# 2022 - 23 ANNUAL REPORT

**Western Michigan University**
The Evaluation Center

wmich.edu/evaluation

# ABOUT US

The Evaluation Center was established in 1965 at The Ohio State University and relocated to WMU in 1973. It is a research unit that reports to the Vice President for Research and Innovation. Our mission is to advance the theory, practice, and utilization of evaluation through research, education, service, and leadership.

# PERSONNEL

## Leadership Team

Brad Watts, Assistant Director
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Lori Wingate, Executive Director
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

## Research Staff

Ruqayyah Abu-Obaid, Research Associate
M.A., Economics, Al al-Bayt University, Jordan

Lyssa Wilson Becho, Principal Research Associate
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Ryan Castillo, Project Manager
Ph.D., Sociology, WMU

Melissa Dancy, Principal Research Associate
Ph.D., Philosophy and Physics, North Carolina State University

Arlen Gullickson, Emeritus Researcher
Ph.D., Educational Research, University of Colorado

Miranda Jade Lee, Research Associate
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Megan López, Senior Research Associate
Ph.D., Population Health, Northeastern University

Valerie Marshall, Research Associate
M.A., Sociology, Boston College

Stephen Magura, Research Director of Behavioral Studies
Ph.D., Sociology, Rutgers University

Kelly Robertson, Principal Research Associate
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Erika Sturgis, Research Data Analyst
M.S.W., University of Michigan

## Administrative Staff

Maureen Green, Project Assistant
B.A., Telecommunications, Indiana University

Samantha Hooker, Marketing and Communication Specialist Senior
B.A., English, WMU

Tina Smith-Balanda, Budget Analyst
B.S., Eastern Michigan University

Mary Ramlow, Administrative Assistant Senior
M.P.A., Public Affairs and Administration, WMU

## Student Employees

John Akwetey—Interdisciplinary Evaluation (Ph.D. student)

Maritza Miranda—Social Work (M.S.W. student)

Christopher Proctor—Aerospace Engineering (Ph.D. student)

Dung Pham—Evaluation, Measurement, and Research (Ph.D. student)

Michael Hart—Interdisciplinary Evaluation (Ph.D. student)

# ACTIVITIES

## Visiting Scholar

**Corrie Whitmore**
**Associate Professor, University of Alaska, and President, American Evaluation Association**
January 17-19, 2023

Corrie Whitmore's visit included in-person meetings with center staff and doctoral students and a virtual meeting with Michigan Association for Evaluation board members. She also gave a presentation for the Evaluation Cafe presentation titled "The Synergy of Evaluation and Story."

## Evaluation Café Series

The Evaluation Café is a series of presentations on evaluation topics held semi-monthly at The Evaluation Center during the academic year.

**Beyond the bar: Alternative methods for visualizing change between two data points**
September 14, 2022
Ana Nyame-Mensah, founder and principal, Analytics Made Accessible, LLC

**Strategic evaluation and learning for organizations**
September 21, 2022
Jill Miller, director, Center for Applied Learning and Impact, IREX

**Google Data Studios for evaluators and a 'no-code' data science toolbox for evaluators**
September 28, 2022
Brian Perron, professor, University of Michigan, School of Social Work

**Most significant change stories of impact: A 2-in-1 program monitoring and outcome evaluation method**
October 5, 2022
Sue Ann Savas, clinical associate professor, University of Michigan, School of Social Work

**GIS and remote sensing analytics**
October 12, 2022
Kathleen Butler, founder, GeoLiteracy, LLC

**A quality approach to the in-depth interview method**
October 26, 2022
Margaret R. Roller, founder, Roller Research

**The aesthetic perspectives framework, art for change, and Indigenous Nation (re)building**
November 2, 2022
Miriam Jorgensen, research director, University of Arizona

**Evaluation as a reflective practice: Practical implications for the field**
November 16, 2022
Tiffany Tovey, clinical associate professor and director, Office of Assessment, Evaluation and Research Services, University of North Carolina Greensboro

**Using a medicine wheel logic model**
November 30, 2022
Martin Reinhardt, professor, Center for Native American Studies, Northern Michigan University

**What implications do the growing discourses on equity, decolonizing development, and localization have for the practice of evaluation in the international context?**
December 7, 2022
Elvis Fraser, founder and managing director of Sankofa Consulting, LLC

**The synergy of evaluation and story**
January 18, 2023
Corrie Whitmore, associate professor, University of Alaska, and AEA president

