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. Our mission is to advance the theory, practice, and utilization of evaluation through research, education, service, and leadership. The Center itself is not a degree-granting department, but does administer the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation (IDPE) program and has a close, synergistic relationship with it. The Evaluation Center houses the IDPE program, providing office space for IDPE Program Director Dr. Chris Coryn and all IDPE students. The Center’s administrative assistant senior provides support to the IDPE. Three Center senior staff members are associate faculty for the IDPE, serving on students’ dissertation and program committees, supervising field experiences, and occasionally teaching courses. Many IDPE students gain practical experience in evaluation by participating in externally funded Center projects.

Because of this mutually beneficial, synergistic relationship, this annual report reflects the activities and achievements of both The Evaluation Center and IDPE, with clear indications as to which personnel, activities, and achievements relate to which entity.
FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT PERSONNEL

WMU supports four full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within The Evaluation Center, plus the IDPE director, who is a faculty member in the College of Education and Human Development. All other Center staff and operations are funded through externally funded projects.

Leadership Team

Stephen Magura, Director, The Evaluation Center
Ph.D., Sociology, Rutgers University

Brad R. Watts, Assistant Director, The Evaluation Center
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Lori Wingate, Director of Research, The Evaluation Center
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Chris Coryn, Director, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation; Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Research Staff

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

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

Miranda Lee, Project Manager (left WMU employment in May 2017)
Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Stephanie Means, Project Manager
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Emma Perk, Project Manager
B.A., Anthropology, Arizona State University

Support Staff

Patricia Negrevski, Budget Analyst
B.B.A., Business Administration, WMU

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

Jacob Batt—Mathematics
Christopher Proctor—Aerospace Engineering
Dakota Puffenberger—Physics

Doctoral Students

Students in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation (IDPE) program are listed below. Those whose names appear in bold also worked on Center projects in 2016-17.

Ruqayyah Abu-Obaid—Masters of Economics, Al al-Bayt University, Jordan
Karen Alexander—M.S.W., Grand Valley State University
Teryila Amough—M.B.A., WMU
Michelle Calco—M.B.A., Michigan State University
Steven Dibble—M.S., WMU
Cheryl Endres—M.A., WMU
Erica Fiekowsky—M.A., WMU
Gregory Greenman II—M.P.A., Roosevelt University
Todd Harcek—M.S.A., Central Michigan University
Kristin Hobson—M.P.H., Indiana University
Sabrina Holley—M.D., University of Cincinnati
Aaron Kates—M.S.W., Grand Valley State University
Michael Kiella—M.A., WMU
Miranda Lee—M.A., Webster University
Tara Lightner—M.A., WMU
Thomas Lyzenga—M.A., Oklahoma State University
Robert McCowen—B.S., Clemson University
Nicholas Saxton—M.A., WMU
Corey Smith—B.A., Kalamazoo College
Ron Visscher—M.M., Northwestern University
Lyssa Wilson—B.A., University of New Hampshire
Lenore Yaeger—M.S., University of Nebraska
ACTIVITIES

Visiting Scholars

Jessica Knauer
Research Associate and Ph.D. Student, General Pedagogy, University of Passau, Germany
A University of Passau Exchange Scholar, Ms. Knauer was a visiting scholar in The Evaluation Center September 1-23. Her visit was arranged through the Haenicke Institute. As part of the Evaluation Center’s Evaluation Café series (see next page), she presented her doctoral research, “The Museum in the 21st Century—The Children’s Point of View: An Exploratory Study on the Experiences of Children in Educational Museums.”

Kathryn Newcomer
Director, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University
President-Elect, American Evaluation Association
Dr. Newcomer’s two-day visit (November 30-December 1) included meetings with Center personnel and doctoral students and an Evaluation Café presentation titled, “The Organizational and Political Landscape for Evidence-Informed Decision Making in Government.”

Evaluation Café Series

The Evaluation Café is a series of presentations on evaluation topics held weekly at The Evaluation Center during the academic year. This was the tenth consecutive year of the series. Presenters included a mix of Evaluation Center staff, IDPE students, WMU faculty, and community experts.

