



QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Dr. Clarkwest possesses a unique combination of expertise in research design, workforce systems analysis, and strategic dissemination. With over 20 years of experience across contract research, academia, government, and philanthropy, he has led multi-method evaluations that translate complex data into actionable insights for diverse stakeholders. His work has supported strategic planning to improve employment outcomes, strengthen workforce ecosystems, and address systemic barriers to economic mobility. At a national level, Dr. Clarkwest has directed studies for the U.S. Department of Labor, HHS, NASWA, and multiple state agencies, among other clients. Locally, in the Kansas City area, he directed the evaluation of a major workforce pilot (Skilled KC) for the Kauffman Foundation and he has helped the DeBruce Foundation develop workforce-related strategies. His work has required and demonstrated deep familiarity with public workforce programs, labor market dynamics, career advancement, and employer engagement strategies. His dissemination products are designed to support decision-making and policy development.

EDUCATION	RELEVANT SKILLS/EXPERTISE
PhD, Sociology and Social Policy; Harvard Univ.	• Workforce policy and labor markets • Experimental, quasiexperimental, and descriptive quantitative evaluation design and implementation
MPP, Education and Labor Policy; Harvard Kennedy School.	• Administrative, performance, and survey data • Developing strategic learning plans
BA, Economics; Brigham Young Univ.	• Engaging policy and practitioner audiences in understanding, using, and building evidence

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Abt Global (2017–Present). Rockville, MD

Principal Associate/Scientist (2020–Present)

Senior Associate/Scientist (2017–2020)

Senior Advisor / Project Quality Advisor, Long-Term Evaluation of the American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) and Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grants Follow-On, DOL (2024–present). Provide expert technical advice on developing plans for and carrying out analyses of long-term outcomes for participants in two large grant programs aimed to expand access to high-quality careers.

Project Director, Unemployment Insurance (UI) Research and Evaluation Portfolio Project, DOL (2024–present). Oversee development of a research agenda to support strategic planning for evidence building that identifies key learning needs to address challenges facing the UI program. Conduct and facilitate high quality research to fill those learnings needs.

Project Quality Advisor, Pathways to Work Clearinghouse, ACF (2024–present). Provide expert subject matter and technical guidance on technical and dissemination plans for an evidence clearinghouse of systematic reviews of research on employment strategies for workers with low incomes.

Principal Investigator, Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Long-Term Impact Study, DOL (2023–Present). Provide intellectual oversight and direction for an evaluation of the long-term impacts of four state REA programs. Key tasks include leading technical approaches unique to the long-term analyses including developing measures of employment and earnings

advancement and volatility, developing approaches to deal with missing data, as well as leading the interpretation and reporting of findings.

Principal Investigator, RESEA Evidence Building Portfolio Project, USDOL (2023–present).

Provide intellectual oversight and direction for a project that aims to build new evidence on effective approaches to support state and local decision-making regarding development employment strategies to serve the reemployment needs of Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants. Project elements include a study of to identify models best suited to selecting UI claimants most in need of the kinds of services that RESEA can offer, customized evaluation technical assistance (TA) to a set of state workforce agencies to help them identify learning priorities and lead high quality evaluations of approaches to providing more intensive and customized reemployment services, generalized evaluation TA to state agencies nationwide, a study of RESEA costs, and a study of UI administrative costs and ideas for improvement. Designing the concept for overseeing the launch of a multi-site random assignment study of RESEA program components.

Project Director, Clearinghouse for Labor Research and Evaluation: Advancement, Reviews, Innovations, and Syntheses of Evidence (CLEAR ARISE), USDOL (2021–present).

Lead a project conducting systematic reviews of labor research, refining methods to assess evidence quality, developing research syntheses, and communicating research findings to policy, practitioner, and research audiences.

Project Quality Advisor, State RESEA Evaluations, DC Department of Employment Services / Delaware Department of Labor / Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (2021–present). Provide expert technical advice on random assignment impact evaluations of RESEA programs in three states to understand and improve program effectiveness.

