



ANNUAL **REPORT** 2024-2025

Challey Institute for Global
Innovation and Growth

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GREETINGS FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Reflecting on the 2024-2025 academic year, I'm proud of our accomplishments. The sixth year of the Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth has been our most successful. We've increased academic publications and policy-relevant research, impacted more students, expanded outreach, and informed more policies.

Our interdisciplinary team addressed many key policy issues last year, including alleviating rural physician shortages, leveraging immigrants for worker shortages, enhancing police well-being, highlighting the role of multilateral institutions in trade, increasing supply chain resilience, and identifying the impact of R&D taxation on innovation.

As a result of our research and media efforts, we achieved tangible results last year, influencing several policy actions. For instance, after studying food insecurity in North Dakota and media outreach, the Legislature allocated \$10 million for a new food distribution facility. Our work on AI-related energy infrastructure led to a North Dakota Pipeline Authority plan for a 10-year credit line to support natural gas movement to eastern North Dakota, powering AI. Additionally, our efforts informed debates on school choice, occupational licensing, business climate on reservations, and property tax reform.

Our events team held successful events for students, faculty, staff, and the public. The Menard Family Distinguished Speaker Series featured thinkers like Greg Lukianoff, who discussed the speech crisis on campuses, and Robert Zoellick, who talked about America's global role. The Human Progress and Flourishing Workshop included scholars on entrepreneurship, education, health care, AI, the workforce, and land-use. These events drew 2,000 attendees.

Many students were impacted by our programming, including those pursuing a private enterprise certificate, reading groups on a wide variety of issues, a pluralist lab for meaningful conversations, and interdisciplinary graduate students aligning research with opportunity and flourishing.

Looking ahead, I couldn't be more excited! We have a strong team committed to continuing policy-relevant research, amplifying our results, providing meaningful programming for students and the community, and working toward our vision of 'a world where economic opportunity and flourishing are available to all.'

I truly appreciate our donors and partners for making this work possible. Your generosity is having a wonderful impact on the lives of our students, community, and beyond. We are committed to working hard to continue earning your trust and support.

IN GRATITUDE,
JOHN BITZAN



ABOUT US

The Sheila and Robert Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth was launched at North Dakota State University in 2019. The Institute is named in honor of Sheila and Robert Challey (NDSU '67), who provided the leadership gift to establish the Institute. The Institute received the largest collection of philanthropic support focused solely on faculty and student scholarship in NDSU's history. This transformative gift established an interdisciplinary institute dedicated to student programming, research, and outreach.

Our Mission

We aim to advance understanding in the areas of innovation, trade, institutions, and human potential to identify policies and solutions to increase economic opportunity and flourishing.

Our Vision

We envision a world where economic opportunity and flourishing are available to all.

Our Inspiration

The Institute was inspired by the legacy of NDSU alumnus Mancur Olson. Raised on a farm near Buxton, ND, Olson studied at Oxford and Harvard, where he earned his Ph.D. in economics in 1963.

FOOD INSECURITY IN NORTH DAKOTA

The Challey Institute's report Food Insecurity in North Dakota found that 8.5% of residents struggle with access to affordable, nutritious food, with rural communities facing unique challenges from distance and cost. The study drew coverage across local and state media, raising awareness among policymakers and community leaders. Combined with outreach efforts, the research helped shape the passage of HB 1143, which provided \$10 million toward a new food distribution facility that will serve North Dakotans for decades.



POWERING AI IN NORTH DAKOTA

In January 2025, Dr. Robert Mayo published North Dakota Natural Gas Can Power the Artificial Intelligence Revolution, which outlined how the state's natural resources and climate could attract next-generation AI data centers. The research gained wide attention through media coverage, an op-ed, and radio interviews, and it was later discussed in meetings with Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak. By spring, state officials were advancing proposals for new natural gas pipelines, with legislators echoing the report's themes in formal discussions—demonstrating how the work shaped a statewide conversation about AI and energy.

