



Belk Center  
for Community College  
Leadership and Research



# 2020 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Sponsored by the ECMC Foundation

**Jennifer A. Freeman**

Doctoral Research Fellow, UC Santa Barbara

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**Bio.** Jennifer Freeman is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) specializing in policy and research methods. Jennifer’s research interests lie in educational policies that promote college and career readiness for underrepresented populations in STEM, particularly students with learning disabilities and community college transfer students. She is a research associate for a student support program at UCSB designed to help improve persistence in STEM fields for first-generation and other underrepresented students. Jennifer is also a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and is investigating the effects of undergraduate research participation on STEM degree attainment and entrance to STEM fields for community college transfer students. Her work has been presented at conferences of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), and University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). Jennifer was a community college transfer student from Santa Barbara City College and holds a B.S. in Zoology from UCSB.

**Project.** This project will explore an under-researched, non-traditional pathway to the pursuit of and persistence in STEM majors for students with learning disabilities (SWLDs). Using national data, this project will explore applied STEM courses—which are found within the career and technical education (CTE) taxonomy—that SWLDs take in high school and the extent to which taking these courses might help promote advancement towards postsecondary success in STEM.



Research Sponsor: Michael A. Gottfried, Ph.D.  
Professor, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education  
University of California, Santa Barbara

## 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.

## For more information contact:



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