

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
School of Education

Susan M. Dynarski, associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and associate professor of education, with tenure, School of Education, is recommended for promotion to professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and professor of education, with tenure, School of Education [also associate professor of economics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1999 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
M.P.P. 1995 John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
A.B. 1987 Harvard University, Social Studies

Professional Record:

2008 – present Associate Professor (with tenure), Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy,
Associate Professor (with tenure), School of Education, Associate Professor (without
tenure), Department of Economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts,
University of Michigan
2009 – present Research Associate in Aging, Children, Education & Public Economics,
National Bureau of Economic Research
2010 – present Research Fellow, Iza Institute for the Study of Labor
2010 – present Research Fellow, CESifo Institute for Economic Research
2005 – 2008 Associate Professor of Public Policy (without tenure), Harvard University
2007 Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
2005 – 2006 Visiting Fellow, Princeton University
1999 – 2004 Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Dynarski teaches courses in program evaluation and causal inference. She also teaches advanced research methods, involving experimental and quasi-experimental research designs. She teaches students to interpret and apply such designs in evaluating educational programs. Her teaching assessments have been quite strong. Students praise her knowledge and intelligence, as well as her clarity with both ideas and student expectations. She is also known as quite challenging. Professor Dynarski is an above average classroom teacher, but she stands out as a mentor to doctoral students. In the last three years, she has had ten doctoral students in the School of Education, the Ford School and the Economics Department. She is currently co-authoring papers with three of these students, supervising seven students as GSRA's, and is committee chair for four students.

Research: Professor Dynarski's scholarship is certainly over the bar—in terms of both quantity and quality—for promotion to professor. Since coming to Michigan, she has published five papers in peer-reviewed research journals, with two more in the “revise and resubmit” category. The journals include the most highly rated in her field. She has also published two book chapters. While much of her work is co-authored, it is evident that her contributions are consistently substantial, and we see this as a testament to her inter-disciplinarity and collegiality. Her recent work is among her strongest and her trajectory is strong. Professor Dynarski has done extensive work on the effects of student aid—and the process through which it is allocated—on college attendance and completion, and her widely cited paper is

viewed as a classic in the field, often used in graduate courses. She is one of relatively few researchers to examine the question of cost sensitivity at the K-12 level. In conjunction with colleagues at Harvard and MIT, Professor Dynarski conducted a comprehensive study of charter schools in Massachusetts, resulting in several important publications. Professor Dynarski, along with U-M's Brian Jacob and researchers at Michigan State University, recently won a \$6 million IES grant to study the effects on course-taking, student achievement, high school graduation rates, and postsecondary decisions, of the new Michigan Merit Curriculum and Michigan Promise Scholarship.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Atila Abdulkadiroglu, Joshua Angrist, Susan Dynarski, Thomas Kane and Parag Pathak, "Accountability and Flexibility in Public Schools: Evidence from Boston's Charters and Pilots," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126:2, pp. 649-748, 2011.

Susan Dynarski and Martha Bailey, "Inequality in Postsecondary Attainment," in Whither Opportunity: Rising Inequality, Schools, and Children's Life Chances, Greg Duncan and Richard Murnane, eds., pp. 117-132. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2011.

Susan Dynarski, Caroline Hoxby, Tom Loveless, Marck Schneider, Grover Whitehurst and John Witte, Charter Schools: A Report on Rethinking the Federal Role in Education, Brookings Institution, 2011.

Joshua Angrist, Susan Dynarski, Thomas Kane, Parag Pathak and Chris Walters, "Inputs and Impacts in Charter Schools: KIPP Lynn," *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 100:2, pp. 239-43, 2010.

David Deming and Susan Dynarski, "Into College, Out of Poverty? Policies to Increase the Postsecondary Attainment of the Poor," in Targeting Investments in Children: Fighting Poverty When Resources are Limited, Phil Levine and David Zimmerman, eds., pp. 283-302, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.

David Deming and Susan Dynarski, "The Lengthening of Childhood," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 22:3, pp. 71-92, 2008.

Policy Engagement: Professor Dynarski continues to be extremely engaged with state and national policy. In 2009, she participated in a National Academy of Sciences panel on federal proposals to simplify financial aid. She worked closely with staff in the Federal OMB and IRS, along with various Congressional committees, to craft the draft aid-simplification language. State policymakers used the results from her study of charter schools in Massachusetts in determining whether to raise the caps on new charter schools and she briefed officials at the U.S. Department of Education on this research. Along with Brian Jacob, she has worked closely with officials from the Michigan Department of Education and the Center for Performance Information in Michigan to develop a statewide student longitudinal data system. Her work creatively and convincingly brings rigorous study design to the evaluation of important education policies. Not only is it very well regarded in academic circles, but also it has had a major impact in multiple policy arenas.

