

An Investigation of Named Professorships of Economics in the United States

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines distinguished professorships in the academic field of economics in the U.S. from the 1995-1996 and 2001-2002 academic years using data from the *Prentice Hall Guide to Economics Faculty* compiled by James Hasselback. Over the six year period, the number of named professorships in economics increased from 369 to 402. Our findings suggest that the typical named professor in economics is most likely to be a male, full professor, with teaching and research interests in microeconomics or macroeconomics, and is employed by a private institution. In addition, the evidence shows that in 2001-2002 just 12 schools had over 33% of all named professors in economics and that just 12 schools had graduated 49% of all named professors of that year. The evidence also suggests that graduates of U.S. public universities are less likely to occupy named professorships of economics at private universities with a Carnegie classification of 1 than the graduates of private universities.

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