

---

**NDSU** PUBLIC CHOICE  
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

---

# 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

---

701.231.7790  
[www.ndsu.edu/centers/pcpe](http://www.ndsu.edu/centers/pcpe)  
[ndsu.pcpe@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.pcpe@ndsu.edu)

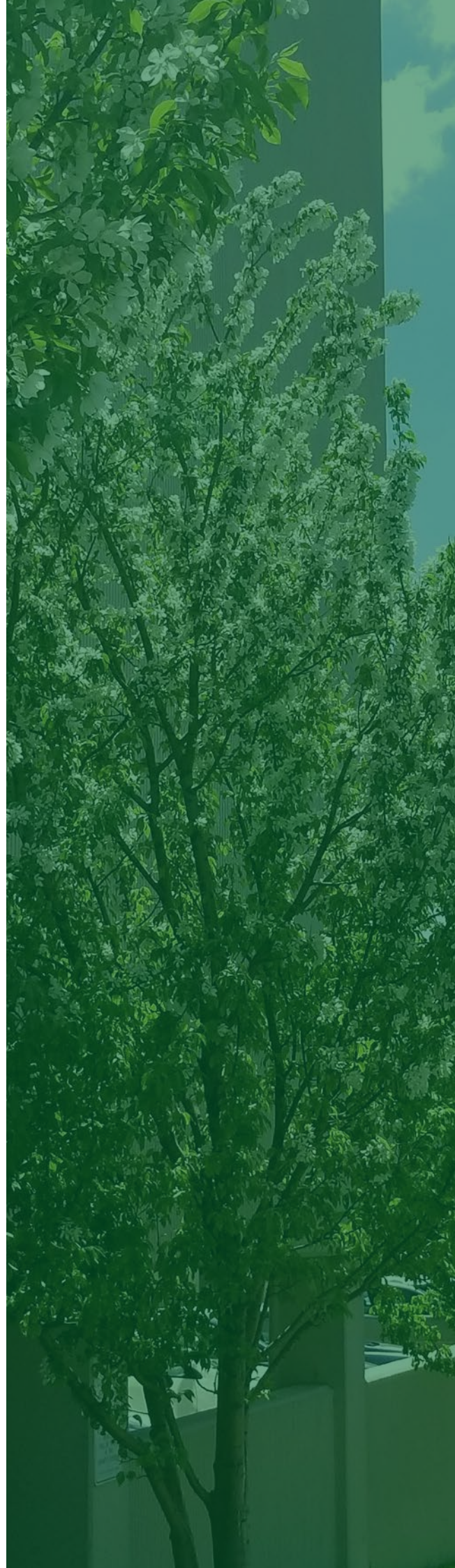
# OUR MISSION

The Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise supports the land grant mission of North Dakota State University. We are committed to helping local communities and the Upper Great Plains region, as well as humanity on a national and global scale, thrive.

The Center engages in research and educational programs to uncover the institutions and policies that encourage and enhance human well-being. While we are grounded in economics, the Center supports and actively encourages efforts that cross traditional boundaries set by departmental and college delineations.

The Center achieves its mission by:

- Producing research and programming on issues relevant to North Dakota and the Upper Great Plains region.
- Advancing knowledge of the sources and causes of human well-being and the distinctive roles of entrepreneurship, free markets, philanthropy, private enterprise and public policy in achieving it.



# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Upon reflection of the past year, the first full year of operation for PCPE, I'm exceptionally proud of the work we have accomplished in such a short time and encouraged by the promise of what is to come.

We have gone from a one-person shop with just me as director to having two full-time staff and two affiliated assistant professors. We have steadily increased our website traffic, social media following, research output, and student engagement. We wrote multiple op-eds and gave media appearances on topics such as the minimum wage and occupational licensing. We also attracted a growing number of students, faculty, and members of the public to our events. We even hosted a public screening of the film "Poverty, Inc." at the Fargo Theatre, which was attended by more than 200 individuals.

One of our greatest successes has been the initiation of the Mancur Olson Scholars (MOS) reading group program. We have been able to attract some terrific students to the program, and every participant received a \$500 scholarship. The feedback that we have received from students has been overwhelmingly positive. Scholars' comments indicate how transformational it can be for students to come together and grapple with ideas. Each semester has seen growth in the number of applicants and participants.

As we start a new year, I am excited to continue the successes of our current programs and begin new ventures to help us in our mission to uncover the institutions and policies that lead to human well-being in a free society. We have several exciting programs that we hope to initiate, many of which will extend across the university. These new programs, as well as our existing programs, are made possible only through the generosity of our donors. Please consider joining us by donating to the center and helping us advance our mission.