SCHOOL CHOICE IN NORTH DAKOTA

Dr. Patrick Wolf's paper What School Choice Could Do for North Dakota analyzed how education savings accounts (ESAs) could expand learning opportunities, drawing on decades of national research. Featured in the Fargo Forum and covered by KFVR-TV, the report provided legislators and the public with critical data during a pivotal policy debate. While Governor Armstrong ultimately vetoed the bill, citing rural access challenges, the Challey Institute's work ensured the discussion was grounded in evidence about how school choice might impact North Dakota families.





PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Dr. James Caton's Property Taxes and Budgetary Independence in North Dakota provided timely analysis of a ballot measure that sought to eliminate most local property taxes. The report estimated the state would need \$3.15 billion in replacement revenue every two years and outlined risks to local control and fiscal stability. Covered across radio and print outlets statewide, the research offered voters a clear, evidence-based perspective on the trade-offs involved, playing a central role in shaping an informed debate before the measure's defeat at the ballot box.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REFORM

In February 2025, Nicholas Orlando released Reforming Occupational Licensing in North Dakota, which detailed how burdensome licensing requirements contribute to workforce shortages. His recommendations for universal license recognition were widely shared through media, including an op-ed in the Fargo Forum. Soon after, lawmakers passed and Governor Armstrong signed legislation establishing universal recognition, allowing qualified professionals licensed in other states to begin working immediately in North Dakota—demonstrating a direct link between Challey Institute research and policy reform.



BUSINESS CLIMATE ON RESERVATIONS

Dr. Thomas Stratmann's Enhancing the Business Climate and Incentivizing Business Development on North Dakota Indian Reservations examined how history, regulations, and institutional barriers shape economic opportunity in Native communities. In October 2024, Stratmann presented his findings to the North Dakota Tribal and State Relations Committee, which included state legislators and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council. The testimony was praised as valuable and informative, helping to frame conversations on how policy can reduce barriers, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract investment in tribal communities.



"The Challey Institute has helped me build a professional network. Through speakers and events, I've connected with people in the industry and gotten a better sense of what's possible in my career."

HAVEN FITTERER, NDSU STUDENT

"Challey has reinforced the importance of research, critical thinking, and helping others. It's taught me to dig deeper and always look for the truth."

JULIA NELSON, NDSU STUDENT

BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENTS

203

SCHOLARSHIPS

RESEARCH

51

PUBLICATIONS

COMMUNITY

1,991

EVENT ATTENDEES

MEDIA

700+

CITATIONS



STUDENT PROGRAMS

Reading Groups

The Mancur Olson Reading Groups program, named after North Dakota native and NDSU alum Mancur Olson, is an interdisciplinary learning and scholarship program. This program brings together diverse students to study and discuss readings related to a central topic.

Mancur Olson Undergraduate Fellows

- AI Revolution (9 Students)
- The Politics of Food (17 Students)
- Global Aid (8 Students)
- Markets and Morality (10 Students)
- Law and Policy (13 Students)



Mancur Olson Graduate Fellows - 21 Students

The Graduate Student Discussion Group is part of our Mancur Olson Graduate Fellows Program. The program engages students in critical thinking, inquiry, and discussion surrounding issues of economic opportunity and flourishing. Students participate in speaker events and workshops, present their research, and work to align their research with the mission of the Challey Institute.

- Markets, Growth, and Higher Ed
- Taxation and Growth
- AI and Growth

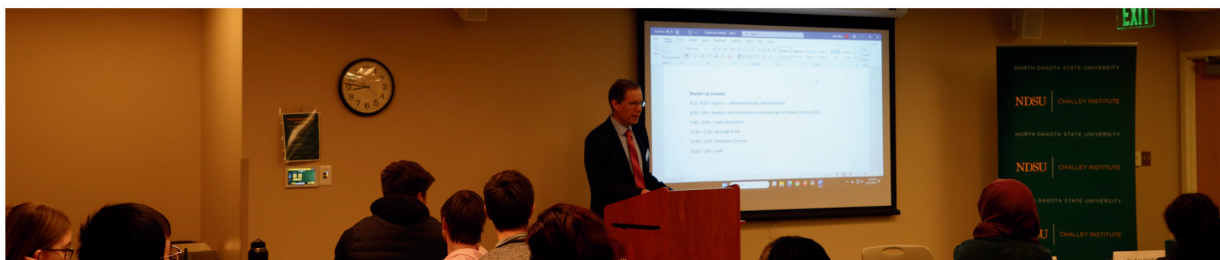
The Pluralist Lab

The Pluralist Lab aims to bring together a diverse group of students to engage in discussions about controversial issues. They learn to practice reflective listening and to engage in meaningful conversations with people with whom they disagree.

