

Tandem J. Young

Department of Economics, Sam M. Walton College of Business
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EDUCATION

University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business Fayetteville, AR
Ph.D., Economics Expected May 2027

Dissertation: Essays in Spatial and Regional Economics

Dissertation Committee: Hyunseok Jung, Chair (addtl. pending)

Fields: Spatial Economics, Regional Economics, Applied Econometrics

University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business Fayetteville, AR
M.A., Economics May 2026

University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business Fayetteville, AR
M.S., Economic Analytics May 2024

Arkansas Tech University Russellville, AR
B.S., Business Administration (Finance) May 2023

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Spatial economics, regional economics, applied econometrics, causal inference, labor economics, AI and labor markets.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Heartland Forward Bentonville, AR
Research Intern July 2024–Present

- Built SOC \times year occupational employment panels with the Anthropic Economic Index API automation crosswalk and OpenAI exposure measures as alternative treatments; applied event-study DiD designs using ChatGPT release timing to study AI exposure and U.S. labor-market outcomes.
- Reconstructed figures from Stanford HAI’s 2026 AI Index by U.S. subregion using Lightcast pulls aligned to Stanford’s 10 skill clusters as an external check on postings-side measurement.
- Conduct spatial econometric analysis of Arkansas regional economic development, including labor market accessibility, medical workforce planning, and rural health care access.
- Construct the Arkansas Maternal Resiliency Index, a county-level composite measure of maternal and infant health resilience developed in collaboration with Emily Oster, integrating administrative and survey data to support state policy applications.
- Co-authored policy report estimating \$465 million economic impact of expanding medical residencies using panel regression models with state and year fixed effects; contributed to the state of Arkansas providing \$7.5 million in funding.

- Develop interactive maps and data visualizations for stakeholder presentations and policy briefs, translating technical findings for non-specialist audiences.

University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business

Senior Graduate Assistant (Research)

Fayetteville, AR

July 2024–Present

- Support faculty research involving data collection and management from Census Bureau (ACS/PUMS), BLS, BEA, and FRED sources.
- Conduct econometric analysis using fixed-effects panel models, difference-in-differences designs, and instrumental variable approaches for regional and macroeconomic applications.
- Develop publication-quality figures and visualizations using R and Python for academic manuscripts and policy presentations.

University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business

Research Assistant

Fayetteville, AR

October 2023–May 2024

- Supported faculty research on corporate governance and political economy, investigating the impact of politicians joining corporate boards on governance dynamics and firm outcomes.
- Conducted replication studies of econometric models from academic journals to verify results and assess robustness of published findings.

PUBLICATIONS

Reports and Policy Briefs

A.F. Kritikos, M. Hefferon, D. Chelluri, M.L. Hughes, and **Tandem Young**, February 2026. “The Economic Burden of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: The United States and the Heartland Region.” NORC at the University of Chicago.

Cross-sectional economic burden analysis using pooled MEPS data (2016–2023) estimating \$107.3 billion in national costs associated with treated mental health and substance use disorders, including \$59.5 billion in direct health care spending and \$47.7 billion in productivity losses. Contributed econometric modeling of labor market impacts and state-level estimates for seven heartland states.

R. Devol, R. Ramirez-Perez, D. Shideler, and **Tandem Young**, March 2025. “Economic Contributions of Medical Residencies to Arkansas.” Heartland Forward.

Econometric analysis estimating that adding 275 new medical residents over six years could generate \$465 million in additional economic activity for Arkansas. Contributed to the state of Arkansas providing \$7.5 million in funding.

WORKING PAPERS

Tandem Young, April 2026. *Peer Effects in Horse Racing: A Tripartite Decomposition of Competitive Responses*. [PDF]

Tandem Young, April 2026. *Wildlife Management Areas, Deer Quality, and Rural Land Values: A Spatial Hedonic Analysis of Arkansas* (dissertation chapter). [PDF]

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Defense Dollars at Home: Localizing Federal Expenditures in Arkansas (dissertation chapter)

Develops a method to allocate federal defense contract obligations to counties using USAspending data, then estimates panel and spatial models to quantify the local and neighboring-county effects of defense spending on regional economic outcomes.

