

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
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NAME: **Nastos, Charles**

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: **Research Associate I**

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA	M.A.	08/2019	Experimental Psychology
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA	B.A.	12/2016	Psychology
Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke, VA	A.S.	05/2012	Social Sciences

A. Personal Statement

I am currently a Research Associate I at the Center for Research in Educational Policy at the University of Memphis. Although I am new to the center this year, I have been able to collaborate on multiple projects with my colleagues in the field of educational policy. My primary focus, the Literacy Landscape Project, has required me to conduct school site visits for every school in the Memphis/Shelby County Schools system, where I have been able to study the impact that literacy resource availability has on student achievement. I am also involved in working with the NSF Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA) as a consultant, where I assist in distributing surveys, analyzing data, and writing reports to inform their programmatic decision-making. In addition to these projects, I have assisted my colleagues in data management for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) evaluation.

I look forward to working on new and exciting research projects that can provide an evidence-based approach to influencing education. I enjoy showing people I work with in the “real world” how thoughtful, strategic, robust scientific methods can produce information to make informed, lasting decisions.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments and Honors**Professional Appointments**

2021 – Present: Research Associate I, Center for Research in Educational Policy, University of Memphis

Awards and Honors

Cum Laude – Masters in Psychological Sciences

Outstanding Teaching Award – James Madison University Graduate School

First Place Graduate Research Award – Virginia Association of Psychological Sciences (2019)

First Place Research Award – James Madison University Research Symposium (2019)

C. Contributions to Science

1. Performed the school site visits, focus group interviews, data management, data analysis, and report writing for the Literacy Landscape Project, funded by Memphis, Tennessee's Shelby County School (SCS) District. I also served as the point person for all client communication. The program was also supported by a non-profit organization, the Urban Child Institute (UCI), which is dedicated to promoting the education, health, and wellbeing of youth in Memphis. The project's goal was to ascertain what literacy resources schools are currently using (be they district provided or teacher found) and examining if a difference in academic achievement occurred based on that information. Furthermore, the project involved conducting interviews with SCS Literacy Laureates; a single Literacy Laureate is employed in every school in the district as a human literacy resource for their school and colleagues.
2. Assisted in data cleaning and coding of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grant evaluations for the state of Virginia. Data was provided by grant funded after-school programs who work with students to provide enrichment and educational support through community partnerships. The data-driven findings from this evaluation provides grant funders the information needed to distribute resources to at-risk youth who need it the most.
3. In addition to my other projects, I have served as a third-party consultant for the NSF Engineering Research Visioning Alliance's (ERVA) visioning event initiative. ERVA has begun hosting collaborative events where leading engineers in the field, coming from both academia and industry, are able to meet and find equitable, innovative approaches to solving realistic problems, such as climate change or leveraging biology to power engineering. I utilized assessment software to collect survey data from event attendees, clean and analyze said data, and participate in the writing of research briefs for ERVA board use.