Best Regards,

*Jeremy Jackson*

# OUR TEAM

The Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise is served by a dedicated team of faculty and staff under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Jackson.

Dr. Jackson is the founding director of PCPE and an associate professor of agribusiness and applied economics.

Other PCPE faculty include Dr. James Caton, a faculty fellow who started August 2017, and Dr. Ray March, PCPE's newest faculty fellow who will join the team in August 2018. Both Dr. Caton and Dr. March were hired as tenure-track assistant professors in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. In addition to teaching and research duties, faculty fellows lead the Mancur Olson Scholars reading group.

Raheem Williams serves as the center's research specialist. He conducts state-level policy research and writes the quarterly labor report.

Kali Christianson, outreach specialist, is responsible for managing communications, coordinating events and maintaining the center's online presence.



**Jeremy Jackson**



**James Caton**



**Raheem Williams**



**Kali Christianson**

# MEASURING IMPACT

## OUTREACH

PCPE uses a variety of tools to measure our impact.

\*Website data retrieved June 15, 2018. Social media data retrieved June 25, 2018.



**3,254**  
homepage visits



**1,919**  
blog views



**1,573**  
news views



**452**  
research views



**249**  
followers



**106**  
followers



**37**  
followers



**919**  
video views

**206**

**email subscribers**

**950**

**student contacts**

Notes: "Homepage visits" is the number of unique visits to the PCPE website homepage. This does not include visits to any other pages. "Blog views" is the number of unique visitors to the blog list on the PCPE website, not including individual blog views or social media clicks. "News views" is the number of unique visitors to the In the News page on the PCPE website, including individual article views but not including social media clicks. "Research views" is the number of unique visitors to the Research page on the PCPE website, including individual page views but not including social media clicks or email downloads. All data from Google Analytics.

"Student contacts" is the number of students who interacted with PCPE through programs, classes, or events.

# MEASURING IMPACT

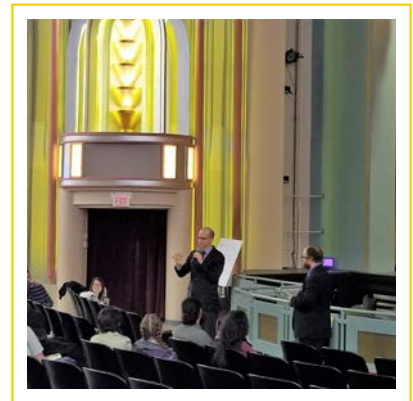
## PHOTOS



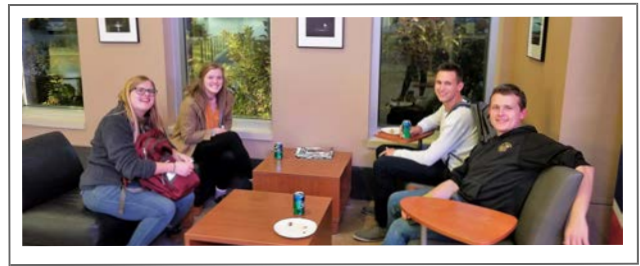
Stephen Moore



Film screening at the Fargo Theatre



Michael Matheson Miller



NDSU students enjoying pizza after a Capitalism and Society lecture event



Peter Klein speaking with the Mancur Olson Scholars



Director Jeremy Jackson



Reading group discussion by the Mancur Olson Scholars



Students, faculty and community members at a Capitalism and Society lecture event



Raheem Williams speaking at the Ag Lenders Outlook Conference in Grand Forks



# Research

As part of its commitment to research, PCPE engages in a number of singular and serial research projects. Some of these projects are publicly shared on the PCPE website, while others are published by external sources such as academic journals. Our research publications cover a variety of topics but generally fall into three categories: quarterly labor reports, policy papers and academic research.

## **Policy Papers**

PCPE has released two policy papers: "Legal Plunder: Civil Asset Forfeiture in North Dakota" and "Improving Fiscal Transparency in North Dakota."

PCPE collaborated with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University to write a comprehensive report titled "Prairie Prosperity: A Guide for the State of North Dakota," which included sections on the state's boom-and-bust history; economic freedom; entrepreneurship; revenue and expenditures; income and property tax policy; budget stabilization and legacy funds; transportation; and the state pension system. This report is forthcoming.



