

**PathTech LISTEN**  
**Detailed Interview Guide – June 2019**

Greeting

Confirm Consent; ask if R has any questions about the study

Confirm that it is okay to record the interview.

Let's start the interview going back in time a bit. When did you graduate from high school?

Tell me about the time period in between high school and now.

Probe: further schooling/training, work, family

NOTE: Try to create a chronology of life events/transitions

What are some things you like about your program at [the community college/other educational institution]?

Probe: classes, instructors, schedule, advising, campus resources

What are some challenges you faced in your program at [the community college/other educational institution]?

Probe: academics, school-work-life balance

What are some ways you overcame these challenges at [the community college/other educational institution]?

[For students who have a job] How did you find this job? Tell me about your job search process.

[For students who have a job] What do you like about your job?

[For students who have a job] What are some challenges you face at work?

Probe: technical skills, soft skills, salary/benefits, promotion/advancement, work-life balance

[For students who have a job] How do you deal with these challenges at your job?

[For students who have a job] How has the skills you learned in your program helped you at work?

[Educational background questions]

What math and science classes did you take in high school?

Probes: Chemistry, Physics, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus

Did you participate in any Career and Technical Education classes, vocational educational program, or a career academy in high school?

If yes, which ones?

Have you been involved in any internships, apprenticeship, or co-ops?

Probes: when, where, experience, relevance to current job

I also wanted to ask you a bit about your family background:

What kind of work do/did your parents do?

Probe: Were there any family members in technician/engineering careers

Probe: IF it feels comfortable/flows, ask about parents educational background - How far did they go? What field? Be sure to distinguish between certificates/licenses, some college (2-yr or 4-yr), two-year degree, four-year degree

One last question, please tell me what originally interested you in this field?

Probes: high school experiences, prior college experiences, work experiences, family/peer influences, hobbies/interests, etc.

Thank participant for their time. Confirm that they will be receiving \$50 Amazon gift card within the next few days.

### **Guiding Research Questions:**

1. How do students from diverse backgrounds at different life stages (non-traditional, married, parents) experience their advanced technology program? How do they address challenges they face? What supports contribute to successful experiences in advanced technology programs?
2. What are students' short-term educational goals? Did students accomplish their short-term educational goals (i.e. complete specific coursework, earn certificate or degree)?
3. What aspects of an advanced technology education prepare students meet their broader educational goals (i.e. transferring to a four-year university and earning a bachelor's degree) and/or employment goals (i.e. increased wages, promotion, getting a new job)? What aspects of the advanced technology education are the barriers to meeting broader educational goals and/or employment goals?
4. What program and institutional efforts do colleges around the country employ to increase recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds, to increase retention and persistence, and to stay connected to former students?

### **Interview 1**

1. When you participated in our earlier study, you were at student at \_\_\_\_\_ College. Fill me in on your life since then, are you still in school, are you working, any changes in your family life?
2. What originally interested you in this field?
  - a. Probes: high school experiences, prior college experiences, work experiences, family/peer influences, hobbies/interests, etc.
3. What are some things that you liked about your program?
  - a. Probe: classes, instructors, schedule, advising, campus resources
4. What are some challenges you face(d) as a student?

- a. Probes: academics, school-work-life balance
5. What are some challenges you face at work / finding work?
    - a. Probes: technical skills, soft skills, salary/benefits, promotion/advancement, work-life balance
  6. Educational background questions:
    - a. What math and science classes did you take in high school?
      - i. Probes: Chemistry, Physics, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus
    - b. Did you participate in any Career and Technical Education classes, vocational educational program, or career academy in high school?
      - i. If yes, which ones?
  7. Were you involved in any internships, apprenticeship, or co-ops?
    - a. Probes: when, where, experience, relevance to current job

## **Interview 2**

1. When we last spoke, you were studying/working at \_\_\_\_\_. Fill me in on your life since then, are you still in school, are you working, any changes in your family life?
2. In thinking about the future, what are your short- and long-term plans?
  - a. Probes: future schooling, employment aspirations, partner/family formation
3. Do you have any worries or concerns about the future?
  - a. Probes: educational credentialing, job placement and security, finances
4. In thinking about your experiences over the past few years, what advice do you have for people trying to get into your field?
  - a. Probes: program, work, other experiences