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Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellow

Emily M. Alonso

Doctoral Research Fellow, University of California - Davis

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Bio. Emily M. Alonso is a Ph.D. student at University of California (UC) Davis studying the reach and impact of Work-Based Learning (WBL) and online learning in community colleges. She works as a research assistant under Professor of Education at UC Davis, Dr. Cassandra Hart on a Spencer and an Institute of Education Sciences grants focused on online learning in community colleges. In her published work so far across these projects, she has studied equity in community colleges in online learning and has produced work across various qualitative and quantitative methods including descriptive and causal work with administrative and survey-based datasets and conducting and coding interview data. As a former community college student and current community college adjunct faculty teaching business technology and work experience courses, Emily's personal experiences also showcase her unwavering commitment to community college WBL and Career and Technical Education (CTE) research she will be conducting as a Postsecondary CTE Research Fellow.

Project. Work-Based Learning (WBL) has become an integral part of the U.S. Community College system (Jacobs & Worth, 2019; Wild & Ebbers, 2002). Despite large investments in WBL, it is unclear how success rates of community college students in WBL compare to those who do not take WBL courses. Furthermore, little is known as to which populations are participating in WBL, what the course taking patterns are for students who are participating in WBL. This project aims to answer this question drawing on rich administrative data from the California Community Colleges system, the largest community college system in the U.S. By understanding the reach of WBL, the outcomes associated with students who take WBL classes, and how these courses may facilitate student goal attainment, policy makers, community college leadership, and funders may better align support for WBL and their faculty facilitators to meet overarching community college workforce goals.



Research Sponsor: Cassandra M.D. Hart, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education Policy
University of California, Davis

The Program:

Part of ECMC Foundation's Postsecondary CTE Leadership Collaborative

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., PI

#ECMCFellows

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