

MENNA BIZUNEH, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Georgia State University	2012
M.S. Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	2006
B.S. Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology	2005
B.A. Economics, Emory University	2003

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACULTY POSITIONS

<i>Special Assistant to the President on Enrollment Management</i> , Pitzer College	November 2024-present
<i>Convenor (Chair)</i> , Department of Economics, Pitzer College	January 2019-2023 & 2024-present
<i>Director</i> , Claremont Faculty Leadership Program, The Claremont Colleges	January 2022-August 2023
<i>Full Professor of Economics</i> , Pitzer College	August 2024-present
<i>Associate Professor of Economics</i> , Pitzer College	July 2019-August 2024
<i>Assistant Professor of Economics</i> , Pitzer College	July 2014-June 2019
<i>Assistant Professor of Economics</i> , College of St. Benedict St. John's University	August 2012-May 2014

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program

Fellow

June 2023-June 2024

The ACE Fellowship program is a leadership, capacity-building program designed to train future executive leaders to meet the challenges facing Higher Education. Four, week-long training sessions encourage learning through case studies, role playing, and engagement with presidents and other executive leaders. Sessions also focus on building capacity around budget management, diversity and equity, and stakeholder relations. The program also includes a year-long immersion experience. I was mentored during AY2023-2024, at the University of Redlands by President Krista Newkirk where I developed my understanding of fundraising, accreditation, government relations, strategic communication, crisis management, management, and successful communication with multiple stakeholders, restructuring and framing shared governance, as well as academic program assessment. In addition, I got to participate and learn about mergers across institutions from the initial offer assessment, the two-step Department of Education (DoE) merger process, to full integration of operating systems, personnel, and curriculum across five schools including college of arts and sciences, business school, school of architecture, school of education, and the theological seminary. Furthermore, I partook in the conversations and strategy development for updating and concretizing shared governance structures at the University. I also got to contribute various projects cross divisionally.

Office of Admission and Enrollment

August 2023- February 2024

- Evaluated tuition pricing for graduate degree programs to make them market competitive
 - Audited the graduate program pricing across the three schools at the University of Redland in collaboration with the Associate Vice President for Graduate Enrollment
 - Provided analysis of trends for employer funded programs at the University of Redlands

- Conducted market research for public and private higher education institutions in Southern California to provide data on tuition costs, discount rates, various funding aid, and return on investment on graduate degrees
- Made recommendations for tuition pricing for graduate degree programs to make them market competitive
- Observed systems integration for admission, enrollment management, student accounts, financial aid, and marketing & communication through two merging institutions with the University of Redlands

Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Science

January 2024- June 2024

- Supported efforts to develop and establish evidence-based development of initiatives for academic and student success of undergraduate students
 - Partnered with the Dean of the College to improve the measurement and assessment of student experience in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Redlands
 - Collaborated with the Senior Director of Academic Initiatives and Planning to facilitate the alignment of college-wide data tracking process to achieve a full student data profile
 - Strategized and identified with the Director of Assessment and Accreditation, Office of Institutional Research and Registrar key performance indicators (KPI) for continuous assessment of initiatives for academic and student success among the undergraduate population
 - Participated in the planning and development of an action plan for successful launch of first year students and their continued retention

Pitzer College

Special Assistant to the President on Enrollment Management

November 2024-present

- Collaborate with senior leadership to identify optimal and sustainable enrollment targets for the college
- Implement data driven strategic plan to enhance student experience and retention
- Establish cross-institutional teams to develop wrap-around support that ensure academic and student success
- Review and update process and policies that result in accurate, consistent, transparent and up to date student records to enhance performance analysis of the institution
- Launch enhanced programs directed at recruitment, retention, graduation, and alumni relations
- Engage, within the shared governance framework, different stakeholders in the initiative to improve student retention and success

Convenor (Chair), Department of Economics

January 2019-2023 & 2024-present

- Collaborated with the faculty to address academic and non-academic needs of students within the major| minor at the department level
- Led efforts for the development of sustainable curriculum, major and curricular assessment, advising, and student support
- Co-chaired two economics position searches which resulted in successful hires and expansion of the department
- Managed an endowed fund with annual budget amount of \$34,000
- Mentored early-career faculty in the department in pedagogical approach and provided opportunity for assessment
- Co-led the department self-study and actively participated in the external review process
- Implemented adjustments to make the curriculum more inclusive and accessible to our students by improving the structure and support of faculty in the department

