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Dr. Zhang has been a Principal Investigator for many workforce-related national, state, and local grants, with a total of \$9 million USD, including grants from USDOL, USDA, the Gates Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation, Abell Foundation, MDOL, MDOD, MDHS, etc. Dr. Zhang is a published author of peer-reviewed books and journal articles, including articles in Small Business Economics, Applied Economics, Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Papers in Regional Science, International Journal of Manpower, Southern Economic Journal, Accounting Education, etc. She has given invited talks at the US Congress Joint Economic Committee, the House Committee on Small Businesses, the US National Press Club, USDOL, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation, Cambridge University, etc, and given invited keynote speeches at the University of Lisbon (Portugal), Uddevalla Symposium, Gran Sasso Science Institute (Italy), Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University, UMBC, etc. Dr. Zhang's research has been quoted in popular media such as Forbes, Time, Bloomberg Businessweek, Academic Times, Market Watch, Baltimore Sun, etc.

Dr. Zhang was a winner of the Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship, the finalist of the Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science, USDOL Research Fellowship, Kauffman research grants/fellowship, T. Rowe Price Excellence in Teaching awards, Labor and Employment Relations Association Best Paper selection, APPAM Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellow, etc.