We hosted two joint pluralist lab with Concordia College, which included 18 students in both the Fall and Spring semesters.

Certificate Program in Private Enterprise

The Certificate in Private Enterprise is a 9-credit certificate program that: (1) introduces students to the fundamentals of business and economics, (2) helps students to understand the differences between different economic systems (socialism and capitalism) and their implications, (3) gives students an appreciation for the positive role that entrepreneurs and businesses can play in society, and (4) engages students in discussion and critical thinking surrounding important societal issues. The program has expanded to 46 students in only its second year.



STUDENT IMPACT



“In a lot of classes, you just listen to lectures. But in ECON 205, we actually talk. We hear different sides of issues and back them up with research. You can share your opinion without fear of being canceled—it’s a respectful and open space for discussion.”

“MY VIEW ON CAPITALISM HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED OVER THIS SEMESTER. IF IT RUNS THE WAY IT SHOULD, IT WILL TRULY ALLOW OUR SOCIETY TO FLOURISH.”

“Before coming to Challey, I had never really heard the term human flourishing. Now I think about it as innovation, creating value for others, and thinking beyond just yourself. Challey opened my eyes to that.”

“THE CHALLEY INSTITUTE HAS INTRODUCED ME TO NEW PERSPECTIVES THROUGH EVENTS AND SPEAKERS, INCLUDING GREG LUKIANOFF, WHOSE TALK ON FREE SPEECH AND CANCEL CULTURE LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION. IT WAS INTERESTING TO WRESTLE WITH IDEAS LIKE THAT. BEING CHALLENGED BY NEW VIEWPOINTS IS A BIG PART OF WHAT CHALLEY OFFERS.”

“I have learned that there is more good in the world than is reported. Our world is in fact getting better. Before this class, I wouldn’t have said that.”

“ONE READING, IN PARTICULAR, STOOD OUT: A COMPARATIVE DISCUSSION ON SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM. READING JASON BRENNAN’S WHY NOT CAPITALISM? REALLY STUCK WITH ME. HE MADE SUCH A STRONG CASE FOR CAPITALISM AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DECENTRALIZED DECISION-MAKING. IT JUST CLICKED.”



MENARD FAMILY DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

The Menard Family Distinguished Speaker Series hosts world thought leaders to share their ideas on big questions that explore ways to improve the human condition and create economic opportunity. The Distinguished Speaker Series is made possible thanks to a generous gift by the Menard family.



GREG LUKIANOFF

Greg Lukianoff, president of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, delivered *Free Speech in Free Fall: The Academic Freedom Crisis on Campus*. He examined the rise of cancel culture in higher education, its consequences, and possible solutions, followed by a discussion with Menard Family Director John Bitzan and audience Q&A. The event drew strong engagement, with 100 copies of his book *The Censoring of the American Mind* distributed.



DOUG DUNCAN

Douglas Duncan, former Chief Economist at Fannie Mae, joined the Menard Family Distinguished Speaker Series in Bismarck to discuss the U.S. economy and its implications for North Dakota. In conversation with Menard Family Director John Bitzan, he addressed inflation, interest rates, housing, technology, and structural changes since the pandemic.



LEEN WEIJERS

Leen Weijers, Vice President of Engineering at Liberty Energy, spoke on the vital role of energy in driving human prosperity. He highlighted the impact of the American Shale Revolution, the trade-offs in energy policy, and the challenge of providing affordable, reliable energy to developing countries. His remarks were followed by a conversation with Menard Family Director John Bitzan and audience Q&A.