- Provided strategic planning for the utilization of limited resources in the department to address enrollment growth in the major
- Recruited, retained, and supported tutors in Economics to support students in the core courses of the curriculum
- Organized and led institution wide conversation around personnel turn over and union formation

Chair, Faculty Executive Committee (highest faculty governance body) July 2022-June 2023

- Deliberated on and proposed policy changes to make commencement ceremony participation more inclusive
- Collaborated with the Office of Study Abroad and International Programs to engage faculty in the conversation about restructuring programs to meet student academic needs
- Collaborated with Academic Planning Committee to present and get faculty approval for 5 expansionary lines for the College
- Convened and facilitated meetings of the 106+ full time and part-time faculty of the College
- Convened and facilitated meetings of the Faculty Executive Committee composed of VPAA | DoF, President, faculty and student representative
- Worked within the shared governance structure to bring change to academic policies and bylaws
- Represented the committee and faculty at the Board of Trustees meetings
- Facilitated cross-divisional conversation about student mental health issues and initiatives to address them
- Facilitated conversation with facilities and FEC about strategic office space utilization management to enhance efficiencies during an expansionary period for the college

The Claremont Colleges

The Claremont Colleges are seven independent institutions that collaborate as a consortium. The Claremont Colleges include five undergraduate liberal arts colleges and two graduate institutions: Pomona College, Claremont Graduate University, Scripps College, Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College, Pitzer College and Keck Graduate Institute. Each institution has its own student body, faculty, governance, curricular emphasis, culture, and mission but also benefits from the university-scale services, facilities, as well as integration of academic and extracurricular programs provided by the intercollegiate cooperation. Students at The Claremont Colleges are enrolled at one institution but benefit from the consortium’s academic and extracurricular programs and services.

Director, Claremont Faculty Leadership Program January 2022-August 2023

- Developed and led programming to promote successful, sustainable, and inclusive faculty leadership with post program result of 23.8 % serving in faculty governance leadership roles, 19 % serving in administrative roles, 9.5 % moved into leadership roles in professional/disciplinary associations
- Leveraged leadership expertise and institutional resources across the 7 colleges to execute an in-house leadership programming at minimal cost
- Collaborated with Associate Deans from across the 7 colleges & universities to design, plan, and implement consortial as well as campus-specific programming
- Managed bi-annual budget of \$40,000 and cut annual costs by 7%
- Led an effective outreach initiative for alumni engagement creating a platform for alumni to connect with current CFLP Fellows and providing a robust network
- Developed and implemented an assessment mechanism through surveys and alumni interviews measure the impact of the program and to create a data-driven approach to plan and design future iteration of the program
- Created and launched the first website for CFLP resulting in more national visibility for the program

- Showcased the program’s successful implementation of a collaborative model for building an in-house faculty leadership development program

American Council on Education Women’s Network Southern California

Board of Directors Member August 2024- present

- Provided strategic oversight and governance on key Network initiatives to achieve long-term
- Collaborated in the creation and revision of key organizational policies to ensure compliance and alignment with strategic objectives
- Engaged in establishing succession planning for the organization to ensure continued outreach and development of women in leaders in Higher Education in Southern California
- Led in the planning the execution of hosting a symposium at Pitzer College to discuss cross-divisional mentorship of women in Higher Education

Chair of Advisory Council August 2022-June 2024

- Led the Advisory Council in developing strategic initiatives and implementing programs and activities to enhance mentorship and
- Recommended changes to the Network’s bylaws and strategic plan to make them efficient, inclusive, and increase success rate of programming
- Served as liaison between the Institutional Representatives (IR) of Colleges and Universities in Southern California and the Board of Directors IRs and the Board of Directors (BoD)
- Contributed to the recruitment efforts resulting in an increase of 20% in Institutional Representative membership in the Advisory Council
- Served as Pitzer College’s official representative to the Network’s Advisory Council
- Participated in local, regional, and statewide meetings to promote the mission of the organization
- Establish linkages with over 20 Southern California public and private campus to collaborate and co-lead programs focusing on women in leadership

REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD)

- 15th Dean’s Institute November 2024
- Annual Meeting February 2022

Association for Collaborative Leadership

- Informal paths to Equity and Inclusion May 2023
- Top 10 Trends Presenting Challenges for Higher Ed Human Resources April 2023
- Leadership Development Program June 2022

Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Workshop for Department and Division Chairs June 2022

Success 4 Higher Education (S4HE), “Preparing and Navigating Your Next Career Move” May 2021

Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance, “Accountability and Incentives for Advancing Racial Equity” March 2021

The Claremont Colleges Faculty Leadership Program January 2020-May 2022

Harvard University Graduate School of Education

- Aligning Strategic Priorities with Financial Resources January 2022
- Women in Education Leadership April 2021

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE WORK AND SERVICE

American Council on Education Women’s Network- Southern California <i>Institutional Representative for Pitzer College</i>	August 2022- present
Association for Collaborative Leadership (ACL) <i>Finance Committee member</i>	March 2023-present
Pitzer College & The Claremont Colleges <i>Vice chair, Faculty Executive Committee (faculty governance body)</i>	July 2021-June 2022
○ <i>Faculty Representative, Covid19 Task Force</i>	
○ <i>Faculty Representative, Search Committee for Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Dean of Students</i>	
○ <i>Faculty Representative, Search Committee for Assistant Dean of Students for Compliance</i>	
○ <i>Faculty Representative, Conduct Compliance Officer Search Committee</i>	
<i>Chair, Faculty Complaint Task Force</i>	October 2021-May 2022
<i>Committee member, Ad hoc Covid-19 Childcare Committee</i>	March 2020- June 2020
<i>Chair, Academic Standards Committee (ASC)</i>	August 2019- June 2021
<i>Committee co-chair, Teaching and Learning Committee</i>	January 2018- June 2018
<i>Committee member, Study Abroad and International Programs (SAIP)</i>	January 2018-June 2018
<i>Faculty member, Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Benefits</i>	January 2017 – June 2017
<i>Committee member, Institutional Review Board (IRB)</i>	August 2016-May 2017
<i>Member, African Studies Program Working Group</i>	September 2016- May 2017
<i>Committee member, Teaching and Learning Committee,</i>	August 2015- May 2016
Macroeconomics at Liberal Arts College (Research Association) <i>Co-chair, International Economics Working Group</i>	August 2023 – present

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Published Refereed Scholarly Articles

“[Building an In-House Faculty Leadership Development Program: A Case Study at The Claremont Colleges](#),”(with Jennifer Armstrong, Shana Levin, Ellen Ketels Rentz, and Katherine M. Van Heuvelen). *ACAD Leader*, 2023.

“[Are We Floating Yet? Duration of Fixed Exchange Rate Regimes](#),” *Eastern Economic Journal*, 2022, 48(1), 63-89.

“[Assessing the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Emerging Market Economies](#),” (with Menelik Geremew). *Eastern Economic Journal*, 2021,47(4), 519-545.

“[Beyond borders: The Euro Crisis and Public Support for Monetary Integration in East Africa](#),” (with Seven Buigut and Neven Valev), *South African Journal of Economics*, 2020, 88(4), 518-535.

“[Gaining Global Clout through Monetary Union: Evidence from East Africa](#),” (with Steven Buigut and Neven Valev), *Journal of Economic Integration*, 2018, 33(2), 1363-1387.

[“The Devil You Know: Pegs vs. Floats with Uncertain Outcomes,”](#) (with Neven Valev) Review of International Economics, 2014, 22(4), 686-699.

[“Safety in Numbers: Bailouts and the Decision to Join the EMU,”](#) (with Neven Valev) Comparative Economic Studies, 2014, 56(3), 452-68.

Papers Under Review and In Progress

“The impact of Covid-19 Containment Policies on Sovereign Bond Risk Premium: A Tale of Selected Emerging and Developed,” (with Menelik Geremew) under review.

“Matching Matters: Women and the Choice to major in Economics,” (with Alexandre Baude, Antara Anand, and Morgan Stockham) in progress.

