



## STRATEGIC DATA PROJECT

HIGHER EDUCATION

# Transforming Data Strategy for Postsecondary Institutions with Career and Technical Education Programs

The **Strategic Data Project (SDP)**, a program of the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard University, is launching the second cohort of the **Strategic Data Project Fellowship for Career and Technical Education (SDP-CTE)**, sponsored by the ECMC Foundation (ECMCF). The fellowship strengthens and supports talented data leaders in higher education who are improving the impact of postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs to help students thrive in their career, the workforce, and life.

More than 4 million students in postsecondary institutions participate in CTE programs. These programs provide practical pathways into careers by providing technical skills that prepare students for employability. Yet institutions of higher education often lack the capacity to track each student's journey through their program and into the workforce. There is an urgent need for postsecondary institutions to leverage available data to understand how to keep CTE students on track for long-term success.

### ABOUT SDP

Launched in 2008, the Strategic Data Project builds analytic capacity within K12 partners to generate quality evidence that informs policy and practice. SDP has collaborated with more than 145 school districts, charter management organizations, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations and has trained more than 350 education data leaders. SDP is building a network to support institutions of higher education.



## FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

In her strategic data project for Shippensburg University and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, SDP fellow Sue Mukherjee sought to help students and parents make better decisions about their education and future work. Mukherjee merged over 450,000 professional and student profiles to uncover timely and regionally-specific information about which schools and majors might be best suited to meet an individual student's needs. As a result of this work, Pennsylvania has made significant progress on using data to produce a supply-demand gap analysis.



## Program Components

The Strategic Data Project for Career and Technical Education is a one-year fellowship program for postsecondary institutions with CTE programs that want to strengthen their use of data to improve outcomes for students.

- » **Strategic Project.** Two SDP ECMCF fellows per institution carry out a strategic data project related to postsecondary career and technical education that will be used to advance student success and program decision-making.
- » **Practical Skills.** Fellows attend four workshops and are trained in: methodology and statistical programming, communication and influence skills, problem solving, and updates on relevant research findings. These four areas provide the foundation for using data and implementing changes based on data-informed findings.
- » **Network Mentorship.** Fellows receive world-class faculty and mentor support on their strategic data projects. They also benefit from a cohort of thoughtful data-driven colleagues and staff.
- » **Stipend.** SDP ECMCF Fellows will receive a \$3,000 professional development stipend.

## Working With Us

SDP will partner with institutions committed to using data and evidence for improving their CTE programs. Participation is free of charge. Ideal partners are:

**Committed to using evidence for change • Committed to the use of data to inform CTE-related decisions and policy • Able to access the data needed to complete their proposed analytic projects**

Partner institutions will nominate two SDP ECMCF fellows to participate in the program. These fellows should bring strong quantitative knowledge, leadership skills, and a commitment to improve student success.

**SDP FOR CTE COHORT 2 BEGINS IN FALL 2021.**

For additional information, visit [sdp.cepr.harvard.edu/fellowship-cte](https://sdp.cepr.harvard.edu/fellowship-cte) or contact Adrienne Murphy at [sdp\\_highered@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:sdp_highered@gse.harvard.edu).