

# Oral Defense Announcement

## University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree  
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

Christopher E. Reynolds, Sr.

M.S.Ed. Workforce Education & Development, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 2008  
B.S. Automotive Technology, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 2007  
B.S.Ed. Workforce Education & Development, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 2007  
A.A.S. Automotive Technology, Lewis & Clark Community College, 2004

### **The Development of Automotive Technicians: A Qualitative Inquiry of Experiential Obstacles and Expectations**

Date: July 29, 2024  
Time: 12:30PM-2:00PM  
Place: Remote

#### **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to explore automotive technicians' and automotive technician educators' obstacles and expectations they faced during their educational and occupational endeavors. Constructivism and social constructivism were used as theoretical frameworks. Autoethnography was the selected qualitative research method. Using an interpretive process, they identified the convergent topics of professional obstacles, challenging normalcies, the drive for professional certification, educational policy, a conflicting technical accreditation model, bridging the gap between industry and education and experiential learning's impact on technician competency, to name a few. This research provides effective methods for overcoming the barriers we experience.

#### **Defense of Dissertation Committee**

E. Paulette Isaac-Savage, Ed.D., Committee Chairperson  
Kathleen Haywood, Ph.D., Committee Member  
Shane Lange, Ed.D., Committee Member