



Welcome to ICF *Education Connections*

The February 2017 issue of *Education Connections* begins with a look at ICF's partnership with Tennessee to create new guidance for teachers on social and emotional learning practices. Next, we report on ICF's recent interview with West Virginia's Kathy D'Antoni about the state's Simulated Workplace initiative. Our issue closes with an introduction to ICF Fellow, Xiaodong Zhang.

ICF's expertise extends from early education to K-12 schooling, to postsecondary education and workforce development. The solutions we devise with our clients enhance their capacity to achieve the outcomes they seek. Visit our [website](#) for more information about ICF in education.

ICF Partners with Tennessee to Create Online Modules



Social and personal competencies are designed to teach children an array of aptitudes that are critical to successful choices, including getting along with others, managing difficult emotions, and resolving conflicts. ICF is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Education and the Center on Great

Teachers and Leaders to develop a collection of online modules that portray ten evidence-based social and personal competencies. View the four videos posted to date at this [link](#). In addition to the remaining modules, ICF will assist TDE to develop 16 video clips illustrating the competencies and to plan and evaluate professional development for teachers on the modules.

"If you try to teach content without having that relationship, you're not going to get through to a lot of these kids." – Jarred Amato, teacher featured on the "Student-Centered Discipline" module

ICF Interviews West Virginia CTE Leader

Dr. Tony Marchese of ICF recently interviewed Dr. Kathy D'Antoni, Chief Officer of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the West Virginia Department of Education about innovative approaches to CTE in West Virginia. "Reimagining Career and Technical Education" is a three-part series in which Dr. D'Antoni engages in an in-depth discussion of West Virginia's Simulated Workplace initiative, how it operates and how it produces different outcomes for students. In the third segment of the series, Dr. Marchese talks with high school students Savannah Keeney, in a pre-pharmacy workplace, and Rachel Peal, in pre-engineering, about their experiences and how these have shaped their career plans and confidence in their futures.



To view the interview series, visit this [link](#).

"When you talk about career and technical education, it is as high level academically as you want it to be. Yes, it is hands-on, because you actually do something with your knowledge." –Dr. Kathy D'Antoni

Profile of ICF Thought Leader Dr. Xiaodong Zhang



Dr. Xiaodong Zhang is a fellow at ICF with 20 years of experience in methodological research, program evaluation, technical assistance, project management, and business development. Dr. Zhang applies his extensive knowledge of rigorous quantitative and qualitative designs as well as psychometric techniques to help clients and practitioners understand the relationships between

program implementation and outcomes. Through his direct experiences with state and local education agency staff, and clients such as the U.S. Department of Education, National Science Foundation, and Corporation for National and Community Service, Dr. Zhang has in-depth experience with on-the-ground implementation as well as the design of program evaluations. He has published widely throughout technical reports, peer-reviewed journals, and magazines for practitioners.