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## Andrews Joins Texas Schools Project Research Team

**Richardson, TX (Aug. 31, 2009)** – Rodney Andrews, a Harvard University Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar, recently joined Texas Schools Project as a Senior Researcher. In addition, he has also joined the UT Dallas School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences faculty as an assistant professor of economics.

Andrews' areas of expertise include economics of education, labor economics, public finance, and applied microeconometrics. While he has investigated a range of topics including health policy, his recent research, "The Effects of the Kalamazoo Promise on College Choice" and "Estimating the Responsiveness of College Applications to the Likelihood of Acceptance and Financial Assistance: Evidence from Texas," focuses on the college application process and how it is impacted by financial assistance.

"The Effects of the Kalamazoo Promise on College Choice" is a study examining the effectiveness of a unique scholarship program – The Kalamazoo Promise – in influencing college choice. The Kalamazoo Promise offers to pay both the tuition and mandatory fees of graduates of Kalamazoo public high schools at any public college or university located in Michigan. In this study, Andrews' work adds to the general knowledge of how prospective college students respond to price subsidies and provides more specific knowledge about the effects of The Kalamazoo Promise on college access.

In "Estimating the Responsiveness of College Applications to the Likelihood of Acceptance and Financial Assistance: Evidence from Texas" Andrews looks at the affect of targeted recruitment and financial aid programs implemented at selective Texas universities. These programs were implemented after the *Hopwood v. Texas* decision ended Affirmative Action in Texas and The Top Ten Percent Rule, a law intended to reverse the decline in minority enrollment at Texas' elite institutions, was signed into law. The programs seek to encourage minority enrollment, especially from low-income students attending high schools under-represented at the selective universities. His results show that a combination of factors, such as outreach, mentoring and financial aid, can attract qualified students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

As part of his decision to move to Texas, Andrews cited the state's ability to put longitudinal data in the hands of researchers who have the necessary skill sets to answer important education questions. "Texas, Florida and North Carolina are leading the way when it comes to providing longitudinal data to education researchers. This is critical if we are to inform policy makers and influence constructive change."

Andrews' primary responsibility at Texas Schools Project is to conduct research relevant to Texas education. "Texas is a leading indicator of what will happen across the country," Andrews commented. "Issues that the rest of the U.S. are just confronting are issues that Texas has been tackling for more than a decade." Through this research, he will focus on the effectiveness of various educational initiatives and interventions.

Andrews commented, "To avail all Texas students with a quality education, it's important that we maximize the effectiveness of our resources. This has been the mission of Texas Schools Project for over a decade. I look forward to continuing to move this ball forward."

Andrews earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan.

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