





**Faculty Member Contact Information**

<b>Name</b>	Dr. Joseph Vithayathi
<b>Contact Info</b>	
SIUE Email	jvithay@siue.edu
Campus Box	1106
<b>Department</b>	CMIS

**1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant**

	This position is <b>ONLY</b> open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	<b>M</b>
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
<b>X</b>	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	<b>I</b>

**Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?**

- Yes, my project is truly interdisciplinary, please also mark me as interested in taking students from these areas: Social Sciences

**How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?**  
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9

**Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?**

- Yes; 1 credit hour of Independent Study in Economics-ECON-490-081 or a similar independent study course

**Location of research/creative activities:**

- CMIS (Founders Hall) or Finance Department (Alumni Hall)

**Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?**

The broad research agenda is to investigate the strength of the signal from a college degree to the employment marketplace. We suspect that in some cases this signal has been degraded. The broad hypothesis is that other than elite schools, most other non-elite schools have significantly attenuated signals that depend on the type of school.

**Brief description of student responsibilities?**

The survey instruments will be a set of resumes that captures the type of colleges and universities that are included in the study. The Fall 2024 URCA Assistant has done a great job in helping to create the resume instruments and a list of target jobs.

The Spring 2025 URCA Assistant will help expand the dataset and deploy the instruments for this field study.

**URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?**

The URCA Assistant will gain invaluable exposure and some experience in rigorous research methods, survey concepts, instrument development, which in this case will be resumes tailored to match the experimental matrix, and concepts of randomization and categorization.

Additionally, the URCA Assistant will gain understanding of the social impact from the potential informative value from such research.

**Requirements of Students**

**If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:**

- N/A

**If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?**

- N/A

**Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:**

- N/A

**Other requirements or notes to applicants:**

- None