

# McDonnell Academy Alumni Mark S. Wrighton Award 2023 Recipient

**Dr. Fernando Lopez** made significant contributions to the field of finance during his tenure as an assistant professor at Alberto Hurtado University in Santiago, Chile from 2014 to 2022. His research primarily focused on different aspects of the Chilean pension system, including investigating the determinants of individuals' choices, exploring social legitimacy, and evaluating the financial performance and competition among pension fund managers. His scholarly work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, such as the Journal of Pension Economics and Finance and the Journal of the Economics of Ageing. Moreover, he has published more than 30 policy briefs and has also been quoted by major Chilean newspapers, radio stations, and television programs about pension reforms.

In his current role as a financial economics consultant, Fernando specializes in pension markets and brings a wealth of expertise to the field. He has led studies for the Interamerican Development Bank (IADB) on strategies to boost occupational retirement savings and to incorporate sustainability considerations and climate change risks on the investments of pension funds in Latin America. In 2022, Fernando was appointed by the Costa Rican Bureau of Pensions to support them in enhancing the oversight of their pension fund investments. Additionally, he received invitations from the Chilean congress and presidential commissions of Ecuador and Uruguay to participate in discussions on pension reforms.

Fernando has remained actively engaged with current McDonnell Academy Scholars, serving as a featured speaker on the McDonnell Academy Alumni panel where he provided guidance on personal development and career direction. He shares his valuable professional and personal experiences as a mentor in the Academy's Mentorship Network, and actively participated in focus group sessions aimed at enhancing the McDonnell Academy program.

Since 2015, Fernando has served as the dedicated "McDonnell Academy Envoy for Chile," actively contributing to the recruitment efforts of prospective Scholars for the McDonnell Academy at Washington University. In this vital role, he plays an integral part in organizing and participating in diverse outreach events, including engaging online presentations and interactive Q&A sessions. Furthermore, during visits by senior leadership to Chile, Fernando provides invaluable assistance, utilizing his extensive local knowledge and network to ensure fruitful engagements and collaborations. Through these initiatives, he greatly contributes to strengthening the connections between Washington University and its local partners in Chile.

Fernando demonstrates a proactive and impactful approach in cultivating partnerships that promote cross-cultural understanding and foster multidisciplinary collaboration. His efforts significantly contribute to enhancing the visibility and future success of the McDonnell Academy, as well as Washington University's global engagement initiatives.



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**My experience in the McDonnell Academy transformed the way I look at the challenges of our world and has led me to think beyond traditional paradigms.**

**FERNANDO LOPEZ**