“After Shock: The Impact of the Great Financial Crisis on the Decision to Major in Economics,” (with Gurmukh Singh, and Natasha Wong) in progress.

Publish Non-Refereed Articles

“Should Fannie, Freddie Do Principle Reduction?” hsn.com, 2015,
(<http://www.hsh.com/finance/mortgage/should-fannie-freddie-do-principal-reductions.html>)

RESEARCH GRANTS

Pitzer Faculty Research Award: 2020-2021(\$5,500), 2019-2020(\$3,000), 2017-2018(\$3,000), 2016-2017(\$3,000), 2015-2016(\$2,500), 2014-2015(\$2,500)

Doman Faculty Fellowship: 2022 (\$600), 2021 (\$550), 2020 (\$700)

Consortium for Higher Achievement and Success (CHAS), “Demystifying Economics Major Shortage of Women in Minority Groups,” 2015 (\$6,450)

College of St. Benedict | St. John’s University Faculty Development and Research Grant, “Public Attitude towards the East African Monetary Union,” 2013 (\$5,000)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

American Conference of Academic Deans, February 2023 (Tampa, FL)

Conference of Macroeconomists from Liberal Arts Colleges, August 2023 (Greenville, SC); August 2013 (Claremont, CA)

Macroeconomics Liberal Arts-International Economics Working Group, March 2022 (virtual)

TeachECONference Workshop, June 2021 (*Virtual*)

International Trade and Finance Association (Monthly Seminar) , April 2021 (*Virtual*)

University of Chicago, Economics Department (ECON 17110), November 2021 (*Virtual*)

Western Economic Association International, International Conference, January 2018 (Newcastle, Australia); January 2017 (Santiago, Chile); June 2015 (Honolulu, HI)

Eastern Economic Association Conference, February 2023 (New York, NY); May 2022 (Montego Bay, Jamaica) February 2021 (*Virtual*); February 2017 (New York, NY); February 2016 (Washington, D.C.); February 2015 (New York, NY)

Southern Economic Association Conference, November 2020 (New Orleans, LA |*Virtual*); November 2018 (Washington, DC); November 2012 (New Orleans, LA); November 2010 (Atlanta, GA)

Pitzer College Marquis Faculty Salon Seminar Series, April 2018, Claremont, CA

Midwestern Economic Association Conference, March 2018 (Evanston, IL); March 2017 (Cincinnati, WI)
Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April 2017 (Chicago, IL); April 2016 (Chicago, IL); March 2013 (Chicago, IL); March 2011 (Chicago, IL); March 2010 (Chicago, IL)
12th International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy and the 19th Annual Conference of African Econometrics Society, July 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Committee on the Status of Women in Economics Profession (CSWEP) national mentoring (CeMENT) workshop, November 2013, Tampa, FL
Lawrence University Economics Colloquium Seminar Series, November 2013, Appleton, WI
EUSA-Economics Interest Section Workshop, June 2012, Arlington, VA
Tilburg University (CentER) Seminar Series, December 2012, Tilburg, Netherlands
Tax Policy, Fiscal Analysis & Revenue Forecasting Course (International Studies Training Program), Georgia State University, August 2011, Atlanta, GA

HONORS, AWARDS, AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

<i>Student Marshall</i> , Pitzer College	May 2022
<i>Invited Speaker</i> , United Nations Association of Pomona Valley	February 2022
<i>Invited Presenter</i> , International Trade and Finance Association Seminar	April 2021
<i>Scholar in Residence Fellow</i> , Pitzer College	January 2018- May 2018
<i>Keynote Speaker</i> , Andrew Young School of Policy Graduation Ceremony, Georgia State University	May 2015
<i>Board Member</i> , Minnesota Economic Association	July 2012-July 2014
<i>Recipient</i> , Theodore C. Boyden Excellence in Teaching Economics Award, Georgia State University	May 2011
<i>Recipient</i> , Service Award, Georgia State University	May 2010
<i>Recipient</i> , George Malanos Scholarship, Georgia State University	May 2008
<i>Member</i> , Omicron Delta Epsilon, Economics Honor Society	August 2005- present

