



# Spring 2023 Seminar Series on College-Workforce Research

## The growing importance of social skills in the labor market: Implications for higher education

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, AT 10:00-11:00 AM CST (In-person)

**School of Education, Room 159 (Wisconsin Idea Room)**

What does current research on skills demands in the labor market tell us about the value of social skills? While interest in “21st century” or “soft” skills is widespread in discussions about college students’ career readiness, relatively little empirical work has explored the precise level of demand in the workplace for specific skills.

In this talk, Dr. David Deming (Harvard University, Graduate School of Education) will discuss his recent work in this area, with a focus on studies about decision-making, social skills, and measurement issues related to the empirical study of “soft skills.”

**Dr. David Deming** (Harvard University, Graduate School of Education) is an economist who studies education, skill development, and economic inequality. He is the faculty director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is currently serving as a co-editor at the AEJ: Applied and is a principal investigator (along with Raj Chetty and John Friedman) at the CLIMB Initiative, an organization that seeks to study and improve the role of higher education in social mobility. His research focuses broadly on the economics of skill development, education and labor markets.



**Dr. David Deming**  
Harvard University  
Graduate School of Education

Co-hosted by:



**Department of Economics**

**The Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions (CCWT):** Our mission is to develop research tools, evidence, and educational programs that promote the career development and wellness of students as they seek post-graduate success. In this work, CCWT seeks to amplify the voices and interests of students of all ages, especially those historically marginalized in higher education, with the ultimate aim of facilitating institutional and societal change.



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