The Museum in the 21st Century—The Children’s Point of View:
An Exploratory Study on the Experiences of Children in Educational Museums
September 21, 2016
Jessica Knauer—Research Associate and Ph.D. Student in General Pedagogy, University of Passau, Germany

Getting to Go: Launching Evaluation in a New Medical School
September 28, 2016
Jeffrey Greene—Assistant Professor of Medical Education, WMU Homer Stryker, M.D. School of Medicine

Setting a Baseline: Data to Support Evidence-based Juvenile Diversion Programs in Kalamazoo
October 5, 2016
Anthony Frontiera—Master’s Student in Sociology, WMU; and Youth Development Coordinator, Portage Community Center
October 12, 2016  
Kelly Robertson—Senior Research Associate, The Evaluation Center, WMU  

Reducing Workload in Large Meta-Analyses: Online Tools and Techniques  
October 19, 2016  
William Maddix, Dustin Anderson, Qian Wange, and Qi Zhang—Ph.D. Students in Evaluation, Measurement, and Research, WMU  

Interning at the International Labor Organization: Evaluation in the UN System  
November 2, 2016  
Erica Fiekowsky—Ph.D. Student in Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU  

Being an Evaluation Professional in the Context of the United Nations  
November 9, 2016  
Corey Smith—Ph.D. Student in Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU; and Evaluator, iEval  

The Softer Side of Evaluation: Why Soft Skills Are Just As Important  
November 16, 2016  
Kara Siedlik—Evaluator, Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance  

The Organizational and Political Landscape for Evidence-informed Decision Making in Government  
November 20, 2016  
Kathryn Newcomer—Director, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and President Elect, American Evaluation Association  

Being a Scholar in the Digital Age  
December 7, 2016  
Maira Bundza—Associate Professor of University Libraries, WMU  

Evaluation, Measurement, Research and Being the ‘Expert’  
January 25, 2017  
Brooks Applegate—Program Coordinator for Evaluation, Measurement, and Research, WMU  

Goal-Free Evaluation: In Theory & Practice  
February 1, 2017  
Brandon Youker—Assistant Professor, Grand Valley State University  

Sense Making in Evaluation  
February 8, 2017  
Bethany Laursen—Interdisciplinarity Theorist and Consultant, Laursen Evaluation and Design, LLC
From Firefighting to Systematic Action: Toward A Research Agenda for Better Evaluation of Unintended Consequences
February 15, 2017
Jonny Morell—Principal, 4.669 Evaluation and Planning; Editor, Evaluation and Program Planning, Director of Evaluation, Syntek Technologies

Evaluation Prospects: The UN Experience
February 22, 2017
Ruqayyah Abu-Obaid—Ph.D. Student in Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Evaluating with Narrative Change
March 1, 2017
Nadia Brigham—Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Using Group Concept Mapping to Further Define, Develop, and Apply Impact Evaluation in the International Labour Organization
March 15, 2017
Corey Smith—Ph.D. Student in Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU; and Evaluator, iEval

Interpreting Social Life Through Qualitative Discourse Analysis
March 22, 2017
Jesse Smith—Assistant Professor of Sociology, WMU

Creating an Interactive Logic Model
March 29, 2017
Erica Fiekowsky—Ph.D. Student in Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

BEER: Malt, Hops, Yeast, Water and Data!
April 5, 2017
Matt Moberly—Director of Business Insights, Bell’s Brewery, Inc.
Jaime Lego—Business Insights Project Specialist, Bell’s Brewery, Inc.
Blake Violette—Lead Forecast Analyst, Bell’s Brewery, Inc.

Measuring Influence: A Quagmire of Metrics
April 12, 2017
Gregory D. Greenman—Ph.D. Student in Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

The Evolution of Evaluation at the CDC
April 19, 2017
Jan Fields—Instructor, School of Public Affairs and Administration, WMU
Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation

The idea for Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation (JMDE) originated with Daniela C. Schroeter and Chris L. S. Coryn when they were in the students in WMU’s IPDE program. The journal was launched in 2004 under the editorship of Michael Scriven (then director of the IDPE program) and E. Jane Davidson (former IDPE director).

