



2023-24

# Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

**Micara Lewis-Sessoms, Ed.D.**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, North Carolina State University

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Bio. Dr. Micara Lewis-Sessoms possesses experience in CTE focusing on the value of work-based learning (WBL) to community college programming and workforce development. She collaborates with community college leadership, students and employers to create equitable learning outcomes between CTE programs and industry. She is a graduate of the Community College Leadership doctoral program at North Carolina State University. Her research highlights the significance of embedding opportunities for community college students enrolled in CTE programs to enhance their soft/employability skills through WBL. In 2019, Dr. Lewis-Sessoms served as President of the North Carolina Work-Based Learning Association (NCWBLA).

Dr. Lewis-Sessoms currently serves as Durham Technical Community College’s Director of Work-Based Education and Apprenticeship. In this collaborative role, she serves as a leader in connecting the value of WBL to labor market outcomes. In 2020, she was selected to lead the college’s Back-to-Work initiative, which focuses on highlighting short-term training leading to industry recognized credentials and enhancing workplace skills. Previously, she served as Durham Tech’s Director, School-Age Education program, and Assistant Dean, Business and Entrepreneurship programs.

Project. Expanding Work-Based Learning (WBL) to CTE Short-Term Training: The proposed study will explore the role WBL plays on community college CTE short-term credential workforce programs. The focus will be on CTE short-term programs in a selected state and examine the role incorporating WBL into these programs plays on community college students gaining valuable employer engagement and connecting to the workforce.



Research Sponsor: Michelle E. Bartlett, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership  
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:



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