

CARLOS IGNACIO NAVARRO

Data Scientist · Policy Strategist · Research Partnerships

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For nearly a decade I've built the numbers that didn't exist, then done the institutional work that lets them be used. That has meant a university research center, a statewide policy organization, and a state agency: causal inference and index construction on one side; data governance, research ethics, and partnership building on the other. I work well where the question is unsettled, the data is incomplete, and several institutions have to agree before anything can move.

EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist, Texas Space Commission

2025 to Present

- Engineered the state's first economic indicator isolating commercial space activity from legacy aerospace, built from federal administrative microdata with a purpose-built classification taxonomy and a decade-long backcast across a mid-period industry reclassification. Currently in peer review.
- Authored the agency's first research-data governance framework, and serve as its subject-matter expert on research ethics and the handling of sensitive personal information.
- Designed the centralized data architecture underpinning agency-wide survey collection and grant evaluation.

Data Analyst, Strategic Initiatives, Texas 2036

2022 to 2025

- Proposed, secured leadership buy-in for, and built the organization's **academic partnership portfolio**, sourcing faculty whose active research agendas aligned with the organization's priorities and structuring collaborations that were two-sided: data access and analytic capacity in, a publication path out.
- Owned the Education, Workforce, Energy, Economics, and Civic Participation indicators on the **Strategic Framework**, a public-facing dashboard platform. Coordinated external vendors and held accountability for the accuracy of every figure published.
- Built, end to end, a simulator of the community college finance formula created by **House Bill 8**: an interconnected Tableau model that let non-technical audiences see how the new formula would affect specific named colleges.
- Produced the analysis behind legislative testimony delivered by the organization's registered lobbyist, including the workforce data supporting **House Bill 3447**, which created the Texas Space Commission.

Senior Research Associate, Private Enterprise Research Center, Texas A&M University

2018 to 2022

- Designed and launched a monthly economic index for the College Station-Bryan MSA, engineering a sales-tax-collection proxy for regional retail activity where no direct data existed. **Owned the recurring public release**: each month's figure, the first draft, and every documented methodology revision. Still published and widely cited.
- Applied Difference-in-Differences to estimate the effect of public health insurance on criminal recidivism, published with faculty co-authors in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.
- Led the **ICPSR restricted-data acquisition** for the National Corrections Reporting Program: IRB approval, Data Use Agreements, and the security protocols required to hold individual-level records.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **"More Service Jobs, Less Technical AI Use: A Subnational Look"** · 2026. Independent analysis pairing Anthropic's Economic Index with OECD regional statistics across 279 regions in 35 countries.
- **"The Effect of Public Health Insurance on Criminal Recidivism"** · *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* · 2021. With Aslim, Mungan & Yu.
- **"Opening Doors: The State of Higher Education in Texas Prisons"** · Texas 2036 · 2024. With Luis Soberon. Found prison college programs may reduce recidivism by up to 41.5% and return \$1.61 per \$1 spent.
- **"Methodology for Constructing an Economic Index for the College Station-Bryan MSA"** · PERC, Texas A&M · 2018. With Jansen, Rettenmaier & Sekhposyan.

EDUCATION

- **M.I.A., International Development & Economic Policy**, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University. U.S. Congress-George H.W. Bush Fellowship recipient. Capstone: the quantitative ranking framework behind a regional strategy assessment presented to U.S. Southern Command.
- **B.A., Economics, cum laude**, University of Texas-Pan American.
- **Certificates**: Agentic AI Foundations, Harvard Online · Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, UT Austin McCombs · Space Policy: Civil and Military Strategy and Diplomacy, NPEC.

CAPABILITIES

- **Methods**: causal inference (Difference-in-Differences, 2SLS) · index construction · survey methodology and instrument design · panel data · classification and prioritization frameworks
- **Governance**: research ethics and IRB (45 CFR 46) · restricted-data acquisition · Data Use Agreements · FERPA · data governance and PII handling
- **Partnership & program**: partner sourcing and portfolio development · program and policy drafting · vendor management · stakeholder discovery · board and executive communication
- **Tools**: Python · SQL · Stata · R · Tableau · Power BI · LLM-assisted research workflows, including agentic coding tools · **Languages**: English and Spanish (native / bilingual)