Executive Editor: Chris Coryn
IDPE Student Editors: Lyssa Wilson, Kristin Hobson, Aaron Kates
IDPE Student Associate Editors: Erica L. Fiekowsky, Robert H. McCowen, Abhik Roy, Corey D. Smith

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AND DISSEMINATED

The following keynote addresses, presentations, and publications, and webinars were authored by Center staff and the IDPE director; several include doctoral student coauthors. (BOLD CAPS = Center staff; Bold = Students)

Keynote Address

WINGATE, L. A. (2017, May). Harnessing the superpowers of checklists. Keynote address at the annual meeting of the Ohio Program Evaluators’ Group, Columbus, OH.

Presentations


MAGURA, S. (2016, October). Ambiguities in evaluating the quality of scientific journals: Which are the “best” and why? Presentation at the American Evaluation Association annual conference, Atlanta, GA.


PERK, E., & Endres, C. (2016, October). Getting started with your ATE evaluation. Presentation given as part of the Getting Started Workshop at the Advanced Technological Education Principal Investigators Conference, Washington, DC.


Posters


Publications


**Webinars**


**Workshops**


**WINGATE, L. A.** (2017, February). *Are you committing one of the seven deadly sins of surveys?* Survey improvement clinic. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND DEGREES GRANTED

IDPE courses taught in 2016-17

EVAL 6000—Foundations in Evaluation (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 6010—Interdisciplinary Seminar in Evaluation: Dissertation Preparation (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Evaluation Practice (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 7100 – Independent Research (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 7110 – Readings in Doctoral Specialization (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 7120—Professional Field Experience (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 7300—Doctoral Dissertation (Chris Coryn, Stephen Magura)

Non-IPDE courses taught by Evaluation Center personnel in 2016-17

BUS 3750—Business Process Productivity (Stephanie Means)
EDMM 3050—Work Analysis (Stephanie Means)
EDMM 3150—Work Analysis Design Lab (Stephanie Means)
EDMM 4880—Applied Process Reengineering (Stephanie Means)
MGMT 2800—Introduction to Supply Chain Management (Stephanie Means)

Degrees granted by the IDPE program in 2016-17:

Teryila Amough, Ph.D. (Summer 2017)
A Meta-Analysis of Energy Savings from Lighting Programs in Michigan
Dissertation Committee: Ali Metwalli (Chair), Stephen Magura, Thomas Scannell

Stephanie Means, Ph.D. (Spring 2017)
Investigating Personality Traits of Registered Nurses: Implications for Personnel Evaluation
Dissertation Committee: Tycho Fredericks (Chair), Chris Coryn, Steven Butt, Sharie Falan, David Lyth

Satoshi Ozeki, Ph.D. (Fall 2016)
Three Empirical Investigations into the Logic of Evaluation and Valuing Practices
Dissertation Committee: Chris Coryn (Chair), Daniela Schroeter, Tarek Azzam
IDPE ENROLLMENTS

In its 14th year of operation, the IDPE program admitted 4 new students in 2016-17, for a total of 24 doctoral students enrolled in the program this year, three of whom graduated. Ten IDPE doctoral students worked on Evaluation Center projects this year.

IMPACT ON THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OF THE UNIVERSITY

As evidenced throughout this report, the relationship between The Evaluation Center and the IPDE program is synergistic. Two Evaluation Center project managers were enrolled in the doctoral program in 2016-17, one of whom graduated. Additionally, the Center provides students with real-world evaluation experiences on local, national, and international projects—10 students worked part-time on a variety of Center projects this year. In return, the Center’s work is enhanced by the knowledge, skill, and enthusiasm that students bring to their tasks. Additionally, senior staff members Drs. Magura, Watts, and Wingate serve on students’ program and dissertation committees and occasionally supervise field experiences.

Through the Center’s Evaluation Café series, IDPE students gained experience giving scholarly presentations. Student participation as audience members enriches their academic experience by providing opportunities to hone their skills in engaging academic dialogue and debate.
EXTERNAL FUNDING

The Center’s portfolio included 17 grant and contract-funded projects in 2016-17. Over their total award periods, these projects are worth $3 million. These projects span the areas of community development, human services, justice, business, higher education, public health, and substance abuse and addiction treatment. The Evaluation Center’s sponsors include municipal and federal agencies, universities, local and national nonprofits, and one WMU-based unit. Projects active in 2016-17 are listed below.