Project Quality Advisor, Sectoral Strategies and Employer Engagement Portfolio Project, DOL (2023–2025). Provide expert subject matter and technical guidance on a project involving implementation and impact of multiple grant-funded training programs that are using strategies to engage employers in fields including infrastructure and nursing, to help improve employment outcomes and job quality, particularly for workers who have historically not had access to higher quality jobs that provide opportunities for career advancement.

Technical Expert, What Works Clearinghouse Longitudinal Analyses Statistical, Technical, and Analysis Team (STAT) Working Group, U.S. Dept. of Education (2023–2025). Provide expert advice on standards to apply in assessing the credibility of causal findings from studies of educational interventions that use longitudinal designs.

Project Quality Advisor, Earnings Loss Estimates Study, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) (2021–2024). Provide expert advice on quantitative designs to estimate earnings loss associated with service-connected disabilities and on development of design documents and reports.

Project Director, Employment Processes as Barriers to Employment in the Lower-Wage Labor Market, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) (2021–2024). Led a study to identify promising strategies to combat barriers to employment and career advancement for workers of color in low-wage jobs that result from biased employment processes. The study reviewed research literature and engaged low-wage workers of color, organizations that advocate for low-wage workers, employers, workforce professionals and other individuals with insights into employment processes to better understand sources of racial bias in employment processes in low wage labor market and developed design options to study strategies to combat bias.

Project Director (2018-2022) and co-Principal Investigator (2023), RESEA Evidence Building and Implementation Study, USDOL (2018–2023). Directed all aspects of a project to provide strategic planning support for implementation of evidence requirements for the RESEA program, which aims to help UI claimants return to work more quickly. The project included a nationwide implementation study to better understand states' current programs (involving a survey and interviews of program administrators and staff), an assessment of the current evidence base, developing recommendations to build new evidence on program effectiveness, and providing grantee states with evaluation TA to help them lead high quality causal and descriptive evaluations of their own RESEA programs.

Project Director and Summative Evaluation Lead, Evaluation of the Skilled KC Initiative, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation (2019–2022). Directed all aspects of the evaluation to support the pilot of a new technical college model focused on expanding access to non-degree credentials in skilled, high-demand occupations in Kansas City. Abt supported implementation and ongoing learning by developing logic models, advising on student information system development, and examining implementation as the first training programs are established. Abt also evaluated student outcomes and developed options for future rigorous impact evaluations.

Director of Analysis, National Evaluation of the American Apprenticeship Initiative, USDOL (2018–2022). Provided expert guidance on all methodological elements of this DOL-funded study to help expand apprenticeship into new industries and reach populations that have been underrepresented in the past. Those elements include a demonstration study of the effectiveness of approaches to persuade employers to offer apprenticeships, development of a survey of participants in apprenticeship programs, and a study of the return on investment of apprenticeship programs based on an employer survey.

Study Lead, Study of Career Trajectories and Occupational Transitions, Descriptive and Analytical Career Pathways Study, USDOL (2020–2021). Led design and execution of a study to identify occupations that offer promising wage trajectories to new entrants and the occupational pathways that those entrants go on to take across their careers. Examined race and sex disparities in trajectories. Co-led the development of written and interactive dissemination products that allow career pathways practitioners to explore the information generated to inform choices of occupations to target for training and how to design training programs to help participants advance in their careers.

Principal Investigator, Evaluation of the State Intensive Services (SIS) Initiative, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) (2019–2020). Provided intellectual leadership on substance and methods for collaborative evaluations with states to reduce UI improper payments, including designing synthetic control analyses for rigorous impact evaluation. The project involved collaborating with states to identify root causes of improper payments and developing and testing solutions to address those root causes.

Subject Matter Expert, Synthesizing Information about Vocational Preparation Requirements, Occupational Tasks, and Required Functional Abilities in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System, Social Security Administration (2019–2020). Applied expertise in data on occupational task requirement measures to help the Social Security Administration develop approaches to assess the capacity of Social Security Disability Insurance applicants to meet the cognitive and social requirements of jobs.

