



Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research



2020 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Sponsored by the ECMC Foundation

Gresham D. Collom

Dissertation Research Fellow, UT Knoxville

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Bio. Gresham D. Collom is a doctoral candidate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration with a minor in statistics, and a graduate certificate in Evaluation, Statistics, and Measurement. Gresham serves as a graduate research assistant for the Postsecondary Education Research Center (PERC). He earned a Master of Science in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Gresham currently serves as the project coordinator on a longitudinal qualitative study exploring the experiences of adult students using a last-dollar scholarship to attend technical and community colleges in Tennessee. Gresham has co-authored publications in *The Review of Higher Education* and *The Journal of College Student Development*, authored a book chapter in *Supporting Fraternities and Sororities in the Contemporary Era: Advancements in Practice*, co-authored several professional reports for PERC, and presented his research at multiple national conferences.

Project. Adult learners are increasingly pursuing a postsecondary credential or degree to further their career and earning potential. Concurrently, to meet workforce needs and rejuvenate state and local economies policy makers across the country have passed or proposed legislation to encourage adult learners to enroll in postsecondary education. This mixed-methods study investigates the Tennessee Reconnect - a last-dollar scholarship for adult learners - and the impact of the grant on degree attainment and workforce outcomes.



Research Sponsor: J. Patrick Biddix, Ph.D.
Professor and Program Coordinator, Higher Education Administration (HEAM)
Associate Director, Postsecondary Education Research Center (PERC)
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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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