DISCIPLINE AFFILIATION AND ACTIVITIES

Session Chair and/or Session Organizer

Eastern Economic Association Conference: 2023, 2018, 2016
 Midwest Economic Association Conference: 2018
 Midwest Political Science Association Conference: 2016, 2013
 Minnesota Economic Association Conference: 2013
 Southern Economic Association Conference: 2012, 2010

Discussant

Eastern Economic Association Conference: 2023, 2021, 2017, 2015
 Claremont-UC Undergraduate Conference on the European: 2021, 2015
 Conference of Macroeconomists from Liberal Arts Colleges: 2023
 Midwestern Economic Association: 2018, 2017

Midwest Political Science Association Conference: 2017, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2010

Southern Economic Association Conference: 2020, 2018, 2012, 2010

Western Economic Association International: 2018, 2017, 2015

Referee: Journal of Economics Education, Eastern Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Integration, Journal of International Money and Finance, Cambridge Review of International Relations, International Journal of Economics and Business Research, Applied Economics Letters (incorporating Applied Financial Economics Letters), Atlantic Economic Journal, International Journal of Gender Studies in Developing Societies, Studies in Higher Education, International Journal of Pluralism and Economics Education, National Council on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

Member: American Council on Education (ACE), Association for Collaborative Leadership (ACL), American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD), Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), American Economic Association (AEA), Eastern Economic Association (EEA), Southern Economic Association (SEA), Western Economic Association International (WEAI), Midwestern Economic Association (MEA), Committee on the Status of Women in the Economic Profession (CSWEP), Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Ethiopian Economic Association (EthEA), Macroeconomists at Liberal Colleges, International Trade and Finance Association (IT &FA), European Union Center of California

FACULTY & STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Pitzer College & The Claremont Colleges

<i>Faculty interviewer</i> , Fulbright Scholarships,	August 2015-present
<i>Faculty discussant</i> , Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union	2021 & 2022
<i>Faculty presenter</i> , “Leadership Through Service: The Servant-Leader Approach”	November 2022
<i>Faculty presenter</i> , “Aligning Strategic Priorities with Financial Resources in Higher Education”	April 2022
<i>Co-Organizer</i> , Financial Literacy Workshops (w/ Georgia Hartman)	October 2018
<i>Faculty panel presenter</i> , Best Practices for Managing Summer Research Students	April 2018
<i>Faculty advisor</i> , Claremont Crypto Society	August 2017-May 2022
<i>Faculty advisor</i> , Habesha Student Association,	August 2017-May 2022
<i>Faculty advisor</i> , Distributive Education Clubs of America,	August 2016- May 2022
<i>Discussant</i> , Faculty Forum at California Rehabilitation Center Norco	February 2015

College of St. Benedict | St. John’s University (CSB |SJU)

<i>Faculty advisor</i> , CSB SJU Economics Club	August 2013–May 2014
<i>Faculty member</i> , CSB SJU Economics Department Scholarship Committee	August 2012-May 2014

COURSES TAUGHT

Economics Courses:

- Senior Seminar (Capstone course)
- Honors Thesis in Economics
- Time Series Analysis
- International Trade Theory and Policy
- International Finance Theory and Policy
- Macroeconomic Theory

Principles of Macroeconomics
Introduction to Economics (Microeconomics & Macroeconomics)
The Global Economy

First Year Seminar Courses:

What is German for Uncertainty? The Restless European Union

Independent Student Research Supervision:

Trust and the Propensity to Get Vaccinated in the EU

After Shock: The Impact of The Great Financial Crisis on the Decision to Major in Economics

Matching Matters: Women and the Decision to Major in Economics

Foreign-Domestic Gap: Economics Major Choice among Undergraduate Students

Analysis of the Los Angeles Market for Olympic Bid

Using Excel to Provide Trend Analysis in the Tech Lending Market

WeWork: Analyzing A Business Framework

Teaching Assistant (Georgia State University):

Principles of Microeconomics (w/ Shiferaw Gurmu)

The Global Economy (w/ Paul Kagundu)

Econometrics (w/ Shiferaw Gurmu)

Applied Statistics and Econometrics II (w/ Shiferaw Gurmu)