

CCRC's Cancelled Federal Funding

The U.S. Department of Education's early 2025 funding cancellations have affected five CCRC projects: One contract with a Regional Education Laboratory was cancelled February 13 and four grants for research projects were cancelled on March 7.

Does Federal Work-Study Work for Students? Evidence From a Randomized Controlled Trial

Project lead: Judith Scott-Clayton

Grant amount: \$2,782,727

Timing: 4.5 years into a 6-year project

This project evaluates the impact of receiving a federal work-study (FWS) offer on academic and employment outcomes for low-income undergraduate aid applicants at a large, urban public college system. FWS subsidizes part-time jobs for college students, mostly on-campus, both to support them financially and to give them work opportunities that are more relevant to their future careers and more compatible with their academic studies than the jobs they might have access to otherwise. In a typical year, the program provides over \$1 billion in support to over 450,000 college students with financial need at more than 3,000 institutions across the country. The FWS program is one of the oldest federal policy tools intended to promote college access and persistence for low-income students, yet this project was the first to rigorously evaluate it in an effort to ensure that every dollar invested is having the maximum positive impact on students.

Accelerating Recovery in Community Colleges (ARCC) Network Lead Team

Project lead: Thomas Brock

Grant amount: \$3 million

Timing: 2.5 years into a 3-year project

This grant funds the lead team for the [Accelerating Recovery in Community Colleges Network](#), or ARCC Network, which consists of CCRC, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, and Wheelhouse: The Center for Community College Leadership and Research at the University of California, Davis. The lead team coordinates the work of six research teams that are working closely with community colleges and college systems to identify and evaluate programs and policies designed to reverse enrollment declines and support students' academic progress and workforce training, including projects on online education, academic coaching, and financial aid in high-demand workforce fields. The lead team is also conducting national research on enrollment and transfer trends and the effectiveness of pandemic recovery funding.

Virginia Workforce Recovery: A Research Partnership to Strengthen G3

Project lead: Nikki Edgecombe

Grant amount: \$2,999,746

Timing: 2.5 years into a 3-year project

This project is a collaboration between CCRC, the Virginia Community College System, and researchers at University of Pennsylvania to examine and improve [Get A Skill, Get A Job, Get Ahead](#) (G3). G3 is a workforce recovery initiative launched in 2021 in Virginia community colleges to provide a last-dollar scholarship to middle- and low-income students in workforce programs in five high-demand fields (healthcare, information technology and computer science, manufacturing and skilled trades, early childhood education, and public safety). It also provides pathways into longer-term programs, dedicated advising, and other resources to help students earn certificates and degrees. The three-year research project is studying the implementation and academic and labor market outcomes of G3. It is one of the six research projects in the ARCC Network.

Postsecondary Education Applied Research (PEAR) Fellowship

Project lead: Thomas Brook

Grant amount: \$3,495,949

Timing: 4 years and 8 months into a 6-year project

The [Postsecondary Education Applied Research](#) (PEAR) Fellowship trains Teachers College doctoral students to conduct research on postsecondary, adult, and career and technical education in partnership with education agencies and postsecondary systems. The grant supports 15 PhD students over four cohorts for up to five years and trains them to become applied higher education researchers with a focus on quantitative analysis skills and practical project management. In addition to supporting students from across the U.S., the fellowship trains the next generation of researchers with the expertise to evaluate the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of educational programs and interventions. The program is administered by CCRC and the Teachers College Department of Education Policy and Social Analysis.

An Evaluation of a Toolkit to Support Postsecondary Learning With Technology

Project lead: Thomas Brook

Subcontract amount: \$1,350,680

Timing: 3 years into a 5-year project

An Institute of Education Sciences practice guide, [Using Technology to Support Postsecondary Student Learning](#), offers strategies to help postsecondary instructors, instructional designers, and administrators select and implement technologies that support student learning. The [Regional Education Laboratory \(REL\) Northwest](#), led by WestEd, developed a toolkit to facilitate the adoption of the recommendations in the practice guide. CCRC is evaluating the professional learning component of the toolkit through a contract with REL Northwest. The evaluation covers both the implementation of a structured faculty learning course on the use of technology and its impact on instructional practices and student success using a randomized controlled trial at four Oregon community colleges.