



# 2019 ECMC Foundation Fellow Postsecondary CTE Research Bridging the Gaps in Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research

Sponsored by ECMC Foundation

**Adam K. Atwell**  
**Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research**  
**Dissertation Research Fellow**



Belk Center  
for Community College  
Leadership and Research

**Bio.** Adam K. Atwell is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte pursuing the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (Higher Education) and a Certificate in Quantitative Analyses. Since 2011, Adam has been a full-time faculty member at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, NC. Adam has a Master of Science from the University of Cincinnati, and a Bachelor of Science from Western Carolina University. Adam has served as a research assistant on The Roots of STEM: Research on Women and Underrepresented Minorities in STEM Majors, funded by the National Science Foundation, and has served in the same capacity on a project investigating college and career capital. In addition, Adam has consulted on a project investigating entering freshmen with earned credit at UNC Charlotte. Adam has co-authored numerous technical reports, and has co-authored a book chapter on the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) articulation and early childhood education in Community College Teacher Preparation for Diverse Geographies: Implications for Access and Equity for Preparing a Diverse Teacher Workforce. Adam has published in the Association of Mexican American Educators Journal, and has presented at conferences of the Association for the Study of Higher Education and the North Carolina Association for Research in Education.

**Project.** Associate degrees in areas of career and technical education (CTE) were not originally designed for college transfer. Research shows that CTE students are equally as likely to pursue the baccalaureate as their transfer-track counterparts, yet CTE students experience problems with credit loss and degree articulation upon transfer. The proposed project will use hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) to investigate student-level predictors and community college-level moderators of associate degree transfers across to identify potential barriers and facilitators surrounding the transfer of the Associate in Applied Science degrees.



**Research Sponsor: Mark M. D'Amico, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor of Higher Education**  
**The University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

## The Program

Fellows will be part of a community that participates in two national research training institutes, research methods webinars, works with CTE research mentors, and conducts postsecondary CTE research.

Applications for the 2020 Postsecondary CTE Research Fellows will be available July 1st, 2019 and due December 1st, 2019.

<http://go.ncsu.edu/ctefellows>

"We have designed this CTE Fellows program to provide scholars with the unique opportunity to be part of a community and a formal curriculum to develop their research skills while working toward improving the field of CTE."

— James Bartlett II, Ph.D.

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