



# 2025 ECMC Foundation Fellow Postsecondary CTE Research @ Old Dominion University

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## Kioshana LaCount Burrell

Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research  
Research Fellow

Bio. Kioshana LaCount Burrell is a career and workforce development professional with more than 15 years of experience supporting traditional and novel career training education programs through the lenses of inclusion, accessibility, and community engagement. A three-time internationally published, best-selling author, Kioshana has received multiple awards, including the 2024 Career Innovator Award from the Ohio Career Development Association and the 2023 CASE Circle of Excellence Award for Program Development. She holds an MBA from Faulkner University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Workforce Development and Education at The Ohio State University. Her primary areas of research interest are neurodiversity in workforce development and the intersections of digital transformation and inclusive career pathways.

Project. This qualitative intrinsic case study examines the BRB Café, an innovative work-based learning program in the American South designed to prepare neurodivergent high school students for post-secondary career training education (CTE) and employment. Through interviews with program graduates and stakeholders, the research explores lived experiences, the acquisition of employability skills, and effectiveness in facilitating postsecondary CTE transitions. Employing Psychology of Working Theory, Critical Disability Theory, and Community Cultural Wealth as theoretical frameworks, this study addresses critical gaps in post-secondary CTE research for neurodivergent populations. Findings will inform evidence-based practices, contributing to more inclusive educational pathways and improved employment outcomes for neurodivergent individuals.



Research Sponsor: Jay Plasman, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Director of Dennis Learning Center  
College of Education and Human Ecology  
The Ohio 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 26-27 Postsecondary CTE Research Fellows will be available 1/15/26 and due 4/1/26.

<http://ctereasearchfellows.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.

## For more information contact:



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