ROBERT ZOELICK

Robert Zoellick, former World Bank president and U.S. trade representative, spoke at the Challey Institute on the enduring lessons of history for U.S. diplomacy and foreign policy. In conversation with Menard Family Director John Bitzan, he addressed trade, U.S.–China relations, and advice for students. The event drew 229 attendees, with 100 copies of his book distributed.



STEVE KAPLAN

Steve Kaplan, Neubauer Family Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance at the University of Chicago, joined the Menard Family Distinguished Speaker Series as part of NDSU's Financial Markets Day. In conversation with College of Business Dean Kathryn Birkeland, he shared insights on private equity, leadership, and today's financial markets, followed by audience Q&A and a panel discussion. The event drew 186 attendees, including 121 in person.

“The speaker was a stunning expert and experienced, but able to be down to earth, engaging, and at times even humorous.

HIS INSIGHTS WERE NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE.”



HUMAN PROGRESS and FLOURISHING

Our workshop on Human Progress and Flourishing invites internationally-renowned scholars and speakers from across the country to present research and engage in discussion with the Fargo-Moorhead community. The series focuses on solutions and policies that contribute to opportunity, innovation, and individual and societal flourishing.



LEAH KRAL

Author, and Nonprofit
Consultant

***"Innovation for Social Change:
How Wildly Successful
Nonprofits Inspire and Deliver
Results"***



DANIEL BENNETT

Associate Professor of
Entrepreneurship, Director
of the Entrepreneurship PhD
Program, and Associate
Director of the Center for
Free Enterprise at the
University of Louisville
***"Political Economy of
Entrepreneurship"***



DANIEL BUCK

Policy and Editorial Associate at
the Thomas B. Fordham
Institute

***"Innovate Forward by Looking
Back: The Effectiveness of Old
School Education"***



PATRICK WOLF

Distinguished Professor of
Education Policy and the 21st
Century Endowed Chair in
School Choice at the
University of Arkansas
***"School Choice in North
Dakota"***



NEIL CHILSON

Head of AI Policy at the
Abundance Institute

***"A Smarter, Better World: The
Present and Future Role of AI
in Human Flourishing"***



JEREMY STRAUB

Associate Professor of
Computer Science & Challey
Senior Faculty Fellow at North
Dakota State University
"AI Policy"



ERICK GARCIA LUNA

Regional Outreach Director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
"Immigrants and the Midwest Labor Force"



JOHN WINTERS

Professor of Economics at Iowa State University
"Regional Human Capital and Higher Education"



LOUDOM HEAN

Assistant Professor of Finance and Challey Institute Scholar at North Dakota State University
"Regulation and Housing Affordability"



MICHAEL CANNON

Cato Institute's Director of Health Policy Studies
"Reforming U.S. Healthcare"



PHILLIP PHAN

Professor at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School with joint appointment as Professor in the of Medicine
"An Honest Debate During Public Health Crises"



EMILY HAMILTON

Research Fellow and Director of the Urbanity Project at Mercatus Center at George Mason University
"Land Use Policy"



WADE MYERS

General Partner at Eagle Venture Fund and Distinguished NDSU Alumnus, Two Lectures to Students
"Capitalism Unleashed & Aligning Profit with Purpose for Maximum Social Change"

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

AI EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE

This all-day event featured keynote speakers and panel discussions on: (1) AI's role in human flourishing, (2) AI and education, and (3) AI and regulation. The keynote speakers included: Neil Chilson, Head of AI Policy, Abundance Institute, Mark Hagerott, Chancellor of the North Dakota University System, & Ryan Hagemann, Global Lead for AI Policy, IBM.

NOBEL AT NOON

This event featured three NDSU faculty members giving short presentations on the discoveries that led to Nobel Prizes being awarded in Chemistry, Economics, Physics, and Physiology/Medicine in 2024, and their significance. The event was moderated by Dr. John Bitzan. A question and answer session with faculty, staff, and students followed.

