



# 2021 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

**Jacob A. Kamer, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, TN Higher Education Commission

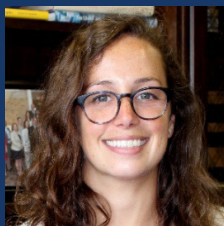
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Belk Center  
for Community College  
Leadership and Research

**Bio.** Jacob Kamer is a Research and Strategy Analyst at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). In his current role, he helps facilitate the production of THEC/TSAC’s annual statutory reporting, such as the Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book, and collaborates with internal and external stakeholders on research and data analysis. Prior to THEC/TSAC, Jacob was a graduate research assistant in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). In December 2020, Jacob earned his PhD in Higher Education Administration at UTK. Before beginning his doctoral studies, Jacob worked in the enrollment management division at King University.

**Project.** Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) are the most geographically diverse institutions in the state. Along with the 13 community colleges, TCATs are the primary providers of postsecondary CTE opportunities in Tennessee. Moreover, TCATs are critical to increasing the share of Tennesseans equipped with a postsecondary credential. As such, there is a need for a better understanding of TCAT student success. The purpose of this project, therefore, is to identify the factors that support TCAT student access, completion, and placement.



Research Sponsor: Amanda Klafehn  
Senior Director of Research and Strategy  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

## 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.,  
Principal Investigator

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