



# 2021 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

**Kesha S. Valentine, Ed.S.**

Dissertation Research Fellow, Old Dominion University

Twitter: @quest4inquiry | LinkedIn.com/ksvalentine



Belk Center  
for Community College  
Leadership and Research

Bio. Kesha S. Valentine is a doctoral candidate in the Career & Technical Education Program in the Darden College of Education at Old Dominion University. She earned her Ed.S. in Business Education (University of West Georgia), MBA (Marymount University), and a B.S. in Marketing (George Mason University). Kesha is a Secondary Library Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, the nation’s 10th largest school district. She builds capacity in, and challenges librarians to foster increasingly culturally responsive library programs that support the needs of all learners. She combines her strengths of coaching and developing innovative and engaging professional learning experiences to highlight best practices and inquiry-based approaches for adult learners. Kesha also serves as an equity lead for the Instructional Services Department. As a trailblazer and change-agent, she designs transformational learning opportunities for colleagues that encourage discussions about race and recognizing and redressing inequities. Her district-wide equity symposium presentation prompted further discussion and led to actionable change in the use of inclusive texts for instruction. Kesha’s most recent national conference presentations were at the American Library Association on using inquiry-based learning to close equity gaps in school libraries and the American Association of School Libraries on creating engaging professional learning.

Project. The majority of college students are not using the career resources afforded to them through their universities. This mixed-methods study will investigate the skills and concepts postsecondary students need to be considered career literate and when those skills should be acquired. Career literacy refers to a life-long set of skills that indicates an individual’s ability to understand, interpret, evaluate, and make decisions based on career-related information. Knowing and acting on this information may potentially level the career preparation playing field.



Research Sponsor: Mickey Kosloski, Ph.D.  
Assistant Chair, STEMPS Department  
Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director  
Old Dominion 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

## 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

#ECMCFellows

<http://go.ncsu.edu/ctefellows>