



2021 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Matthew Lenard

Dissertation Research Fellow, Harvard University

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Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research

Bio. Matthew Lenard is a Ph.D. candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) in its Education Policy and Program Evaluation concentration. His work focuses on using experimental and quasi-experimental research designs to measure the impacts of education programs and policies. He also studies the intersection of education and labor economics, especially teacher labor markets. Matthew is currently working on projects related to K-12 career and technical education interventions, peer effects, and school desegregation initiatives — in particular student assignment policies and magnet schools. Prior to attending HGSE, he was a Strategic Data Project Fellow at the Wake County Public School System in greater Raleigh and studied state education policies at the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta. He also taught middle school in Atlanta as a Teach for America corps member and co-founded education technology company BetterLesson. Matthew studied economics and Russian at Wesleyan University (BA) and political science at Georgia State University (MA).

Project. Matthew will study the impacts of high school industry certifications on secondary, postsecondary, and labor market outcomes. To do this, he will link administrative data sets in one of the nation’s largest school systems and compare outcomes for students on each side of qualifying scores required to earn certifications. The results will help policymakers better understand the role and relevance of this popular—but understudied—form of alternative education credentialing.



Research Sponsor: Luke Miratrix, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Affiliate Faculty of Statistics, Harvard University Department of Statistics

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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