



2024 ECMC Foundation Fellow Postsecondary CTE Research @ Old Dominion University

Sponsored by ECMC Foundation



NiñaFe Giron-Awong

Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research
Dissertation Research Fellow

Bio. Giron-Awong is an experienced Career and Technical Education (CTE) professional with over 19 years of experience in workforce development, educational leadership, and project management. NiñaFe's primary mission has been to align CTE programs with industry needs. She has developed and implemented robust statewide initiatives, policies, and programs that drive student achievement and prepare learners for high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers. NiñaFe has also effectively managed over 45 million in federal and state funding while successfully navigating complex legislative and regulatory landscapes, ensuring compliance and delivering measurable outcomes. NiñaFe has helped to refocus organizational lenses to recognize and reprioritize CTE at local and state levels. As a product of CTE education, she strongly advocates student-centered learning, supports instructor development, and believes in forging strategic partnerships that enrich educational experiences. NiñaFe is passionate about removing barriers and creating opportunities for learners to thrive and excel in their careers.

Project. This exploratory case study investigates the perception, experience, and satisfaction of novice alternatively certified Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructors employed at technical colleges in Florida regarding their current professional development (PD) opportunities. This research aims to identify and prioritize the PD needs of these educators, providing critical insights into the unique challenges and opportunities they encounter. Professional development is vital for enhancing educators' skills, knowledge, and effectiveness, particularly for those entering the profession through alternative certification programs.



Research Sponsor: Toby J. Park-Gaghan, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Dean
College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences
Florida State 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.

Applications for the 25-26 Postsecondary CTE Research Fellows will be available 1/15/25 and due 4/1/25.

<http://ctereseearchfellows.com>

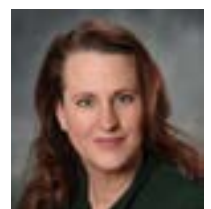
"We have designed this CTE Fellows program to provide scholars with the unique opportunity to be part of a community and a formal curriculum to develop their research skills while working toward improving the field of CTE."

— James Bartlett II, Ph.D.

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