STUDENT RESEARCH

STUDENTS, UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE, ASSISTED CHALLEY INSTITUTE FACULTY WITH RESEARCH PROJECTS. SOME STUDENTS RECEIVED STIPENDS TO SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Ruhaimatu Abudu, PhD student in Transportation and Supply Chain, worked with Dr. Roa-Henriquez on building resilient supply and demand networks across critical infrastructure sectors, and designing and evaluating resilient supply chain systems, and with Dr. Godavarthy on the impacts of power outages on businesses.

Iqbal Bahar, PhD student in Transportation and Supply Chain, worked with Dr. Godavarthy on “Understanding the Economic Impacts of Roundabouts and J-Turns.”

Solomon Boadu, PhD student in Transportation and Supply Chain, worked with Dr. Godavarthy on “Autonomous and Crowdsourcing Solutions to Last-Mile Delivery in North Dakota’s Small Urban and Rural Communities.”

George French, Undergraduate student in Accounting and Business Economics, Concordia. He worked with Dr. Bitzan on examining the impact of adopting the Chicago Statement and Institutional Neutrality on tolerance for different points of view, and with Dr. Mayo on factors influencing job application decisions.

Edmond Lisinge, PhD student in Transportation and Supply Chain, worked with Dr. Godavarthy on “Understanding the Economic Impacts of Roundabouts and J-Turns.”

Jaxon Nankivel, Undergraduate student in Finance, worked with Dr. Hean in examining the impacts of bank competition on business formation in the U.S.

Richard Penneigh, PhD student in Transportation and Supply Chain, worked with Dr. Godavarthy on “Autonomous and Crowdsourcing Solutions to Last-Mile Delivery in North Dakota’s Small Urban and Rural Communities.”

Samuel Peterson, Masters in Business Administration – Business Analytics, worked with Dr. Hean in studying the effects of broadband access on health outcomes.

Bright Quayson, PhD student in Transportation and Supply Chain, worked with Dr. Godavarthy in examining low emissions technologies in transit in rural and Tribal areas.

Samuel Tipka, Undergraduate student in Business Administration, worked with Ricky Feir and Ethan Liu on analyzing overeducation, childcare regulations, and other projects.

Yasin Yildirim, PhD student in Applied Economics, worked with Dr. Steinbach on “U.S. Trade Integration Policies and Global Value Chain Participation.”

POLICY RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS BY CHALLEY STAFF, FELLOWS, AND SCHOLARS HOUSED ON OUR WEBSITE

Addressing the Physician Shortage in North Dakota, Robert Mayo (June 2025) North Dakota ranks 37th nationally in patient-to-physician ratios, with shortages most acute in rural areas where 48 of 53 counties lack adequate coverage. Without action, the state could face a deficit of 500 physicians by 2040, which would threaten access to essential services and the sustainability of rural hospitals.

Policing, Mental Illness, and Seeking Help: Perceptions of Stigma, Carol Archbold, Ph.D. (May 2025) This study explores police officers' perceptions of mental illness and the stigma surrounding it, which can discourage them from seeking help. It also examines their awareness and use of workplace wellness programs and services.

Reforming Occupational Licensing in North Dakota, Nicholas Orlando (February 2025) With a tight labor market, North Dakota struggles to attract workers across many fields. Reducing or removing licensing restrictions could expand the workforce at little cost.

More Prairie Prosperity: Economy and Fiscal Policy in North Dakota, James Caton (February 2025) This report highlights North Dakota's strong labor market, low unemployment, and high income while warning of persistent labor shortages and reliance on state transfers. It also considers fiscal and policy choices that could strengthen growth.

What School Choice Could Do for North Dakota, Patrick J. Wolf (February 2025) As the only state without charter schools or private school choice, North Dakota stands apart from most of the nation. This paper examines how a universal ESA program could expand options for families and affect taxpayers.

Utilizing TN Status to Attract Workers to North Dakota, Jiawei Liu (January 2025) North Dakota's severe worker shortage could be eased by greater use of the TN visa program, which allows Canadian and Mexican professionals to work in the U.S. Current licensing restrictions and limited eligible occupations, however, reduce its effectiveness.

North Dakota Natural Gas Can Power the Artificial Intelligence Revolution, Robert L. Mayo (January 2025) AI data centers require massive physical and economic resources, creating opportunities for North Dakota. This paper outlines benefits and offers five policy recommendations to attract investment.

