



2021 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Brett Ranon Nachman

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, North Carolina State University

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Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research

Bio. Brett Ranon Nachman is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he recently defended his dissertation on how autistic community college students navigate higher education. His research centers on community college students' experiences and transfer pathways, autism in higher education, and LGBTQ+ campus climate. Brett's personal identities and experiences drive his investment in these spaces. Brett's independent and collaborative scholarship on these topics has been published in journals including *College Student Affairs Journal*, *The Review of Higher Education*, *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, *Teachers College Record*, and *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*. He serves as the Director of Research for the College Autism Network, for which he launched and oversees an online, international community of autism/higher education practitioners, scholars, self-advocates, and educators.

Project. This research endeavor aims to understand how disabled students enrolled in North Carolina community colleges reach their academic and professional objectives (including navigating transfer and employment pathways) through CTE programming participation. Concurrently the study explores how disabled students make sense of strengths and characteristics associated with their disabled identities while pursuing careers reflecting their passions and skillsets. The study follows a social justice approach of disability and invites disabled CTE students and CTE faculty as participants.



Research Sponsor: Audrey J. Jaeger, Ph.D.
Alumni Distinguished Graduate Professor, Educational Leadership, Policy and Human Development
Executive Director, Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research
North Carolina State 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.,
Principal Investigator

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