

## **CAREER PREPAREDNESS IN THE THEATRE ARTS: A REFLECTIVE PROCESS GUIDED BY STUDENT CHALLENGES RELATED TO INDIVIDUALITY**

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College students choosing a career in the Theatre Arts face an array of challenges driven not only by their passions and interests, but also by their individual backgrounds, belief systems, choices, and needs. Idealized career mindsets are met with obstacles placed by the ever-evolving Theatre Arts industry and from the evolution of the individual. The anxiety associated with the uncertainties of a Theatre arts career have also been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. This study uses reflections and surveys to provide insight into student problem solving and persistence as they move through their college experience and transition into the professional world. We hope to prepare students for the certainty of uncertainty by increasing understanding about how students persist through these challenges, build resilience, and how it affects their career preparedness at the freshman, graduate, and alumni levels.