Food Insecurity in North Dakota, Ethan Liu (November 2024) This research examines the barriers to affordable, nutritious food and the impacts on health and well-being.

Property Taxes and Budgetary Independence in North Dakota, James Caton (October 2024) The proposed elimination of property taxes could fundamentally reshape state finances and local governance. This report analyzes the tradeoffs for fiscal policy, public services, and economic stability.

2024 American College Student Freedom, Progress and Flourishing Survey, John Bitzan (August 2024). The annual survey by the Challey Institute tracks how college students view free speech, viewpoint diversity, human progress, and economic systems like capitalism and socialism.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS BY CHALLEY STAFF, FELLOWS, AND SCHOLARS

Bright Quayson, Jill Hough, Rebecca Boateng, Isaac Duah Boateng, **Ranjit Godavarthy**, Jeremy Mattson. "Rural Veterans Use of Telehealth in the United States: A Systematic Literature Review on Veterans Medical Conditions, Transportation Cost Savings, and COVID-19." *Societies* 14(12) (2024).

Noah Dormady, **Alfredo Roa-Henriquez**, Chris Snider, and Adam Rose. "Cost-Effective Business Resilience Decision Making| Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Natural Hazard Science." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Natural Hazard Science*. Oxford University Press, October 23 (2024).

Noah Dormady, **Alfredo Roa-Henriquez**, Matthey Hoyt, Matthew Pesavento, Grace Koenig, William Welch, & Zejun Li. (2024). "How are Retail Prices Formed in Restructured Electricity Markets?" *Energy Economics*.

Titus Awokuse, Sunghun Lim, Fabio Santeramo, **Sandro Steinbach**. "Robust Policy Frameworks for Strengthening the Resilience and Sustainability of Agri-Food Global Value Chains," *Food Policy*, Volume 127, 102714, ISSN 0306-9192 (2024).

Dongin Kim, **Sandro Steinbach**, Carlos Zurita. "Deep Trade Agreements and Agri-Food Global Value Chain Integration," *Food Policy*, Volume 127, 102686, ISSN 0306-9192 (2024).

Colin A. Carter and **Sandro Steinbach**. "Did Grain Futures Prices Overreact to the Russia-Ukraine War Due to Herding?" *Journal of Commodity Markets*, Volume 35, 100422, ISSN 2405-8513 (2024).

Soojung Ahn & **Sandro Steinbach**. "Assessing the Trade Response to Pandemic-Related Non-Tariff Measures." *Applied Economics Letters*, 1-9 (2024).

Sandro Steinbach. "Balancing Environmental Policies and Food Security Goals in the Face of Shifting U.S. Rail Transportation Regulations," *Food Policy*, Volume 128, 102724, ISSN 0306-9192 (2024).

Dongin Kim and **Sandro Steinbach**. "Rising Protectionism and Foreign Direct Investment." *Rev World Econ* (2024).

Raghav Goyal, Edouard Mensah, and **Sandro Steinbach**. "The Interplay of Geopolitics and Agricultural Commodity Prices." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* 46(4): 1533-1562 (2024).

Sandro Steinbach, Yasin Yildirim, and Carlos Zurita. "Potential Implications of Trade Policy Shifts After the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election for the Agri-Food Sector." *Food Policy*, 129 (2024).

ACADEMIC RESEARCH CONT.

Sandro Steinbach and Yasin Yildirim. "Agricultural Commodity Market Response to Russia's Withdrawal from the Grain Deal, Journal of Agricultural Economics, July (2024).

Cristina Connolly, Marcello Graziano, and **Sandro Steinbach**. "David versus Goliath? The Impact of Corporate Expansion in the Alcohol Retail Industry on Incumbent Small-Scale Retailers," Journal of Wine Economics, November (2024).

Qianxi Jiang, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Helena Laroche, Sarah Hampl, **Sandro Steinbach**, Bethany Forseth, Ann M. Davis, Chelsea Steel, and Jordan A. Carlson. "Associations of Neighborhood Food Retail Environments with Weight Status in a Regional Pediatric Health System, Childhood Obesity (2024).