The Impact of Animal-Crossing Structures on Roadkill and Road Safety (with H. Jung, D. Park, and Z. Tipton; dissertation chapter)

Uses a staggered difference-in-differences design on geocoded roadkill and crash data to estimate the causal effect of 28 Colorado wildlife-crossing structures on wildlife-vehicle collisions and human traffic fatalities.

AI Exposure and U.S. Labor Markets (with C. Crews)

Spatially-Smoothed Small-Area Estimates of Depression: Evidence from Online PHQ-9 Screens (with D. Shideler)

Determinants of Remote Work Relocation

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

"Applied Economics at Heartland Forward: From Data to Policy," *Economics Forum, Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR* (undergraduate audience; 60 min).

Accepted Papers (Not Presented)

"Defense Dollars at Home: Localizing Federal Expenditures in Arkansas," *Annual Meeting of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC), Special Session: Location & Spatial Analysis, Denver, CO, November 2025*. (Unable to attend.)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business

Basics of Economics

Fayetteville, AR
Fall 2025, Spring 2026

- One-semester introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics course for non-business majors.
- Designed active-learning modules with clear rubrics and policy-framework examples to enhance student engagement and real-world application.
- Developed assessment instruments aligned with learning objectives to measure student mastery of core economic principles.

Guest Lecturer

- *Economic Analytics* (undergraduate), University of Arkansas: Delivered lectures on causal research design, reproducible R/Python data analysis pipelines, and creating stakeholder-oriented visualizations for policy audiences.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Peel Compton Foundation

Business Analyst (Internship)

Bentonville, AR

June 2024–August 2024

- Designed and implemented surveys to measure consumer sentiment, market saturation, and usage analytics across foundation programs.
- Conducted statistical analysis of survey data and program metrics to recommend operational improvements and strengthen community engagement strategies.
- Presented findings and recommendations to foundation leadership and stakeholders.

Knight Investments Group, Inc.

Client Contact Manager (Internship)

Russellville, AR

March 2022–January 2023

- Conducted comprehensive portfolio analysis to develop actionable investment strategies and optimize client financial objectives.
- Developed and refined client presentations and financial reviews, ensuring clarity, accuracy, and relevance of financial advice for diverse client portfolios.
- Performed detailed research and analysis of SEC EDGAR filings, extracting and synthesizing critical financial and regulatory data to support evidence-based investment recommendations.
- Maintained regular client communications to assess investment performance, review portfolio allocations, and adjust strategies based on changing market conditions and client goals.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Departmental Service

Economics Departmental Student Organization

Founding President

University of Arkansas

2025–Present

- Established the Economics Department’s first graduate student organization to foster community, professional development, and student advocacy.
- Authored organizational bylaws and governance structure.
- Successfully recruited 25 members in the inaugural year.

Graduate & Professional Student Congress (GPSC)

Economics DSO Representative

University of Arkansas

2025–Present

- Represent Economics graduate students in university-wide governance.
- Advanced funding requests and provided policy feedback on graduate student issues, including stipends, benefits, and academic policies.

Department of Economics LinkedIn

Social Media Manager

University of Arkansas

November 2025–Present

- Manage the Economics Department’s LinkedIn presence, creating and curating content to highlight faculty research, student achievements, and departmental events.

University Service

Table Tennis Club
Secondary Advisor

University of Arkansas
August 2025–Present

Community Service

- Spring Creek Food Hub, Volunteer
- Springdale High School, Volunteer

HONORS AND AWARDS

FBLA National Awards (Economics)
Carnegie Hall Performance (String Bass)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python (pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, XGBoost, PyTorch, TensorFlow, GeoPandas, matplotlib/plotly); R (tidyverse, sf, R Markdown/Quarto); SQL (window functions, CTEs); Stata; SAS; Git/GitHub; LaTeX.

Econometrics & Methods: Fixed-effects panel models; difference-in-differences/event study; instrumental variables; spatial econometrics (contiguity/weights); multilevel regression & post-stratification (MRP); small-area estimation; forecasting; ML for prediction (regularized and tree-based models).

Data & APIs: BEA, BLS, FRED, Census (ACS/PUMS), MEPS, USAspending, O*NET, Lightcast, SEC EDGAR; geocoding; reproducible pipelines with version control.

GIS & Visualization: GeoPandas, sf, Leaflet/Folium, ggplot2, plotly; interactive maps/dashboards for non-technical audiences.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association for Business Economics (NABE)
Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (native)

Citizenship: United States

Last updated: May 2026