Service: Professor Dynarski has been a "good citizen" in both of her official units (especially for her contributions at the Ford School). Indeed she has served on the Executive Committees of both units, despite having spent just four years at the university. At the university level, she serves on the Provost's Achievement Gap Task Force (2008-present). She also serves as a grant reviewer for the National Poverty Center at the Ford School of Public Policy. In the profession, she is on the Board of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, and of MDRC. She is an editor of the *Journal of Labor Economics*, and of *Education Finance and Policy*. She has just been elected to the Policy Council of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM). She is also an ad hoc reviewer for several journals and funding agencies.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "...I can say without hesitation that Dr. Dynarski is one of two of the strongest candidates I have ever reviewed...let me simply say that Susan is one of a tiny handful of people...who are steadily advancing our knowledge of the impacts of federal and state student aid on college enrollment and retention. I would rank her in the top tier of people engaged in such work."

Reviewer B: "Professor Dynarski is one of the leading empirical applied microeconomists of her generation, and one of the strongest education economists to be minted in the last twenty years... Were we to have an open full professor position at [my university] she would be at the top of my 'target list.'"

Reviewer C: "Overall, I think that she is a very strong person who is currently doing some of the best work anywhere on higher education and is beginning to be known in the K-12 area."

Reviewer D: "Susan has rapidly emerged over the last decade or so as a true research leader and the 'go to' person for policy advice related to student financial aid programs in higher education."

Reviewer E: "She combines a clear interest and understanding of policy with strong empirical skills and an open mind to the results. She is able to bring to light policy issues that have been neglected by academics and place them in a framework that helps to illuminate policy decisions."

Reviewer F: "...I want to point out evidence of Susan's skills as a mentor. I know the work of two of her doctoral students at [my university]...Both have thrived under Susan's mentorship and are now doing excellent research. Both attribute their success in large part to the quality of Susan's guidance during their doctoral program."

Reviewer G: "...Sue remains one of the leading scholars in the U.S. on financial aid and her work continues to have much of an impact on financial aid policy...She is one of the top researchers focusing on the economics of education and continues to produce interesting, solid, and insightful research that is policy relevant."

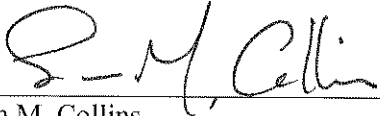
Reviewer H: "She has worked on the most important topics within the economics of education and social scientists and policy makers correctly place a great deal of confidence in her work... She has the unwavering confidence of the economics profession and many other education researchers and policy makers."

Reviewer I: "Professor Dynarski has clearly made substantial impacts in the field through her research on federal and state financial aid...I have found her work to be notable because she is able to effectively communicate with a wide range of academics, including economists, education scholars, and policymakers."

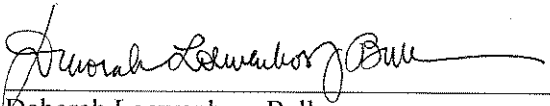
Reviewer J: "Not only is Sue's research record excellent, but she is a national leader in education policy discussions... What this evidentiary record does not reveal is the full extent to which Sue is a powerful and clear voice at both public and closed-door meetings with policy and foundation leaders."

Summary of Recommendation: Susan Dynarski is an applied micro economist who works on education and education policy. Her research is original, careful and impactful—in academic circles as well as the policy community. She grapples with important topics (such as increasing access to higher education) that have resulted in highly cited publications, growing success in fund-raising and considerable attention

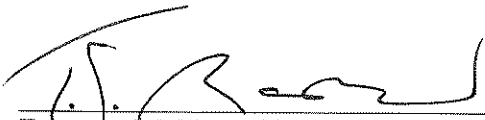
among policy makers and in the media. She is a successful and demanding teacher and a mentor who cares deeply about her students. A good citizen and excellent colleague, she is increasingly assuming national service roles in her discipline. Her joint appointment helps to expand and deepen interactions between our units, which is highly beneficial for furthering the mission of both schools and the university. It is with great pleasure that we recommend Susan M. Dynarski for promotion to professor of public Policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and professor of education, with tenure, School of Education.



Susan M. Collins
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy



Deborah Loewenberg Ball
William H. Payne Collegiate Professor of Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, and Dean
School of Education



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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