



Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research



2020 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Sponsored by the ECMC Foundation

Adam K. Atwell

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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 graduate certificate in quantitative analyses. From 2011-2019, Adam held a full-time faculty appointment at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, NC. In 2020, Adam moved to the college's Office of Institutional Research and Planning where he oversees the Quality Enhancement Plan and institutional assessments. Adam served as a research assistant on the NSF-funded "The Roots of STEM: Research on Women and Underrepresented Minorities in STEM Majors", and on a project investigating college and career capital. Adam has co-authored numerous technical reports, has co-authored a book chapter on AAS articulation and early childhood education in Community College Teacher Preparation for Diverse Geographies., and has published in the Association of Mexican American Educators Journal. Adam is currently working on an accepted co-authored chapter in Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation in the 21st Century.

Project. This project seeks to understand how community colleges are using labor-market data in the development and offering of postsecondary CTE programs. The research seeks to identify "best practices" of community colleges that demonstrate close alignment between CTE programs and labor market demands and how colleges localize their efforts toward aligning programs and labor market demands. This project will include three instrumental case studies of community colleges demonstrating strong program to labor market alignment in three different states across the United States. As community colleges navigate the new provisions of Perkins V and the federal agenda on the workforce, the goal of this project is to establish a guide for postsecondary leaders and practitioners to align CTE programs with local labor markets.



Research Sponsor: James E. Bartlett, II, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & Director of Academic Programs
Belk Center for Community College Leadership & Research
North Carolina State 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.

"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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