Project Director, Veterans Employment and Training Services Research Design Study, USDOL (2017–2019). Directed all aspects of a project to identify design options for an

ambitious nationwide evaluation of veterans' employment outcomes, their use of the workforce system, and the impact of the employment and training services they receive through that system.

Subject Matter Expert, National Evaluation of the 2nd Generation of Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG 2.0), USDOL (2019). Analyzed completeness of coverage of HPOG participants' employment in National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) data, focusing on understanding sources of apparent severe under-coverage of employment in tribal areas.

Dissemination Task Leader, Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education (PACE) Evaluation, ACF (2017–2018). Designed a series of briefs and a cross-site report aimed at practitioners and policy makers. The products highlight key findings from ACF-funded evaluations of career pathways program grantees. The programs focus particularly on helping low-income individuals build sustainable careers in the healthcare sector. As a basis for design, developed a rubric identifying key audiences and their knowledge needs.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT WORK HISTORY

Senior Research Director. The DeBruce Foundation (2014–2017). Washington, DC

- Co-founded a research and social innovation initiative. Led creation of content to help a range of audiences understand the state of economic opportunity in America and options to increase upward mobility and economic security. Led statistical design of tools for use by employers and individuals, including the Agile Work Profiler[®] to help job seekers identify their transferable skills and match those to possible career paths. Engaged local employers to understand workforce-related challenges.

Senior Researcher/Researcher. Mathematica Policy Research (2007–2014). Washington, DC

- **Project Director (2013–2014),** Employment Strategies for Low-Income Adults Evidence Review (ACF)
- **Impact Evaluation Lead Investigator (2011–2014),** Project Evaluation Activity in Support of Partnership for Patients (CMS)
- **Topic Area Principal Investigator (2014),** Unemployment Insurance Reemployment Evidence Review, Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (USDOL)
- **Principal Investigator (2012–2014),** Unemployment Insurance Benefit Accuracy Measurement Methodology Evaluation (USDOL)
- **Task Leader (2008–2014),** Workforce Investment Act Gold Standard Evaluation (USDOL)
- **Quality Assurance Reviewer (2012–2014) and Topic Area Deputy Principal Investigator (2010–2013),** What Works Clearinghouse (US Dept. of Education)
- **Project Director (2011–2012),** Support Office of Unemployment Insurance in Reducing UI Improper Payments (USDOL)
- **Task Leader for Impact Study Reviews (2010–2013),** Strengthening Families Evidence Review (ACF)
- **Senior Researcher (2007–2013),** Building Strong Families Demonstration (ACF)

Principal Investigator/Project Director. Andrew Clarkwest Evaluation (2005–2006). Ann Arbor, MI

- Designed, directed, and carried out all aspects of an evaluation of the statistical model used by the Illinois Department of Employment Security to identify high-risk claimants for referral to reemployment services under the WPRS program, including assessing model accuracy and surveying local office staff about which types of claimants they saw as most



likely to benefit from available reemployment services. Developed an updated profiling model, subsequently adopted by the state.

Research Intern, Urban Institute (1998). Washington, DC

- For the New Federalism Project, generated analyses and visualizations to help develop a platform to allow users to explore and understand variation in states' TANF policies.

Analyst, Illinois Dept. of Employment Security (1996-1999). Chicago, IL

Full-time (1996-1997); Part-time (1997-1999)

- Managed and improved the state's UI Trust Fund projection model. Led impact evaluation of the state's WPRS program. Assessed the accuracy of the state's model to identify possibly fraudulent UI payments and developed an improved model that greatly increased the number and dollar value of fraudulent payments discovered.

Awards and Fellowships

2022	Technical Innovation Award, Abt Associates
2012	Raymond Vernon Memorial Prize for the Best Research Article Published in the <i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</i>
2003, 2004	Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University
2003	Award for Best Doctoral Student Paper, Southwestern Sociological Association
2002 - 2003	Visiting Scholar, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades
2001 - 2003	National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Fellow, Inequality and Social Policy Program, Harvard University

Certifications and Languages

Spanish – Professional working proficiency; French – Lower intermediate proficiency

What Works Clearinghouse Certified, Group Design Standards version 4.0

Data Science Level 2 Fellow, Abt Associates