**Ensuring credibility and usability of your qualitative findings**
January 25, 2023
Philip Adu, founder, Center for Research Methods Consulting, LLC

**Considering your professional ethics and values in your data work**
February 8, 2023
Bri Christy, technical assistance evaluation and assessment manager, University of Michigan

**Bringing lived experience to evaluation**
February 15, 2023
Jade Maloney, partner and CEO, ARTD Consultants

**Evaluating agricultural and agribusiness transformation through private sector involvement in driving community value chains in Sub-Saharan Africa**
February 22, 2023
Marian Tandoh Wordey, agriculture value chain and market linkage advisor

**What's a girl gonna do: Understanding evaluation theory from a postcolonial lens**
March 1, 2023
Brianna Hooks Singletary, Tyler Clark, and Malitsitso Moteane, Ph.D. candidates, University of North Carolina Greensboro

**Distilling evaluation practice into 43 essential tasks**
April 5, 2023
Lori Wingate, executive director, The Evaluation Center, Western Michigan University; and Kelly Robertson, principal research associate, The Evaluation Center, Western Michigan University

**Teaching evaluation through role play**
April 12, 2023
Michael Harnar, assistant professor, Western Michigan University; Kari Ross Nelson, doctoral student; Allison Prieur, doctoral student

## EvaluATE Webchat Series

EvaluATE is the evaluation hub for the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program. EvaluATE hosts monthly webchats, which are an opportunity for small groups of ATE evaluation community members and others to come together to share and learn from each other in real-time.

**Writing evaluation plans for ATE proposals**
July 2022
Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Data visualization**
August 2022
Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Using findings from the ATE Survey**
September 2022
Lyssa Wilson Becho and Erika Sturgis

**Reflections from the ATE PI Conference**
November 2022
Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Using your evaluation findings**
November 2022
Megan Lopez and Kelly Robertson

**Reflecting on evaluation in 2022**
December 2022
Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Preparing for the 2023 ATE Survey**
January 2023
Lyssa Wilson Becho and Erika Sturgis

**Working with your institutional research office**
February 2023
Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Completing the 2023 ATE Survey**
February 2023
Erika Sturgis and Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Completing the 2023 ATE Survey**
March 2023
Lyssa Wilson Becho and Erika Sturgis

**Answering evaluative questions**
March 2023
Lori Wingate

**Writing effective and actionable evaluation recommendations**
April 2023
Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Putting your evaluation into action**
May 2023
Lyssa Wilson Becho

**Diversity, equity, and inclusion in evaluations**
June 2023
Lyssa Wilson Becho, Ayesha Boyce, and Tiffany Tovey

## Presentations

Names of center personnel are in **bold** in the entries below.

Schroter, D., Montrosse-Moorhead, B., & **Becho, L.W.** (2023, June). *Locating realist evaluation within the garden of evaluation approaches*. Presentation at the annual conference of the International Public Policy Association, Toronto, Canada.

**Marshall, V.,** & Fields, J. (2023, May). *Working with community organizations to address evaluation gaps and issues*. Presentation at the annual Michigan Association for Evaluation conference, Lansing, MI.

**Marshall, V.**, **Becho, L.W.,** & Slowinski, M. (2022, November). *Bridging workplace-based learning research and practice in ATE*. 2022 Advanced Technological Education Conference, virtual.

**Sturgis, E.**, & **Marshall, V.** (2022, July). *Making data useful for your ATE proposal: A how-to of the ATE data dashboard*. Presentation at the HI-TEC 2022 Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Robertson, K.N., Wingate, L.A.** (2022, November). *Distilling evaluation practice into 43 essential tasks*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association, New Orleans, LA.

Wingate, L.A. (2022, September). *Evaluation basics for grant proposals*. Lunch-and-Learn series. Western Michigan University Home Stryker School of Medicine, virtual.

Watts, B.R., Castillo, R.P., Akwetey, J.F., & Pham, D. (2022, November). *The program evaluation standards in evaluation scholarship and practice*. Presentation at the annual American Evaluation Association conference, New Orleans, LA.

