

Tessa Conroy
2021 NARSC Hewings Award

Dr. Tessa Conroy is currently an Economic Development Specialist and Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed her Ph.D. in 2014 at Colorado State University. The quality of Dr. Conroy's research is remarkable. She has published several high-impact journal articles in regional science outlets such as *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *International Regional Science Review*, *Review of Regional Studies*, *Annals of Regional Science*, and *Regional Studies* along with additional publications in economics journals including *Economic Inquiry*, *Small Business Economics*, and *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* as well as *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Dr. Conroy also has many other excellent papers with a total of more than 21 peer-reviewed journal articles, several working papers, and multiple book chapters. This impressive volume of work speaks highly of her work ethic, creativity, passion for research, and ability to get things done.

Dr. Conroy has received previous research awards including the 2021 Dan Rickman Award for best paper published in the *Review of Regional Studies* during the previous year, the 2020 Miernyk Research Excellence Medal for best paper by a junior scholar presented at the Southern Regional Science Association Annual meetings, and the 2021 *George Goldman Award* by the Community and Regional Economics Network of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association for her sole authored *Regional Studies* paper on childcare and women entrepreneurship. She is clearly a well-respected scholar in the regional science community.

As an Extension Specialist Dr. Conroy must balance the needs of the state in terms of helping inform economic growth and development policies and contributions to the academic literature. This interplay is what the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Carnegie Foundation refer to as "Engaged Scholarship". Dr. Conroy has excelled at being the embodiment of the "engaged scholar" whether it is her work on entrepreneurship, broadband, the influence of taxes on business relocation decisions, or assess to child care, among others. At the core of this impressive range of research and engagement topics, the core of Dr. Conroy's work is entrepreneurship with a focus on gender. The dual questions she addresses are what community characteristics are associated with entrepreneurship and how does entrepreneurship influence the economic well-being of those same communities.

Dr. Conroy is widely sought after as a community speaker and is regularly quoted in the media across Wisconsin. She was recently quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* about how the growth in telecommuting could be beneficial to high quality of life rural communities. In addition, she is a regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio.

In recognition of her contributions to regional science and public policy discussions at the local, state and national levels the North American Regional Science Council is therefore pleased to present the 2021 NARSC Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award for distinguished contributions to Regional Science research.