## Data Collection

Data collection is an important component of the PCPE research mission. The PCPE research specialist and graduate research fellows compile data and produce reports to help business owners, lawmakers and other stakeholders remain up-to-date on the latest data at the state and local levels.

### Labor Report

The quarterly labor report provides insight into trends in non-farm employment in the Upper Great Plains. It includes state data for North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota and local data for the metro areas of Fargo, ND-MN; Bismarck, ND; Grand Forks, ND-MN; Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI; Duluth, MN-WI; Rochester, MN; St. Cloud, MN; Sioux Falls, SD; and Rapid City, SD. In addition to reporting employment and wage statistics, this report conducts regional comparisons and offers meaningful analysis.

The labor report is distributed to more than 200 people through the PCPE email list and other networks.





# Publication

To accomplish its mission, PCPE is committed to open dialogue with the public. Faculty and staff write about economic principles, policy debates and current events on the PCPE Blog. We also use op-eds and media appearances to promote our research, increase public understanding of economic principles and free markets and share our expertise on current events and policy proposals.

During the last year, our outputs included:

- 37 PCPE Blog posts
- 6 op-eds
- 6 print news mentions
- 12 NDSU/Spectrum mentions
- 4 radio appearances
- 1 press conference
- 3 articles for Intellectual Takeout
- 14 articles for the Sound Money Project by the American Institute for Economic Research

\*All of our publications are available on our website.

# MEASURING IMPACT

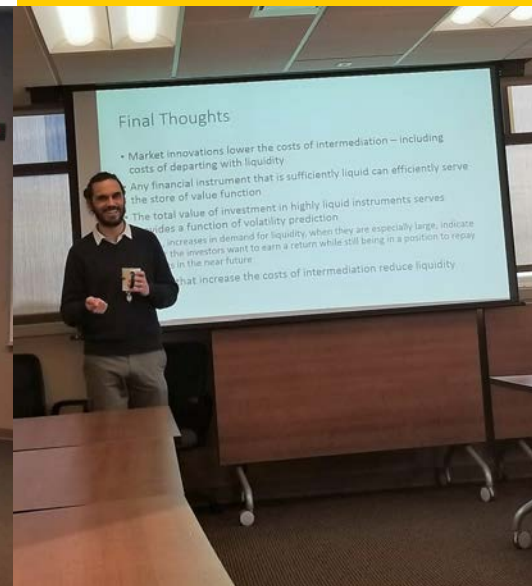
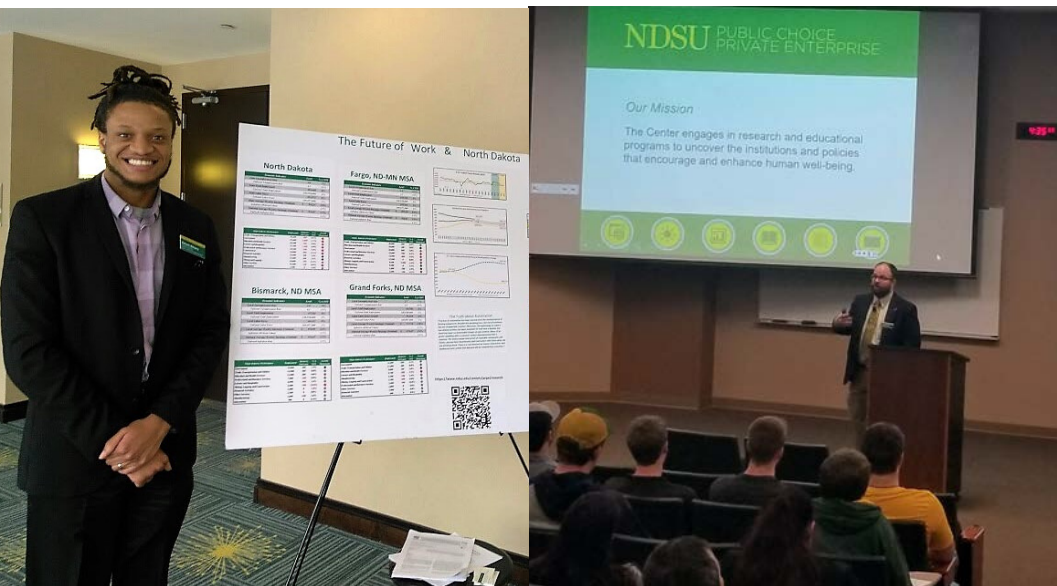
## TOP BLOGS

The purpose of the PCPE Blog is to encourage readers to think critically about ideas related to economic principles, public policy and current events. The blog is hosted on the PCPE website and shared on social media platforms.

