

## **Tamekia Bailey PodCAST Transcript**

Kara Snyder:

Kara, hello and welcome to a special edition of the Podcast, the podcast produced by the College of Applied Science and Technology. I'm your host, Kara Snyder, and I serve as the assistant dean of marketing communications and constituent relations for the College. Our four minute Friday episodes are quick chats about what's up on campus, helping you to make the most of your time as a Redbird. Today, we have the opportunity to talk with Tamika Bailey, Director of Student Success and cast connections in the College of Applied Science and Technology. Welcome and thank you for being here.

Tamekia Bailey:

Hi. Thank you for having me.

Kara Snyder:

So first, we need to know what exactly is CAST Connections.

Tamekia Bailey:

Oh, great question. So CAST Connections is a student success initiative that provides out of the classroom opportunities for CAST students. We focus on three pillars. One is academic, two is personal, social development, and then the third pillar is short term professional experiences.

Kara Snyder:

And I was hoping you would be able to define micro internships for us. That's a term you don't hear every day. Can you tell us about those?

Tamekia Bailey:

Yes. So micro internships is really a short term experience for students, and the concept of the internship, of the micro internship is really to be a bite size experience for students to get a taste of what it will be like within their field of study. And the reason why you do not hear it often is because it is something that is newly developed, I will say, about five years ago, this concept of micro internships popped up, really, to have first and second year students get a hands on experience early on in their college career, so that it can either solidify that they're going in the right direction, or it could advise them with a pause to say, well, maybe this particular field is not right for me, and students would know that early on, so if they decide to change directions, it's early enough within their college career to do so. What we focus on in cats connections is trying to provide at least two weeks to four weeks of experience within a college student major, and that can range from having an internship within like a veterinarian office or a campus police department, right? And so the students are able to, again, get that hands on experience and to really understand what they are signing up for in terms of that particular career. And so a student can do a micro internship two times in their first and second year, and then one time in their junior and senior year.

Because what we do find is that a lot of juniors and seniors may have already experienced an internship, but now they want to change directions in their particular career focus, and now they just need some experience within that focus so that they can speak to that experience, you know, on a future job interview and things of that nature.

Kara Snyder:

Oh, I love that. For them, that's a great opportunity. And I see that you also offer the individualized student consultation, which I thought was really interesting. So if I'm a student who is interested in that opportunity, what could I expect from that process?

Tamekia Bailey:

So the individual student consulting really came out of a program that is tailored to individualized attention, and not all students need the same thing. And so instead of creating kind of like a general program for students, this students really focus on the needs of a particular student. And so that just means that if a student comes to an appointment, it can focus on a range of things, right? It can focus on just having a referral to having one on one meetings because they are looking at post grad opportunities. So it's really what the student decide that they need assistance with in that season of their lives, right? It's meant to really just focus on something that a student needs at that particular point in their career journey.

Kara Snyder:

Well, this sounds great. Lots of opportunities to get involved with cast connections, and if I want to learn more about how to get involved with cast connections, where do I go?

Tamekia Bailey:

Well, you can definitely go to the CAST website, because there is a button on our link on the website that says, refer student. A student can refer themselves. A teacher can refer a student and or a staff member can refer a student to CAST Connections or you can email me at [tybaile@ilstu.edu](mailto:tybaile@ilstu.edu),

Kara Snyder:

Well, thanks for that great information, and thanks again for being here. That was Tamika Bailey, Director of Student Success in CAST Connections. Thanks for tuning in to this episode of four minute Fridays. If you have an idea of something that we should chat about on these short episodes, contact information is in the show notes.