

Alex Spurrier

Contact

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alspur.com
github.com/alspur

Computer Skills

Basic: Stata, SAS,
Unix, L^AT_EX

Intermediate: SQL,
HTML, CSS, git, Python

Advanced: R, Microsoft
Office

Education

M.A., Public Policy, Trinity College Hartford, CT
Honors in Graduate Scholarship 2011

B.A., Economics, Bethel University St. Paul, MN
Cum Laude 2007

Experience

Kentucky Department of Education Frankfort, KY
Strategic Data Analyst 2015–Present
Harvard Strategic Data Project Fellow 2015–2017

Selected to participate in the Harvard Strategic Data Project Fellowship, a competitive two-year program that places and develops talented data strategists in education agencies. Participated in extensive training in measurement and analysis, leadership, change management, and education policy. Serve as the lead researcher on the Strategic Planning & Research Team, planning and leading the development of research products that inform agency leadership and the Kentucky State Board of Education.

Achievements:

- Lead a team of analysts to design and execute a research agenda to inform agency leadership by transforming the agency's raw data into actionable analyses, reports, and presentations.
- Support the development and implementation of the agency's 2017-2022 strategic plan by developing meaningful goals, strategies, and metrics.
- Improved analyst efficiency by developing an R package of Kentucky School Report Card data to streamline data analysis.
- Created and deployed an analyst on-boarding curriculum to build strong analysis and collaboration skills through the use of R and GitHub.
- Produced an online book on developing a culture of collaborative analysis development in an education agency as part of a capstone project for the Strategic Data Project Fellowship.

TNTP - The New Teacher Project

Analyst

New York, NY

2014–2015

Supported TNTP's work with education organizations to implement performance-based teacher compensation systems.

Achievements:

- Developed complex financial models to project the impact of implementing performance-based teacher compensation systems for states, large urban school districts, and charter management organizations.
- Worked with key policymakers to communicate model results and refine policy options to support teacher compensation reform.

ConnCAN - The Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now

Manager, Research & Policy

Senior Associate, Research & Policy

Associate, Research & Policy

New Haven, CT

2012–2014

2011–2012

2010–2011

Developed original research to support results-oriented advocacy campaigns aimed at building a sustained movement for education reform in the state of Connecticut. Managed joint efforts with ConnCAN's internal teams and external strategic partners to provide research support in a fast-paced environment, including analyses of student assessment data, collective bargaining agreements, and legislative budget documents.

Achievements:

- Created policy briefs, data visualizations, and research projects in a collaborative environment, including some partnerships with national policy experts.
- Developed financial models of statewide school funding formulas to inform the creation of legislation to overhaul school finance in Connecticut, Senate Bill 1195 (2011).
- Led a complete overhaul of ConnCAN's School Report Cards website to improve the design and functionality to better serve parents and policymakers.
- Prepared and delivered testimony on education policy to the Connecticut General Assembly's Education and Appropriations Committees.

Achieve Hartford

Research Intern

Hartford, CT

2009–2010

Designed and executed an evaluation of Hartford's implementation of School Governance Councils.

Hartford Public Schools / Teach for America

Fifth Grade Teacher / Corps Member

Hartford, CT

2007–2008

Served as member of a highly selective national service corps of recent college graduates who teach in under-resourced public schools.

Achievements:

- Achieved a 61% improvement in student math performance by delivering instruction based on objective-oriented lesson plans aligned to ambitious student achievement goals.