

EACH WEEK THE PENDULUM DEBRIEFS COMPLEX EVENTS BY INTERVIEWING RELEVANT EXPERTS

# Addressing the effects of trade war with China

Andrew Greenland, assistant professor of economics, explains the complexities of the trade war with China

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Andrew Greenland

This March, President Donald Trump imposed steel and aluminum tariffs on imports from China. China responded by placing fees on a number of U.S. products, including sparkling wine and apples. Trump responded by promising tariffs on 1,300 Chinese products. China then announced tariffs on Boeing planes, kicking off the trade war between the two countries.

Andrew Greenland, assistant professor of economics, explained how this most recent trade war between the U.S. and China came about and how it might affect the U.S. economy.

## Q: What is the current trade war between China and the United States about?

**A:** The current trade war between China and the U.S. is largely a reflection of President Trump's idea of how he can help his base. One of the key characteristics of the group that had supported Trump in the last election were people who had lost a disproportionate share of their employment opportunities due to manufacturing decline. North Carolina is a prime example of an area where there used to be a lot of textile and furniture manufacturing.

## Q: What led to the manufacturing decline?

**A:** Among other factors, globalization was one of the features that led to the decline in manufacturing. Another element of the reason why we lost many manufacturing jobs was because China entered the World Trade Organization in 2001. After that period, they faced less uncertainty about U.S. tariffs in the future. This caused a huge export surge to the U.S. which displaced a lot of manufacturing workers in the U.S. Trump has made sort of a battle cry around the anti-globalization ideology by glossing over other reasons of the manufacturing decline and instead pointing an aggressive finger toward China specifically.

**Q: Why did Trump take this position toward China?**

**A:** There are some reasons why you would be upset with trade policy with China. They have a history of abusing intellectual property agreements. And so it's a combination of reasons and political ideology have pushed President Trump towards trying to take what he thinks is an aggressive stance in the name of defending domestic employment. China has been retaliating by strategically selecting tariffs on goods and services in the United States, which will put political pressure on Trump to change his mind.

**Q: What goods and services are affected?**

**A:** President Trump started this whole thing rather unexpectedly with a discussion of adding tariffs to steel and aluminum. Countries are legally allowed to put tariffs on goods if countries are dumping products on the market. President Trump is taking up a different approach. He's saying steel and aluminum are important to the U.S. economy for national security reasons. And that's one of the exemptions in World Trade Organization policy.

**Q: How will China's tariffs on certain goods and services affect the U.S. economy?**

**A:** It's depressing. I can understand that there are large segments of the population who feel disenfranchised by loss of employment opportunities. I can understand



Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomes President Donald Trump to Beijing Nov. 9, 2017.

**A:** What China is trying to do is actually quite common in trade disputes which is they look for particular industries, so you'll hear things like Tennessee Whiskey getting singled out. It's produced only in one specific area and as a consequence, by picking on that one good or service and putting big tariffs on it, what they can actually do is cause enough concerns about employment losses in exactly those communities that those people will push back vocally against their legislators who then they hope will put pressure on the president to change his mind on particular trade policy.

## Q: What are your personal thoughts on the trade war?

**A:** It's depressing. I can understand that there are large segments of the population who feel disenfranchised by loss of employment opportunities. I can understand

that there is a segment of the technology side who is upset about intellectual property infringements by China. Imposing tariffs on people and starting trade wars is just not an effective way of protecting domestic employment in a cost-effective way. What it does is it raises the cost of producing goods and services so it makes our exports less appealing to other countries. It makes goods more expensive in the U.S. and it actually can harm employment opportunities inside the U.S. by taking on policies like this.

If you're really worried about people who have lost their jobs to globalization or manufacturing, you could be thinking about governmental programs that would be helpful in job retraining or moving or any sort of other support structures that would help people transition into more effective contemporary roles in the modern economy rather than fighting over long gone manufacturing jobs.

# Mentor groups encourage dialogue in minority communities

Elon shows value for mentorship with a variety of different programs

Perla Salazar-Rangel

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When Dinora Flores began her freshman year, she applied to receive a mentor from the Student Mentors Advising Rising Talent (SMART) program to help guide her through her first year of college. The relationship that she formed with her mentor quickly blossomed into a strong friendship.

As a first-generation college student, Flores wanted to make sure she had support from a mentor because they have the advice she needed.

"My relationship with my SMART mentor is great," Flores said. "She's one of my best friends. She helps me when I'm stressed out, takes me out to eat, we have been shopping together and she gives me rides. She also gives me great advice."

Flores' mentor, sophomore Shawna Harris-Lenoir, inspired her to become a SMART mentor for the upcoming school year.

SMART has been around for nearly 24 years, according to

Brandon Bell, program coordinator and assistant director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity Education, Brandon Bell.

Bell wants to emphasize the importance of mentoring and diversity, so CREDE promotes the program to students who identify as African American/Black, Latinx/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American/American Indian, Alaskan Native or multiracial. "Mentoring is important," Bell said. "SMART is great place for students to engage in honest dialogue and explore the self. They are paired with students who just experienced what they are about to go through. SMART is here to explore and navigate race on a systematic level."

In the 2017-2018 school year, Bell said that there were around 60 SMART mentors. He decided it would be beneficial to the program to narrow down the number of mentors to 32 for the 2018-2019 school year.

"I decided to have a smaller number of mentors and create mentor teams," Bell said. "They will have two to three mentees. I think they will be mentoring the students of color and create solidarity. Mentorship does not mean one person has all the answers. They can still establish a one-on-one relationship, but they will also have a larger community."

The one-on-one relationships are important to foster as well, according to Becca Bishopric-Patterson, the assistant director of

Gender and LGBTQIA Center, who is working to continue the Queer Peers mentoring program that began this 2017-2018 school year. Like Bell, she also wants to establish a community.

"The first meetings they will all be in one group and we hope to have group dinners," Bishopric-Patterson said. "We paired folks over email this year, so that was hard. Next year, getting them in the same room will be better for the community and to be able to pair them in a better manner."

Queer Peers had four mentors this academic school year, and five mentees signed up. As the program continues, there is hope that these relationships will continue because Bishopric-Patterson had noticed informal relation-



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ships forming, but they wanted a more formal program, to ensure that both mentors and mentees got what they needed from the program.

In order to ensure that mentors have the tools they need to succeed, Queer Peers is going to have students go through a three-hour training session as well as continuous training throughout the year.

"Mentoring is being able to know what your role is and setting the boundaries, and not be the only person that they go to for support," Bishopric-Patterson said. "There are so many great resources around campus to support students that are struggling through things. We want the mentors to practice self care. We want them to know what are their pri-

orities, how to notice distress, but to think of the airplane example of putting on their own oxygen mask before helping someone else, which is what makes a good mentor."

Bishopric-Patterson said Queer Peers wants to follow in the footsteps of the SMART mentoring program because of their success and longevity. She believes that both programs are beneficial.

"There is strong evidence for key success with mentoring programs," Bishopric-Patterson said. "There is a survey that indicates that mentoring and relationships are key factors in students that find success and happiness after college as well as development of healthy habits. That is part of why these programs are so important."