

Project Title: Exploring Auxiliary Data to Understand the Career Pathways of the Skilled Technical Workforce

Awardee: The State University of New Jersey, Rutgers University

Contract Number: 49100421C0021

Award Type: R&D

Award Amount: \$498,633

Principal Investigator: Heather McKay

NSF Funding Program: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

NSF Program Director: Jennifer Sinibaldi, jsinibal@nsf.gov

Abstract:

As higher education institutions expand their offerings of non-degree credentials through their noncredit programs, states engage in conversations about non-degree credential quality and funding, and federal policymakers consider extending funds for short-term Pell, a foundational understanding of these programs and credentials is essential. Working with state partners in Iowa, Louisiana, and Virginia community college systems, Rutgers Education and Employment Research Center (EERC) proposes to conduct an analysis of program-level noncredit data to examine what non-degree credentials are, the characteristics of programs that lead to them, and how programs and credentials vary across different contexts including institutions, states, and industries. In addition to this analysis, the project will convene a Learning Community of states on noncredit education and non-degree credentials. This project will lay the groundwork for common definitional language for future data collection and analysis efforts to improve the understanding of the value and quality of noncredit programs and non-degree credentials—educational activities that increasingly are contributing to creating a skilled technical workforce.