & Stringfield, S. (2011, April). A longitudinal study of the South Carolina Personal Pathways to Success Initiative. In M.V. Lewis, (Chair), *Programs of study: Multiple approaches examining the implementation of a federal policy on career preparation*. Symposium conducted at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA, April 9, 2011.
- Westray, L., Swiger, C. Sharp, J., Mobley, C., Hammond, C., Withington, C., Drew, S., Stringfield, S., & Stipanovic, N. (2011, April). *Career and technical education (CTE) participants vs. non-CTE participants: A comparison from student survey findings*. Poster session at the 2011 Spring HEHD Research Forum, College of Health, Education and Human Development (HEHD), Clemson University, Clemson, SC.
- Stone, J., Drew, S., Castellano, M., Alfeld, C., Hammond, C., Withington, C., Mobley, C., Sharp, J., Stringfield, S., & Kosine, N. (2010, December). *Programs of study: Early lessons from three field-based studies*. Presentation made at the 2010 ACTE Convention in Las Vegas, NV.
- Hammond, C., Mobley, C., & Withington, C. (2010, April). *A longitudinal study of the South Carolina personal pathways to success initiative*. Faculty roundtable session presented at the Twelfth Annual Research Forum, Clemson University, College of Health, Education, and Human Development.
- Imperatore, C. (2010, February). *ACTE post-convention update: A podcast with Marisa Castellano, Kirsten Sundell, & Cairen Withington*. NRCCTE audio podcast of interview with Catherine Imperatore, Association for Career and Technical Education.

<http://nrccte.podbean.com/2010/02/15/acte-post-convention-update-a-podcast-with-marisa-castellano-kirsten-sundell-cairen-withington/>

Stone, J., Alfeld, C., Castellano, M., Sundell, K., & Withington, C. (2009, November). *Programs of study: Early lessons from three field-based studies*. Presentation made at the 2009 ACTE Convention in Nashville, TN.

Smink, J., Drew, S., Hammond, C., Withington, C., McMillan, R., Mobley, C., Sharp, J., Ewing, A., Kosine, N., & Stringfield, S. (2009, April). *A sampling design for a longitudinal study of the South Carolina personal pathways to success initiative*. Poster session presented at the Eleventh Annual Research Forum, Clemson University, College of Health, Education, and Human Development.