



2022-23

Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Jessica S. Goldstein

Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Arkansas

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Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research

Bio. Jessica S. Goldstein is a Distinguished Doctoral Fellow and Research Assistant in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas. Jessica’s research at the University of Arkansas focuses on how human decision-making influences educational outcomes with a specific interest in financial incentives and reforms. She specifically studies predictors of success in higher education, career and technical education from high school through workforce, and understanding the link between school finance and student outcomes. Jessica holds a B.S. in International Development and a Masters Degree in Global Development Policy from Cornell University. She was a 2010 Teach For America Corps Member in the Bay Area (CA), where she worked at KIPP Bay Area Schools while also serving as an education consultant for the Stanford University School of Medicine developing coursework for use with the world’s first virtual dissection table. Jessica has experience working within other large charter school networks, such as Summit Public Schools, and had the opportunity to serve as a lead school designer for Denver Public Schools, helping open Colorado’s first competency-based high school in 2015.

Project. This project evaluates the Arkansas Futures Grant Program, a state-based financial aid program which funds students enrolled in STEM or regional high-demand areas of postsecondary study. The grant covers 100% of tuition and fees for qualifying certificate and Associate degree programs at Arkansas’ public institutions for eligible students. This study estimates the impact of receiving an Arkansas Future Grant on student postsecondary and workforce outcomes and also investigates the influence on employment and pathway fidelity. This work is relevant for better understanding the effective design and implementation of CTE programs and also informs the literature on broad-sweeping financial aid initiatives and free college and student outcomes.



Research Sponsor: Joshua McGee, Ph.D.
Research Professor, Department of Education Reform
Assistant Director, Office for Education Policy
University of Arkansas
Chief Data Officer, State of Arkansas

The Program

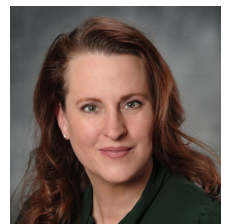
Fellows will be part of a community that participates in two national research training institutes, research methods webinars, works with CTE research mentors, and conducts postsecondary CTE research.

“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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