



Belk Center
for Community College
Leadership and Research



2020 Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Sponsored by the ECMC Foundation

Stephanie A. Fitzsimmons

Dissertation Research Fellow, University of South Florida

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Bio. Stephanie A Fitzsimmons is a doctoral candidate in the Career and Workforce Education program under the Curriculum and Instruction Department at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Stephanie holds a B.S. in Aviation Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL, as well as a Masters in Mathematics Education from Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT. Her experience in both industry and as a teacher has led her to her current leadership role. She currently works as the K-12 STEM Education Program Manager at Northrop Grumman leading efforts to engage, educate and excite students and teachers in STEM, with a focus on engineering and technology. Stephanie's interest in women and STEM has led her to where she is today, both academically and professionally. Her focused agenda is in understanding and strengthening gender parity in STEM career and educational pathways through research interests in social cognitive career theory (SCCT), self-efficacy, gender differences in SCCT, and STEM.

Project. STEM fields, including Computer Science (CS), are in great demand in the US and globally. Predictions show that within CS there is a skills shortage with an increasing demand for talent. The purpose of this study will be to explore the nature of the educational pathways, critical factors, commonalities and differences leading to undergraduate enrollment in CS through the lens of gender by looking at three focus areas encompassing the Social Cognitive Career Theory factors.



Research Sponsor: Victor M. Hernandez-Gantes, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Program Director
Career and Workforce Education
University of South Florida

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.

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