

WILLIAM L. HOLAHAN

Brief Bio Spring 2018

Dr. Holahan, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, earned his B.S. in Physics from Notre Dame and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Brown. He was on the faculty of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for forty years, nine and one-half as its chair. UWM is recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a top tier, i.e., “Research One,” university.

Professor Holahan taught *Principles of Economics* to over forty thousand students in a 500 seat lecture hall, and in online video lectures. In addition, he conducted writing-intensive and math-intensive courses for economics and business students, and taught in the University’s Honors College, Global Studies Program, and the Executive MBA Program for the College of Business. His achievements in the classroom have been recognized in two university-wide awards for teaching excellence and another two from the UWM Lubar School of Business for his teaching in the school’s MBA program in Beijing. In addition, the UWM Foundation established *The Holahan Prize*, an award in his honor given annually for teaching excellence in the UWM Economics Department.

Professor Holahan’s research interests are in applied microeconomics and public policy. He has written on a wide range of topics, including but not limited to Social Security, spatial pricing, location theory, urban sprawl, negative income tax, environmental taxes, freeway congestion, water pricing, and baseball labor contracts. His research papers have appeared in numerous journals, including the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Economic Theory*, the *International Economic Review*, the *Southern Economic Journal*, and *The Journal of Regional Science*.

His research on the teaching of economics has been recognized nationally as among the top thirty in “Ranking Economics Journals, Economics Departments, and Economists Using Teaching-Focused Research Productivity,” Lo, et al, *Southern Economics Journal* 2008, 74(3). This branch of his research includes papers on the tragedy of the commons, the economics of crime, free-market fundamentalism, sports stadiums, energy, teacher shortages, and urban sprawl. This work appears in such diverse journals as the *Journal of Economic Education*, *Journal of Private Enterprise*, *International Review of Economics Education*, and *The Social Studies*. Other teaching activity includes twenty years as Associate Director of the Center on Economic Education, as well as co-author of textbooks on intermediate economics and managerial economics. He brings policy economics to the public through television and radio commentary, invited speeches, and over one hundred guest editorials in major newspapers, most notably the *New York Times*, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and the *Tampa Bay Times*. His consultancies have included economic advice for politicians as well as litigation support for major law firms and the Federal Trade Commission.

His leadership at the university included service on the University Committee (Faculty Senate Executive Committee), Chair of the UW System search for UWM Chancellor, and on the planning and founding executive committees of the new School of Freshwater Sciences. He established the Economics Department Alumni Association, the Alumni-Student Mentoring Program, and the Niho Faculty Development Endowment Fund.

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