Carol Archbold, (2025) "Special issue on police reform," Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice.

Carol Archbold, Janne Gaub, Jacqueline M. Drew, (2024) "Special Issue: Women in Policing," Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice.

Ahmad Al Asady & Christopher Groening, (2024) "Endogeneity be Gone: A Toolkit for Entrepreneurship Scholars," Academy of Management Proceedings.

Jungho Baek, **James Caton**, & Dragan Miljkovic (2025) "Testing monetary neutrality with respect to relative price of oil using divisia M4," The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance.

Shengxuan Jian, Nanxin Deng, & **Oudom Hean**, (2025). "Unlocking the Key to Capital Deepening: How Financial Constraints Impact Labour and Capital in China." Applied Economics Letters.

Oudom Hean, Utsha Saha, & Binita Saha (2025) "Can AI help with your personal finances?" Applied Economics.

Thomas Krumel & Edmund Adorkor (2025) "Did the rural health infrastructure breakdown during the pandemic? Evidence from the 2020 meatpacking plant COVID-19 Outbreaks" Applied Economics.

Elisha Kwaku Denkyirah, **Raymond J. March**, Glenn L. Furton, Veeshan Rayamajhee, Ryan M. Yonk. (2025). "Recreational Marijuana Legalization's Impact and Opioid Death Rates: A Synthetic Control Approach." Public Health.

Ryan Yonk, Robertas Bakula, **Raymond March**, & Veeshan Rayamajhee (2024). "Max-U? Considering humanomics in public policy." Public Choice.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH CONT.

Elisha Denkyirah & **Raymond March** (2025). "Operation Warp Speed: An Emerging Ratchet?" The Independent Review.

Ruhaimatu Abudu, Emmanuel Anu Thompson, Frank Selase Dzawu, **Alfredo Roa-Henriquez** (2025) "A Meta-Analysis Assessment of Adaptive and Transformative Approaches to Supply Chain Resilience," Supply Chain Analytics.

Dongin Kim & **Sandro Steinbach**. (2025) "Is the WTO Passe? The Impact of Multilateral Economic Integration on Agri-Food Global Value Chains." The World Economy.

Sandro Steinbach & Carlos Zurita. (2025) "Assessing the Impact of the Trade Facilitation Agreement on Agri-Food Global Value Chain Integration." The World Economy.

Stepan Gordeev, Jeremy Jelliffe, Dongin Kim, & **Sandro Steinbach**. (2025) "What matters for agricultural trade? Assessing the role of trade deal provisions using machine learning." Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy.

Colin Carter, **Sandro Steinbach**, and Ziting Zhuang. (2025) "The 2021 Container Shipping Crisis and its Consequences for US Agricultural Exports." Journal of Transport Economics and Policy.

SELECT MEDIA CITATIONS

OP-EDS, CITATIONS, AND BROADCAST HITS BY CHALLEY STAFF, FELLOWS, AND SCHOLARS

Fueling the future of AI in North Dakota, Robert Mayo in The Bismarck Tribune

Bill proposes \$10M to help combat North Dakota food insecurity, Challey Institute cited in papers across North Dakota

Fedorchak touts bold reforms, faces scrutiny on immigration, Medicaid, Challey Institute cited in the Fargo Forum

An Underused Workforce Solution at the Border, Ethan Liu at Governing

California farmers fear tariff trade war losses in billions, uneven bailouts, Sandro Steinbach cited in the Fresno Bee and other papers across Southern California

Foreign Influence and the Immorality of Censorship, John Bitzan cited at Knight First Amend. Inst.