## Blogposts

Robertson, K., & Wingate, L. (2023, June). Communicating a compelling evaluation plan in your ATE proposal, Part 1: The evaluator. *EvaluATE blog.*

Robertson, K., & Wingate, L. (2023, June). How ATE proposal evaluation plans have changed over time: 2004-17. *EvaluATE blog.*

Watts, B. (2023, March). Lessons learned from the history of making a university-based center. *AEA365: A Tip-A-Day by and for Evaluators.*

Wingate, L. (2022, August). ATE evaluation judges advise alignment. *EvaluATE blog.*

Wingate, L., Robertson, K., Rucks, L., & FitzGerald, M. (2022, August). Using evaluation plans to study evaluation capacity. *AEA365: A Tip-A-Day by and for Evaluators.*

Wingate, L., & Robertson, K. (2022, August). Keeping participants involved in long-term studies. *AEA365: A Tip-A-Day by and for Evaluators.*

## Publications

The publications listed below do not include numerous technical reports prepared for The Evaluation Center's clients and sponsors.

Ruh, R., Williams, C.T., Lopez, M., & Becho, L. (2022). Barriers to collecting student participation and completion date for a national STEM education grant program in the United States: A multiple case study. *International Journal of STEM Education, 9*(30).

Magura, S., Lee, M.J., Abu-Obaid, R.N., Landsverk, J., DeCamp, W. Rolls-Reutz, J., Perkins, D.F. (2023). The influence of evidence-based program registry websites for dissemination of evidence-based interventions in behavioral healthcare. *Evaluation and Program Planning, 97*, 102214.

Lee-Easton, M.J., Magura, S., Maranda, M.J., Landsverk, J., Rolls-Reutz, J., Green, B., DeCamp, W., & Abu-Obaid, R. (2022). A scoping review of the influence of evidence-based program resources websites for behavioral health. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health, 50*(3), 379-391.

Lee-Easton, M.J., Magura, S., & Maranda, M.J. (2022). Utilization of evidence-based intervention criteria in U.S. federal grant funding announcements for behavioral healthcare. *Inquiry, 59,* 1-16.

**Maranda, M.J., Lee-Easton, M.J., Magura, S.** (2022). Variations in definitions of evidence-based interventions for behavioral health in eight selected U.S. states. *Evaluation Review, 46*(4), 363-390.

**Lee-Easton, M.J., Magura, S., Abu-Obaid, R.N.**, Landsverk, J., DeCamp, W., Rolls-Reutz, J., Moore, K., Firpo-Triplett, R., Buckley, P.R., Stout, E.R., & Perkins, D.F. (2022). Visitors' assessment and utilization of evidence-based program resources websites. *Substance Use & Misuse, 57*(11), 1688-1697.

**Magura, S., Lee, M.J., Abu-Obaid, R.N.**, Landsverk, J., DeCamp, W., Rolls-Reutz, J., Green, B., Ingoglia, C., Hollen, V., Flagg, A. (2022). State department and provider agency utilization of evidence-based program registers in behavioral healthcare and child welfare. *Evaluation and the Health Professions, 45*(4), 397-410.

**Lee, M.J., Maranda, M.J., Magura, S.,** & Greenman II, G. (2022). References to evidence-based program resource websites for behavioral health in U.S. state government statutes and regulations. *Journal of Applied Social Science,* 16(2), 442-58.

**Watts, B.R., Castillo, R.P., Akwetey, J.F.,** & **Pham, D.T.** (2023). The program evaluation standards in evaluation scholarship and practice. *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation, Vol. 19, No. 43.*

Fitzpatrick, J.L., Sanders, J.R., Worthen, B.R., & **Wingate, L.A.** (2023). *Program evaluation: Alternative approaches and practical guidelines* (5th ed.). Pearson.

**Wingate, L.A., Tilton, Z.,** & **Harnar, M.** (2023). *Metaevaluation: Key concepts explained in R. International Encyclopedia of Education* (4th ed.). Elsevier.

**Wingate, L.A., Robertson, K.,** FitzGerald, M., Rucks, L., Tsuzaki, T., Clasen, C., & Schwob, J. (2022). Thinking outside the self-report: Using evaluation plans to assess evaluation capacity building. *American Journal of Evaluation, 42*(4), 515-538.

## Webinars

**Becho, L.W.**, & **LoRe, S., & Rucks, L.** (2022, September). *Beyond research: Practical tools for your evaluation toolbox*. EvaluATE.

**Becho, L.W.**, & **Hooker, S.** (2023, March). *Evaluation essentials for non-evaluators: Understanding the basics and benefits of Evaluation*. For Mentor Connect. EvaluATE.

**Becho, L.W.**, & **Hooker, S.** (2023, April). *Strategies and insights into evaluation plans for NSF ATE Proposals*. EvaluATE.

