



Belk Center  
for Community College  
Leadership and Research



# 2020 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Sponsored by the ECMC Foundation

## Jennifer Fox

Dissertation Research Fellow, Pepperdine University

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**Bio.** Jennifer Fox is currently a dissertation candidate in Organizational Leadership in the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University. Jennifer is currently a secondary Assistant Principal in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District and member of the CTE Advisory Committee. Jennifer has over 15 years of experience as a classroom teacher, curriculum developer, teacher trainer, and administrator. She earned a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from California State University, Long Beach and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics. As part of her doctoral studies, Jennifer has worked on projects to promote college access and equity with organizations such as Questbridge and worked as graduate research assistant to advance research on community college students. In addition, she has presented at state and national conferences on topics related to CTE education, college access, the role of college Promise Programs, and labor force alignment to educational pathways.

**Project.** This study explores the factors that contribute to changes in degree aspirations of CTE community college students. While the general trend demonstrates a trend of "cooling out" of community college students, CTE students have unique student characteristics, backgrounds, and connections to the college environment. This quantitative study includes variables related to personal and family demographics, educational background and experiences, and the institutional characteristics to identify increased or decreased risk of changing degree aspirations.



Research Sponsor: Andrew Harvey, Ed.D.  
Faculty member  
Educational and Organizational Leadership  
Graduate School of Education and Psychology  
Pepperdine 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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