



NEWS RELEASE:

FROM: Southern Economic Association

TO: Press Contact

For Immediate Release: Nov. 25, 2015

**The Southern Economic Association
Honors Mauricio Cáceres and Kenneth P. Jameson
With Its Georgescu-Roegen Prize**

Mauricio Cáceres (Columbia University) and Kenneth P. Jameson (University of Utah) were recently honored with the prestigious Georgescu-Roegen Prize by the Southern Economic Association. Presentation occurred November 22, 2015, during SEA's annual conference held in New Orleans, LA, featuring Distinguished Guest Lecturer Raj Chetty of Harvard and Stanford Universities and Association Lecturer Hilary Hoynes of the University of California, Berkeley.

The Georgescu-Roegen Prize is awarded each year by the Southern Economic Association for the best academic article published in the *Southern Economic Journal*. Cáceres and Jameson were awarded the 2015 prize for best article published in Volume 81 of the *Southern Economic Journal* for their article, "The Effects on Insurance Costs of Restricting Undocumented Immigrants' Access to Driver Licenses" (*SEJ*, Volume 81, Number 4, April 2015).

Between 1990 and 2012 the number of unauthorized immigrants in the United States has increased by over 200%. Unauthorized immigrants live and work in every state, ranging in 2012 from 0.2% of the population in Maine to 7.6% of the population in Nevada—the average overall is 3.5% of the U.S. population. The presence, and particularly the growth, of unauthorized immigrants has spawned rigid political positions; vigorous debate as to the impact on wages and jobs of legal residents; fears of overconsumption of social services; and a whole bunch of state level legislation designed to protect residents from perceived harms of unauthorized immigrants. Many of the state laws have been adopted without the benefit of informed evidence on the issues, however. The research by Cáceres and Jameson is one step toward alleviating this dearth of information. But, unlike most of the research on the impact of unauthorized immigration, their focus is not on any labor market impact, but, rather the economic impact on insurance costs of restricting unauthorized immigrants' access to driver licenses. Cáceres and Jameson find that the average annual cost of auto insurance in states that have enacted driver license restrictions is roughly \$17 higher than in states that have not. In Arizona, for example, with nearly four million licensed drivers, this amounts to a total cost of the restriction of about 68 million dollars, per year. The authors suggest that in addition to putting more unlicensed unauthorized immigrants on the road, these restrictions are a burden to *all* residents and may result in fewer licensed and insured legal resident drivers on the road, as well.

For further information contact:

J.R. Clark, Secretary/Treasurer
Southern Economic Association
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
313 Fletcher Hall, Dept. 6106
615 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598
Phone: (423) 425-4118
FAX: (423) 425-5218
E-mail: sea@utc.edu