

BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

COMPLEX ANALYSES OF **LARGE-SCALE DATA SETS** INFORM AND TRANSFORM EDUCATION POLICY

An increasing number of national data sets are useful for research that impacts policy—if you know how to make sense of them. A postdoctoral training program in the College of Education prepares mathematics education researchers to do so.



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THE JOINING OF HIGH-QUALITY QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Professor Sarah Lubienski and her partner, Professor Chris Lubienski, analyze big data sets to interrogate educational issues of national import. For example, in a recent study they debunked the myth that students at private schools learn more mathematics than their counterparts at public schools. In conducting that research, Sarah Lubienski, a professor in Curriculum & Instruction in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, realized that many math educators lack the statistical tools necessary for analyzing big data sets—an increasingly important skill for educational research.

So Lubienski put together a postdoctoral research training program in mathematics education, along with colleagues Arthur Baroody and Joseph Robinson-

Cimpian. Through this program, funded by a \$655,000 grant from the Institute of Education Sciences, postdoctoral fellows come from around the country to spend one to three years at the College of Education, working alongside Lubienski and her colleagues.

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— Sarah Lubienski

BETTER GROUNDING IN METHODS

The postdoctoral fellows study a variety of topics in math education, running the gamut from pre-K to higher education. The program is built to help them gain strengths in both math education and research methods. Most of the fellows are strong in one of those areas, Lubienski says, but need more training in the other.

The fellows are gaining that expertise and launching their careers with publications, grants, and conference presentations. They are building up their research skills while working alongside Illinois faculty on cutting-edge studies of mathematics instruction and student outcomes.

TRAINING SCHOLARS TO EXCEL IN MATH EDUCATION

“We are training the next generation of scholars,” Lubienski says. “They will impact the students they teach. We are in the process of creating new generations that will be stronger in methods and stronger in math education.”

LEARN MORE

Contact Lubienski at stl@illinois.edu to learn more.



EDUCATION AT ILLINOIS

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Funded by a **\$655,000 grant** from the **Institute of Education Sciences**, Professor Sarah Lubienski put together a postdoctoral research training program in mathematics education for postdoctoral fellows from around country.

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

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