

Sauk Valley Community College
August 17, 2026

Action Item 4.2

Topic: Faculty Appointment – Economics

College Health Metric: Academics – The College provides quality, contemporary, and relevant educational opportunities to the community

Presented By: Dr. Jon Mandrell and Sasha Logan

Presentation:

The administration has been in the process of hiring Economics Faculty. The position was advertised on-line on Sauk Valley Community College's website. The college received six applicants. A committee was composed of Dr. Emily Zimmerman, Therese Wood, Dana Chacon. Sasha Logan, Vice President of Academics, served as Chair.

Academic Background: Colin Corbett received his B.A. in Economics and Music and his B.S. in Applied Math from the University of Rochester. He received his Masters and Doctorate in Economics from the University of Oregon.

Professional Background: Colin is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Bradley University. Prior to that, he was at the University of Oregon as a graduate teaching fellow in Economics.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Colin Corbett as Economics Faculty beginning August 3, 2026 at an annual base salary of \$78,244.10.



To the Search Committee,

My name is Colin Corbett, and I am applying for the Economics Faculty position at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, IL. I recently ended my position as an Assistant Professor of Economics at Bradley University in Peoria, IL where I worked since I completed my PhD in Economics at the University of Oregon in 2016.

I am on the job market because Bradley University has faced significant financial hardships in the past few years. The administration unilaterally eliminated a wide range of majors including Economics, thus eliminating my position. I hope to continue my passion for teaching at another college.

I believe I would be an ideal candidate for Sauk Valley CC due to my extensive experience teaching in a wide range of subjects and class sizes, from very small to large, especially at the introductory level, and my training in teaching in different modalities. Many of my students at Bradley started at or took classes at community colleges, and I have a deep appreciation for their value and purpose. Having lived in Illinois for the past decade, I would appreciate staying in the state.

In my time at Bradley University, I have accumulated considerable teaching experience. I have taught a wide range of courses, with a focus on microeconomics (including Intermediate Microeconomics), managerial economics, and behavioral economics. Before coming to Bradley, I independently taught courses in econometrics, labor economics, and environmental economics. I have attended many workshops, training sessions, and book groups to improve my teaching and broaden my perspectives, including a certification unit on teaching online. I pride myself in my ability to adapt to the needs of the department when teaching and to relate teaching material to a wide range of current events and personal experiences.

At Bradley, I have supervised and advised a significant number of senior research projects in a wide range of fields, particularly with survey and experiment data, and general applied microeconomic analysis. I have also served as a general academic advisor to many students, especially freshman deciding on a business major, and I enjoy helping students plan how to better reach their goals. I also have a strong record of service, including being an outspoken voice in University Senate during turbulent times for the school. I also have a strong record of research and presentations, including in education economics and behavioral economics.

In addition to my experience in teaching, research and service, I served as an elected City Councilor for the City of West Peoria. This gave me another venue, along with my teaching and research, for contributing to the greater good of my local community. I am also involved in other community organizations, and I have appeared many times on local media discussing economic issues.

Thank you for considering my application. Letters of reference are available from Prof. Joshua Lewer, Prof. Chris Yench, and Prof. Jannett Highfill, three of my colleagues at Bradley.

Sincerely,

Colin Corbett, PhD

Colin Corbett

CONTACT INFORMATION	Most recently: Department of Economics and Finance [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
PRIMARY FIELDS	Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics	
SECONDARY FIELDS	Education Economics, Labor Economics, Game Theory	
EMPLOYMENT	Bradley University , Peoria, Illinois	08/2016-05/2025
	Assistant Professor of Economics, Foster College of Business (Full Time)	
EDUCATION	University of Oregon , Eugene, Oregon Ph.D., Department of Economics June 2016 Dissertation: Preferences for Effort and Its Applications • Advisor: William Harbaugh University of Rochester , Rochester, New York. B.A.: Economics and Music, B.S.: Applied Math, 2010, Cum Laude	
RESEARCH	Accepted Publications Lewer, J., C. Corbett, T. Marcum, and J. Highfill “Modelling Student Effort: Flat Tires and Dead Batteries” <i>The American Economist</i> 66.2 (2021): 301-314. Lewer, J., C. Corbett, T. Marcum, and J. Highfill “Offering makeup exams: do teachers care ‘what happened’?.” <i>Applied Economics Letters</i> (2021): 1-4. Lewer, J., C. Corbett, T. Marcum, and J. Highfill “Who Fills the Seats? Offering Extra Credit and Instructor Perceptions of Who Will Attend” <i>Applied Economic Teaching Resources</i> 4.4 (2022): 1-21 Bond, W., J. Lewer, C. Corbett, E. Sattler, K. Cooley and R. Ebert-Allen (2022) “Factors That Influence Public Healthcare Perceptions: A Simulation Case Study” <i>Southwestern Economic Review</i> (pending) Under Review Corbett, C. (2024) <i>Risk Preferences for Real Effort Tasks</i> , Review of Behavioral Economics	