- **Fundamentals of Public Choice**
- **Do You Pay Corporate Taxes? Probably.**
- **School Choice and Racism: A Myth Devoid of Context**
- **Is Economic Freedom the Secret to Happiness?**
- **The North Dakota Blues (Laws)**
- **New Study Damages the Case for Raising the Minimum Wage**
- **Minimum Wages Lead to Minimum Freedom**

## OP-EDS

- **Remove the chains on higher education**  
The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (print); Forum newspapers - ND (online)
- **North Dakota ranks 2nd in state fiscal health, but for how long?**  
The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (print); Forum newspapers - ND (online)
- **North Dakota's occupational licensing needs improvement**  
The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (print); Forum newspapers - ND (online)
- **There is plenty of work available for North Dakotans and immigrants**  
The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (print); Forum newspapers - ND (online)
- **Federal trucking regulation bad for North Dakota**  
Williston Herald (print); Farm and Ranch Guide (print)
- **On the minimum wage**  
The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (print); Forum newspapers - ND (online)



# Presentations

In order to share their findings with the academic and business communities, PCPE faculty and staff present their research at a variety of conferences and events.

Dr. Jackson presented his research to students and faculty throughout the country, including at Creighton University and Wake Forest.

Dr. Jackson and Dr. Caton also presented their research to academic audiences at NDSU and national conferences.

Dr. Caton and Raheem Williams spoke at the Outlook Conference for Ag Lenders in Minot, Bismarck, Grand Forks and Fargo. In addition, they presented their research on the state labor market and automation at the North Dakota Demographics Conference in Fargo.

In the future, PCPE faculty and staff plan to continue presenting to academic and businesses audiences, as well as making themselves available to provide expert testimony to lawmakers and other community groups.



# In the Classroom

PCPE remains actively engaged in the NDSU community by teaching classes within the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

Being in the classroom provides faculty with an opportunity to share research and educational programs with NDSU students.

## 2017-2018 Teaching Commitments

- **Dr. Jeremy Jackson**

Principles of Microeconomics	100
Intermediate Microeconomics	60
Game Theory and Strategy	25

- **Dr. James Caton**

Principles of Macroeconomics	345
Intermediate Macroeconomics	60

- **Raheem Williams**

Principles of Microeconomics	150
------------------------------	-----

**Total** **740**

\*Based on enrollment estimates.



# Mancur Olson Scholars Reading Group

The Mancur Olson Scholars reading group, named after North Dakota native and NDSU alumnus Mancur Olson, is a semester-long interdisciplinary learning and scholarship opportunity for undergraduate students.

Students meet under the guidance of a faculty member to study texts and discuss topics related to a central theme. Reading groups encourage students to explore new ideas, voice their opinions and develop scholarly skills. Upon completion of the program, each student receives a \$500 scholarship from PCPE.

To encourage diversity of thought and experience, the reading group is open to students of all majors and minors. Students are selected through a competitive application process.

## Fall 2017 - Entrepreneurship and Social Orders

8 Mancur Olson Scholars

## Spring 2018 - The Failure of Foreign Aid

9 Mancur Olson Scholars

# MEASURING IMPACT

PCPE utilizes a variety of tools to measure the impact of reading groups, such as analyzing the quality and quantity of applications, observations by the reading group leader and feedback from students through taped interviews (at the midterm) and anonymous surveys (at the conclusion).

**recommend  
to others**

**100%**  
scholars say  
"yes"

**speaker  
engagement**

**100%**  
scholars say  
excellent/good

**overall  
experience**

**92%**  
scholars say  
excellent/good

\*Based on anonymous survey responses for fall 2017 and spring 2018 groups.  
Note: Not all scholars submitted a response.

"It interested me to talk to [other] students... especially in today's political world; no one really wants to actually have a discussion, so I was interested in being able to have that discussion." – Gwen Scheresky, agricultural economics (Max, ND)

"This has been really fun for me to explore my thoughts on subjects that I maybe haven't had a whole lot of time to think about before." – Michael Straus, engineering (West Fargo, ND)

"What I really like about this reading group is that it forces me to share my opinion... It's really student-focused [and] a great opportunity to just actually discuss [current issues]." - Jasmin Kaempfer, marketing (Germany)

"It's a good opportunity for students to push themselves out of their comfort zone and just learn something new and do something different!" – John Horton, management information systems (Minneapolis, MN)



## Capitalism and Society Lecture Series

PCPE invites dynamic speakers from across the nation to participate in its Capitalism and Society lecture series. Each lecture contains a 30-40 minute presentation, followed by a brief session for Q&A and pizza and refreshments provided by PCPE. Students, faculty and community members are all encouraged to attend these free events.

