



2025 ECMC Foundation Fellow Postsecondary CTE Research @ Old Dominion University

Sponsored by ECMC Foundation



Chenjun Yu

Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research
Research Fellow

Bio. Chenjun Yu is a Ph.D. student and graduate research assistant at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the role of postsecondary education as a pathway to economic advancement, particularly through studying stackable credential pathways at community colleges and evaluating labor market outcomes of state financial aid policies. She has a strong background in quantitative analysis of large administrative datasets and is expanding her expertise in qualitative methods. Before pursuing her doctorate, she gained professional experience in academic advising projects at Tsinghua University, where she earned an MA in Education Economics and Management and a BA in Japanese Language and Literature. She has presented her work on higher education and workforce development at national conferences, including the Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference and the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.

Project. This study examines how community college CTE students who work while enrolled navigate industry downturns. Using administrative panel data from the Great Recession period, this project will employ quasi-experimental methods to analyze enrollment and employment patterns among working CTE students, with a particular focus on students from lower-income backgrounds and those with high work intensity. This research aims to provide essential evidence for postsecondary CTE policymakers and institutional practitioners to support working students during economic disruptions, improving educational and workforce outcomes.



Research Sponsor: Walt Ecton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Marsal Family College of Education
University of Michigan

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 4/1/15/26.

<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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