SPRING 2026 CALENDAR OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS FACULTY RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

DESCRIPTIONS
Date: February 12, 2026: 12:30 – 1:30 PM. **Authors:** Macki Sissoko, Ph.D., Norfolk State University Chinedu Okala, M.F.A, Norfolk State University John Kamiru, Ph.D., Norfolk State University **Topic**: Assessing the Potential Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Academic Programs at Four-Year Institutions of Higher Education: Productivity, Post-Graduate Employment, and Enrollment. **Abstract**: Their paper provides an overview of the historical development of artificial intelligence technologies in the United States leading to generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). They analyzed the "Creative Destruction" characteristics of GenAI and its comprehensive and transformative impact on education, labor productivity and employment. Although there is no historical data on AI readily available, time series data as well as studies on past innovative automated technologies provide strong evidence that, while creating many jobs (both existing and new types), GenAI will also cause the decline and eventual obsolescence of many skills based on repetitive processes. Such changes will have major implications in the enrollment demand for education at four-year institutions of higher education, which may lead to significant changes in universities' academic programs.
Date: February 19, 2026: 12:30 – 1:30 PM. **Authors:** Dorothy Jones, Ph.D., Norfolk State University Lee Grandison, Ed.D., Norfolk State University **Topic:** From Platform to Pedagogy: Leveraging Blackboard features to Improve Student Engagement **Abstract:** Business schools accredited by AACSB are increasingly expected to demonstrate effective teaching, intentional use of instructional technologies, and evidence of continuous improvement in student engagement and learning outcomes. While learning management systems (LMS) are widely adopted across business programs, faculty often receive limited guidance on how to move beyond basic course administration toward pedagogically intentional use of LMS engagement tools that support accreditation-relevant outcomes. This interactive workshop focuses on translating LMS functionality into evidence-based instructional practice within business education. Using Blackboard as the instructional context, participants will explore how specific LMS features can be aligned with behavioral, cognitive, and affective dimensions of student engagement while supporting AACSB expectations related to teaching effectiveness, assurance of learning, and continuous improvement. Emphasis is placed on the principle that technology does not replace students' intrinsic motivation, professional responsibility, or active involvement;

rather, LMS tools serve as instructional supports whose impact depends on intentional pedagogical design.
Participants will examine practical strategies for leveraging Blackboard tools to foster interaction, timely feedback, learner self-regulation, and data-informed instructional decision-making in business courses. The workshop guides faculty in aligning LMS engagement practices with course learning objectives and program-level outcomes, avoiding reliance on technology as a proxy for engagement. Attendees will leave with actionable examples, alignment frameworks, and documentation strategies that can be used to enhance student engagement while generating meaningful evidence for AACSB continuous improvement and accreditation reporting.
Learning Outcomes: Participants will (1) align Blackboard tools with engagement outcomes, (2) design pedagogy-driven LMS activities, and (3) document engagement evidence for AACSB review.

Date: March 19, 2026: 12:30 – 1:30 PM.

Author: Bebonchu Atems, Ph.D., Norfolk State University

Topic: The "Time-Release" Effects of Public Education Spending on Income Inequality"

Abstract: This paper investigates the effects of public education spending on income inequality in the United States. We develop an overlapping generations model in which government investment in education gradually reduces inequality by raising human capital in a delayed, "time-release" fashion as successive cohorts progress through school and enter the labor force. To test this mechanism empirically, we estimate a panel structural vector autoregression using U.S. state-level data for the period 1963-2022. The results reveal that innovations to education spending have minimal short-run impacts but produce sizable, long-run declines in inequality. Specifically, a 1% public education spending shock lowers the Gini coefficient by roughly 0.08 points after ten years and reduces the top 10% income share by about 0.06 points after thirteen years. These theoretical and empirical findings highlight education's central role in fostering long-term equality and underscore the importance of sustained public investment in education.

Date: April 9, 2026: 12:30 – 1:30 PM.

Authors: Nihal Colakoglu, Ph.D., Norfolk State University
Lisa T. Hall-Whaley, M.B.A., Norfolk State University
Josephine Stanley-Brown, M.S., Norfolk State University
Veselina Vracheva, Ph.D., Norfolk State University

Topic: The History of Black Businesses on Church Street: The Golden Age and Beyond.

Abstract: The present research will explore the history of black businesses on Church Street in Norfolk, Virginia starting in the early 1900s. It will focus on the social, political, and economic forces that have shaped the economic activity in the region. The research will use institutional theory as a theoretical framework.

Date: April 16, 2026: 12:30 – 1:30 PM.
Authors: Ahn Ngo, Ph.D., Norfolk State University
Hong Duong, Ph.D., Old Dominion University
Topic: Political Risk Disclosure in Earnings Calls and SEO Pricing

Abstract: We examine whether firm-level political risk, as revealed through managers' earnings conference call conversations with financial analysts, is priced in seasoned equity offerings (SEOs). We find that firms with higher political risk experience significantly greater SEO underpricing, suggesting that issuers, guided by underwriters during the pricing process, discount offering prices to compensate investors for firm-specific political uncertainty revealed in these conversations. We further show that this relation is shaped by managerial ability. Underwriters appear to recognize managerial ability as a credibility signal and therefore require smaller discounts for firms led by more capable managers, even when political risk is prominently discussed. Overall, our findings indicate that political risk communicated in earnings calls is an economically meaningful component of equity issuance costs and contributes to the cross-sectional variation in SEO pricing.

Date: April 30, 2026: 12:30 – 1:30 PM
Authors: Anh Ngo, Ph.D., Norfolk State University
Elexia Robinson, Student, Norfolk State University
Topic: Incentive Design and Financial Reporting Credibility: CEO Compensation and Earnings Quality

Abstract: This paper examines the relationship between CEO compensation structures and earnings quality, employing a novel EQ Score as a proxy for investor perceptions of financial reporting credibility. Our empirical analysis demonstrates that compensation design significantly influences financial reporting outcomes. Specifically, pay sensitivity to stock performance (Delta) is positively associated with earnings quality, whereas sensitivity to stock price volatility (Vega) exhibits a negative association. These findings suggest that heightened exposure to volatility-based incentives increases the likelihood of earnings management, thereby reducing the credibility of reported earnings.

Date: May 7, 2026: 12:30 – 1:30 PM.

Authors: Jim Chen, Ph.D., Norfolk State University
V. Reddy Dondeti, Ph.D., Norfolk State University
Carl McGowan, Ph.D., Norfolk State University

Topic: "The Proliferation of Chinese AI Surveillance Systems"

Abstract: Governments worldwide, including over half of liberal democracies, are increasingly adopting AI surveillance, most commonly through smart city platforms. While framed as tools for urban management, Chinese smart city systems function primarily as surveillance infrastructures. They can be used to consolidate executive power, undermine political competition, and erode civil liberties. The diffusion of Chinese AI surveillance has expanded rapidly, from 47 countries in 2019 to 88 by 2025. Using binary logistic regression, this study finds that repression, support for BRI, and military expenditure are the principal determinants of adoption, highlighting the need for coordinated international responses and rights-respecting digital governance.