This year, our speakers included:

- **Art Carden**, Ph.D., Samford University  
Waltonomics: Walmart and Society
- **Peter Klein**, Ph.D., Baylor University  
How Entrepreneurship Fosters Economic Growth
- **Steve Moore**, Heritage Foundation  
How Free Enterprise Can Restore U.S. Prosperity
- **Michael Matheson Miller**, Acton Institute  
Inclusion for the Poor: Poverty, Charity and Justice

\*All Capitalism and Society lectures are recorded and available on our website and social media platforms.

# MEASURING IMPACT

## EVENT REACH

Lecture	Attendees	"The speaker was engaging."	"The arguments were persuasive."
Waltonomics: Walmart and Society	77	89%	89%
How Entrepreneurship Fosters Economic Growth	170	88%	83%
How Free Enterprise Can Restore American Prosperity	125	94%	84%
Inclusion for the Poor: Poverty, Charity and Justice	120	87%	89%

\*Based on post-event questionnaire responses.  
Note: Not all attendees submitted a response.

## FEEDBACK

**"Great presentation!"** "It was very informative." "Interesting..."

"Stephen was very invigorating and well-spoken. He gives great information."

**"Good job!"** "I learned a lot about econ from a different perspective."

"Klein excites students to be interested in entrepreneurship."

"[It was] bold [for the] presenter to accept outside questions." **"Eye-opening!"**

**"Very convincing!"** "Capitalism is awesome." "Thought-provoking."

"Great use of real world and ND examples." "Well put together. I would come back."

"The speech pertains to everyone." **"Fantastic speaker. Loved it!"**

"Opened some new ideas on poverty that I hadn't thought of."

"I would strongly recommend this lecture to anyone!" **"Engaging!"**

**"Terrific speaker, good insight..."** "Thank you. I learned a lot."

"What the speaker talked about was good for me to understand as a U.S. citizen."





POVERTY, INC.  
HOSTED BY NDSU PCPE

## Poverty, Inc.

PCPE hosted a free screening of the award-winning documentary "Poverty, Inc." at the Fargo Theatre. After the showing, the film's director and producer, Michael Matheson Miller, participated in an audience discussion. This was our most highly attended event with 217 audience members, including more than 100 community members.

Drawing from over 200 interviews filmed in 20 countries, "Poverty, Inc." investigates the complex global industry of foreign aid. The film addresses issues related to entrepreneurship, disaster relief, subsidies, the rule of law, charity, humanitarianism and more.

Some feedback from the audience included comments that the film was "very informative and eye opening" and "better than I anticipated"; and that the film "changed the way I think about things" and "showed a different way of looking at poverty".

\*Video of Michael Matheson Miller's audience discussion is available on our website.



## Collaboration

PCPE seeks to form partnerships with other individuals and organizations within the academic, business and research communities. Our recent collaborations include co-publishing a report on the fiscal health of North Dakota with the Mercatus Center; working with Gov. Burgum and the Workforce Development Council to create and analyze the North Dakota Workforce 2018 Survey; and attending policy briefings, networking events and informational meetings hosted by the legislature and local business organizations.

Looking ahead, we are planning our first conference - RAP (Research and Practice) on Blockchain - for Oct. 27, 2018. This conference will be a source of collaboration for both financing and promoting events. We have already secured partnerships with Emerging Prairie, Turbadium and the NDSU Center for Enterprise Business Analytics. The goal of this conference is to provide a forum for researchers and academics to interact with practitioners, policymakers and entrepreneurs as we discuss the applications and impact of blockchain technology across industries.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SEPT

17

## **Capitalism and Society lecture ft. Robert Lawson**

AgCountry Auditorium, Barry Hall

Topic: economic freedom

OCT

26

## **Capitalism and Society lecture ft. Edward Stringham**

AgCountry Auditorium, Barry Hall

Topic: blockchain technology

OCT

27

## **RAP on Blockchain conference ft. keynote Jason Potts**

Upper Level, Memorial Union, NDSU

Topic: research and industry applications of blockchain

APR

15

## **Capitalism and Society lecture ft. Jayson Lusk**

AgCountry Auditorium, Barry Hall

Topic: GMOs

APR

23

## **Capitalism and Society lecture ft. Carol Graham**

AgCountry Auditorium, Barry Hall

Topic: happiness