

The Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions of Rutgers University is conducting a study entitled Developing A Career Services Toolkit for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness Pursuing Career & Technical Education (CTE). The purpose of the study is to develop a manualized toolkit to help individuals with mental health conditions achieve better outcomes in CTE. One critical element of a high-quality toolkit is to include the expert input based on their CTE knowledge and experiences.

CTE refers to vocationally oriented certification or degree programs which are taught around a set of specific, technical standards based on the essential job functions of a particular occupation. CTE programs frequently offer both academic and career-oriented courses, and many provide students with the opportunity to gain work experience through apprenticeship, internships, job shadowing, on-the-job training. CTE includes many diverse career tracks from automotive technology, construction, plumbing, or electrician, to agriculture, manufacturing, supply chain, culinary arts, fashion design, information technology, healthcare, or veterinary medicine. It provides an accelerated and specialized entryway into diverse careers.

If you have a minimum experience of three (3) years in one of the following groups, we'd like to invite you to participate in our study. If you qualify and complete the study, you will receive a \$200 honorarium.

- CTE teacher, field instructor, or administrator at a community college, county vocational school or trade school.**
- A CTE business owner, or hiring manager, or direct supervisor of workers in CTE fields.**
- A graduate of a CTE program within the past 3 years and are currently working in the CTE job, and also have lived experience of a mental health condition such as depression, anxiety, bipolar, etc.**
- A family member who provides support to the above CTE graduate/worker.**
- A counselor of vocational rehabilitation, career services, or mental health who has provided services to individuals with mental health conditions to study or work in a CTE field.**

If you have any questions about the study or would like to participate, please email Dr. Ni Gao, the Principal Investigator of the study at [gaoni@rutgers.edu](mailto:gaoni@rutgers.edu).

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.