Working Papers

Lewer, J., C. Corbett, T. Marcum, and J. Highfill (2023) *The Distribution of Grade Probabilities of Undergraduate Economics Students: Model and Survey Evidence*

Corbett, C. (2022) *Testing the Separability of Risk Preferences*

Bacon, A., and C. Corbett (2023) *Cooperation and Trust under the Influence of Alcohol*

Corbett, C. (2023) *Estimating Time Preferences for School Work*

CONFERENCE

PRESENTATIONS Economic Science Association North American Meeting. Dallas, TX, October 2015: *Estimating Time Preferences for School Work with Convex Time Budgets*
ESA North American Meeting. Tucson, AZ, November 2016: *Risk Preferences for Real-Effort Tasks*
ESA North American Meeting. Richmond, VA, October 2017: *Testing the Separability of Risk Preferences*
ESA North American Meeting. Antigua, Guatemala, October 2018: *Risk Preferences and Endowments in Different Domains*
ESA North American Meeting. Los Angeles, CA, October 2019: *Cooperation and Trust under the Influence of Alcohol*

INVITED

PRESENTATIONS Illinois State University Undergraduate Women in Economics speaker series. Normal, IL, October 2016 *Behavioral Economics and Effort*
Bradley University Psychology Club. Peoria, IL, March 2017 *Behavioral Economics and Psychology: Comparison and Application to Effort and Leisure*
Western Illinois University Department of Economics and Decision Sciences Graduate Seminar Series. Macomb, IL, February 2018 *Risk Preferences and Endowments in Different Domains*
CPCU Society, Central Illinois Chapter. Peoria, IL, September 2022 *Labor Markets and the Great Resignation*
Lyceum Lecture Series, Oxford College of Emory University, Oxford, GA, October 2024 *The Effects of Alcohol on Cooperation and Trust*

TEACHING **Assistant Professor**, Bradley University, 2016-2025
EXPERIENCE **Independent Instructor**, University of Oregon, 2013 - 2016

MEMBERSHIPS American Economic Association
Economic Science Association
Missouri Valley Economics Association

OTHER
SERVICE

Referee, Economics of Education Review, February 2015
Assistant Editor and Referee, Journal of Economic Insight, June 2020, Nov. 2021,
and June 2022
Alderson and Councilmember, City of West Peoria, IL, May 2023 - April 2025

RECENT LOCAL
MEDIA
APPEARANCES

WCBU 8/11/22 “Illinois tax holiday and local nonprofits help with back-to-school
spending”
<https://www.wcbu.org/local-news/2022-08-11/illinois-tax-holiday-and-local-n>
WEEK 9/7/2022 “Is Peoria really ranked dead last compared to 300 other real
estate markets?”
<https://www.25newsnow.com/2022/09/07/is-peoria-really-ranked-dead-last-compa>
WEEK 11/15/2022 “How inflation will impact your holiday shopping”
<https://www.25newsnow.com/2022/11/16/how-inflation-will-impact-your-holiday->
WEEK 12/30/2022 “Economic outlook for 2023 ‘looking good’ according to Bradley
econ professor”
<https://www.25newsnow.com/2022/12/30/economic-outlook-2023-looking-good-acco>
WMBD 1/4/2024 “What are the economic stances of the presidential candidates?”
<https://www.centralillinoisproud.com/news/local-news/what-are-the-economic-s>
WMBD 2/3/2025 “How President Trump’s Tariffs could directly impact you”
<https://www.centralillinoisproud.com/news/local-news/how-president-trumps-ta>
WEEK 3/4/2025 “Experts Explain Potential Impact of Trump’s Tariffs on Im-
ports” <https://www.25newsnow.com/2025/03/05/experts-explain-potential-impact->
WEEK 4/2/2025 “The local implications of President Trump’s global tariffs”
<https://www.25newsnow.com/video/2025/04/03/local-implications-president-trum>