College Uncovered: Un-welcome to College, John Bitzan featured at The Hechinger Report

Trump's Tariffs, James Caton on KFGO radio

Trade war could devastate agriculture, Sandro Steinbach cited at The Minneapolis Star Tribune

East Coast port strike could bring far-reaching price hikes, John Bitzan cited in The Fargo Forum

FAST TAKES, John Bitzan featured at the New York Post

Bottom-up solutions to combat tribal food insecurity, Baishali Rahman in the Fargo Forum

Upcoming Events



Human Progress and Flourishing

September 12: Marian Tupy, Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, Cato Institute

November 7: Clay Routledge, Vice President of Research and Director of the Human Flourishing Lab, Archbridge Institute

International Trade

October 10: Michael Klein, Professor of Economics, Tufts University

October 17: Kari Heerman, Senior Fellow and Director of Trade and Economic Statecraft at the Brookings Institution

Artificial Intelligence

November 21: Revana Sharfuddin, Predoctoral Researcher, Labor Policy Project at Mercatus Center

December 5: Jeremy Straub, Associate Professor of Computer Science, North Dakota State University

Capitalism

January 23: Siri Terjesen, Professor & Associate Dean for Research and External Relations at FAU Business

February 6: Jason Brennan, Professor of Strategy, Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy at Georgetown University

Immigration

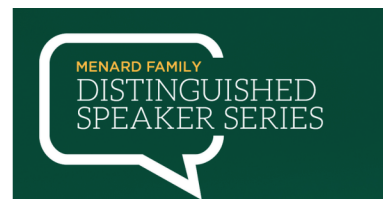
March 20: Delia Furtado, Professor of Economics at the University of Connecticut

March 27: Stephen Terry, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Michigan

Laws, Policies, Regulations Impacting Opportunity and Flourishing

April 17: Shishir Shakya, Assistant Professor at Appalachian State University

May 8: Ed Timmons, senior fellow at the Archbridge Institute



Daryl Davis - Sept. 16, 2025



**From Discord to Harmony:
Transforming Conflict
into Collaboration An
Evening of Learning
and Music**

Steve Forbes - Oct. 23, 2025



**Prosperity Through
Economic Freedom**

Deirdre McCloskey - Feb. 10, 2026



**How Growth
(Actually) Happened**

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



 **Brett Bantle, MBA**
Research Specialist

Brett Bantle is a Research Specialist for the Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Dickinson State University and earned a Master of Business Administration from North Dakota State University. His areas of interest include Tax Policy, Immigration Regulations, and Artificial Intelligence. As a research specialist, he evaluates regional policies and their societal impact, providing critical analysis to empower public awareness and decision-making.



 **Baishali Rahman, MS, MBA**
Research Specialist

Baishali Rahman is a Research Specialist for the Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth. Her work focuses on integrating public transit systems, especially how public transit in the U.S. integrates with existing and futuristic transportation. She is also working on reliance on immigrants for the U.S. economy, and the consequences of losing or gaining immigrants in the U.S. workforce. She brings our mission to life each day through impactful research affecting our area and effectively communicates the results through both academic and public-facing efforts.

MEET THE TEAM



➤ **Zahid Anwar, PhD**
Associate Professor
of Cybersecurity



➤ **Carol Archbold, PhD**
Professor of
Criminal Justice



➤ **Ahmad Al Asady, PhD**
Assistant Professor
of Management



➤ **Brett Bantle, MBA**
Research Specialist



➤ **John Bitzan, PhD**
Menard Family
Director



➤ **Elizabeth Carlson, PhD**
Associate Professor
of Political Science



➤ **James Caton, PhD**
Associate Professor
of Economics



➤ **Ricky Feir, MS**
Research Specialist



➤ **Allison Fulton, MBA**
Communications
Coordinator



➤ **Ranjit Godavarthy, PhD**
Associate Professor
of Transportation
and Logistics



➤ **Oudom Hean, PhD**
Assistant Professor
of Finance



➤ **David Hong, PhD**
Professor of
Accounting



 **Thomas Krumel, PhD**
Assistant Professor
of Economics




 **Jiawei Liu, MA**
Research Specialist



 **Robert Mayo, PhD**
Research Specialist



 **Marc Morris, MA**
Media Relations
Specialist



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The achievements highlighted in this report are a direct result of your belief in our mission. Together, we are advancing opportunity, encouraging innovation, and helping students and scholars flourish. We are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership, and we look forward to continuing this important work with you in the year ahead.

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