



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

Sponsored by ECMC Foundation

Walt Ecton
Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research
Graduate Student Research Fellow



Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research

Bio. Walt Ecton is a PhD Student in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Organizations at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College. Walt’s research focuses on the intersections between high school, higher education, and the workforce, and the pathways students take as they navigate those sectors. Walt’s work primarily uses large administrative datasets to quantitatively explore the role of Career and Technical Education in student’s lives and in institutions’ priorities, both in the K-12 and higher education spaces. His work has been presented at conferences of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), and Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM). Prior to his doctoral work, Walt taught high school social studies in the Atlanta Public School system, and served as Associate Director of New Business Development at the Education Advisory Board (EAB), a DC-based higher education technology and consulting firm, where he led meetings with Cabinet-level leaders at over 300 institutions. Walt holds a Bachelor’s in Political Science and Theater Studies from Emory University and a Master’s in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Project. As America’s economy increasingly demands a workforce with advanced training in vocational and technical fields, postsecondary institutions often face shifting demands from local industries, as well as changing interests from students beginning or re-starting their education. Leveraging robust statewide data that incorporates both higher education and labor-market participation, this study explores the relationship between local labor-market forces and postsecondary enrollment, with particular attention to differences across institutional sectors and CTE fields of study.



Research Sponsor: Shaun M. Dougherty, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Policy & Education
Vanderbilt University

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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