**Becho, L.W.**, & **Hooker, S.** (2023, June). *Evaluation essentials for non-evaluators: Understanding the basics and benefits of evaluation*. EvaluATE.

## Workshops

**Becho, L.W.**, Germuth, A., LoRe, S., & Tucker-Blackmon, A. (2022, July). *ATE Evaluators: Connect, share, learn*. Special Interest Group at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

# EXTERNAL FUNDING

The Center's portfolio included nine grant- and contract-funded projects in 2022-23. Over their total award periods, these projects are worth $7,845,609. They span the areas of human services, higher education, and substance abuse and addiction treatment. The Evaluation Center's sponsors include federal agencies, universities, nonprofits, and WMU-based units. Projects active in 2022-23 are listed below. The award values reflect the overall value of these grants and contracts, not necessarily the amount received in 2022-23.

## Grants and Contracts

### eCR Evaluation 2023
Sponsor: Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate | Co-Principal Investigators: Valeria Marshall and Brad Watts
June 2023 – July 2024
$299,641

### EvaluATE: Evaluation Resource Hub for Advanced Technological Education
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Lyssa Wilson Becho | Co-Principal Investigators:  and Lori Wingate
January 2019 – December 2023
$6,828,150

### Evaluation of the ISU Sycamore Mentoring and Resource Team Space Project
Sponsor: Indiana State University I U.S. Department of Education
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
October 2018 – September 2023
$70,000

### Evaluation of Research University Alliance
Sponsor: University of Michigan | National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
March 2021 - March 2024
$43,307

**Evaluation of Life Guides and Continued Capacity Strengthening Services**
Sponsor: Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan
Principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson | Co-Principal Investigator: Lyssa Wilson Becho
May 2022 – April 2023
$22,500

**Faculty Online Learning**
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Melissa Dancy
October 2021 – September 2026
$256,319

**Internal Evaluation of the NSF-ADVANCE Midwest Partnership: Joining Forces**
Sponsor: WMU College of Arts and Sciences | National Science Foundation
Lead Internal Evaluator: Lori Wingate
September 2019-August 2023
$15,692

**Michigan Overdose Data to Action Evaluation**
Sponsor: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Principal Investigator: Stephen Magura | Co-Principal Investigator: Valerie Marshall
September 2019 – August 2022
$300,000

**Upward Bound—Van Buren Program Evaluation**
Sponsor: WMU Division of Multicultural Affairs | U.S. Department of Education
Lead Evaluator: Brad Watts
September 2017 – August 2022
$10,000

# AWARDS

**2023 Excellence in Discovery: Externally Funded Expenditures above $500,000 —WMU Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation**

Lyssa Wilson Becho
Lori Wingate

**2023 Excellence in Discovery Award for Largest Award in Central Administration – Western Michigan University**

Steve Magura

**Recognition of 50 Years of Service – Western Michigan University**

Mary Ramlow

**Recognition of 25 Years of Service – Western Michigan University**

Lori Wingate

# PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Lyssa Wilson Becho**
- Co-Executive Editor, *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*

**Stephen Magura**
- Member—Dissertation Committee, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation, WMU
- Chair—Dissertation Committee, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation, WMU
- Chief Editor—*Substance Use and Misuse*
- Consulting Editor—*Health and Social Work*
- Elected Member—College on Problem of Drug Dependence
- Elected Member—Research Society on Alcoholism

**Mary Ramlow**
- Building Co-Coordinator—Ellsworth Hall, WMU
- Co-Chair—Ellsworth Hall Emergency Team, WMU
- Member—Professional Support Staff Organization, WMU
- Member—Administrative Professional Association, WMU
- Member—American Society of Public Administration, WMU
- Member—Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, WMU

**Brad Watts**
- Chair—Joint Committee on Standards for Education Evaluation
- Program Co-Chair, University-Based Centers Topical Interest Group, American Evaluation Association
- Secretary—Meadows Homeowners Association

**Lori Wingate**
- Invited Participant, Point of Distinction Workshops
- Member, Evaluation Working Group, Empowering Futures Gift
- Proposal Reviewer, National Science Foundation, Division of Undergraduate Education, Education and Human Resource Directorate
- Team Member, Gardner Institute Equity in Retention Academy

**Megan López**
- Executive Director—No Surrender Running Club, Grand Rapids, MI (Volunteer)