



Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research



2020 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Sponsored by the ECMC Foundation

Melita Pope Mitchell, Ed.D.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Johnson C. Smith University

Twitter: @mindofmelita

Bio. Dr. Melita Pope Mitchell serves as the Assistant Dean and Director of Evening & Online Programs at Johnson C. Smith University. She received her Doctor of Education degree in Adult and Community College Education from North Carolina State University. Dr. Mitchell also holds a M.A. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in African American World Studies from the University of Iowa. Throughout her 22-year career in higher education, she has held positions in both student and academic affairs at the University of Michigan, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Johnson C. Smith University. She has served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Johnson C. Smith University since 2011 – delivering in-person, hybrid and online courses. Dr. Mitchell has presented at various international, national, regional, and state conferences regarding education and leadership. She is a veteran educator and advocate for adults and underrepresented populations in higher education. More specifically, her focus is on empowering these communities and finding pathways to economic mobility.

Project. The study seeks to identify the most important and least important influences on perceptions of CTE among middle school students. It will focus on an established program that targets this population to increase their awareness of career opportunities in the trades, manufacturing, healthcare and/or agriculture. Introducing CTE to younger students allows students to expand the scope of possibilities and outline multiple options for their postsecondary careers.



Research Sponsor: Laura Colson McLean, Ed.D.
Dean and Assistant Professor
Metropolitan College of Professional Studies
Johnson C. Smith 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.

For more information contact:



James E. Bartlett II, Ph.D.
james_bartlett@ncsu.edu
Twitter @drjamesbartlett
919-208-1697



Michelle E. Bartlett, Ph.D.
mebartle@ncsu.edu
Twitter @drmbartlett
919-208-1700

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