2016-17 Grants and Contracts

**Accelerating College Completion Through Mindset Project Evaluation**
Sponsor: Indiana State University | U.S. Department of Education
Principal Investigator: Daniela Schroeter
Co-principal Investigator: Brad Watts
October 2014 – September 2018
$339,556

**ATE Central Social Media Survey**
Sponsor: University of Wisconsin | National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate
October 2013 – September 2017
$57,427

**Center for Research and Education in Optical Sciences and Applications (CREOSA) Evaluation**
Sponsor: Delaware State University | National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
September 2012 – August 2018
$245,657

**EvaluATE: ATE Evaluation Support Center**
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate | Co-Principal Investigators: Arlen Gullickson and Emma Perk
August 2016 – August 2020
$1,917,556

**Evaluation Checklists**
Sponsor: Marin Community Foundation - Faster Forward Fund
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate | Co-Principal Investigator: Emma Perk
February 2017 – June 2018
$10,000
Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan Life Guide Program Evaluation
Sponsor: Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan
Principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson
August 2016 – August 2017
$14,000

Improving Teacher Quality Program Evaluation
Sponsor: Central Michigan University | Michigan Department of Education
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
March 2016 – September 2017
$22,000

ONEplace Evaluation
Sponsor: Kalamazoo Public Library
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
September 2016 – September 2018
$39,338

Interagency Personnel Agreement
Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Recipient: Lori Wingate
May 2016 – September 2017
$9,262

Optics for Space Technology and Applied Research Program Evaluation
Sponsor: Delaware State University | NASA
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
August 2015 – August 2020
$75,039

Restorative Practices Evaluation
Sponsor: Michigan Supreme Court – State Court Administrative Office
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
September 2016 – September 2018
$49,814

Seeking Safety Modification Project Evaluation
Sponsor: City of Grand Rapids, MI | U.S. Department of Justice
Principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson
May 2017 – November 2018
$50,000
Sowing Opportunities Now (SON) Program Evaluation
Sponsor: Grand Rapids Urban League | W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson
April 2017 – September 2019
$30,000

SRSLY Stockbridge and SRSLY Dexter Evaluation
Sponsor: SRSLY
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
March 2017 – March 2018
$26,000

Toolbox Impact Evaluation
Sponsor: Michigan State University
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
February 2017 – October 2017
$25,000

Urban Core Collective Evaluation
Sponsor: Urban Core Collective | W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson
March 2015 – March 2018
$60,000

Upward Bound Program Evaluation
Sponsor: WMU Division of Multicultural Affairs | U.S. Department of Education
Lead Evaluator: Miranda Lee
September 2008 – May 2017
$50,000

AWARDS

Academy Leadership Academy, WMU—selected for 2016-17 cohort
Brad Watts

Excellence in Discovery: Research and External Funding over $1 Million for 5 Years (Principal Investigator) 2011-2016, WMU
Lori Wingate

Excellence in Discovery: Research and External Funding over $1 Million Level for 5 Years 2011-2016 (Co-Principal Investigator)
Chris Coryn
Arlen Gullickson
Stephen Magura
PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Chris Coryn
- Editorial advisory board member, American Journal of Evaluation
- Editorial advisory board member, Evaluation and Program Planning
- Executive editor—Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation
- Elected member—Research Policies Council, WMU
- International Advisory Panel Member—Centre for Program Evaluation, University of Melbourne, Australia

Stephen Magura
- Abstract reviewer—American Evaluation Association, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health TIG
- Chief editor—Substance Use and Misuse
- Commissioner—Zoning Board of Appeals (Cooper Charter Township, MI)
- Consulting editor—Health and Social Work
- Elected member—College on Problems of Drug Dependence
- Elected member—Research Society on Alcoholism
- Member—Ad Hoc Committee on Institutes/Centers Policy, WMU
- Member—Dissertation committee, Teryila Amough, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU
- Member—Dissertation committee, Miranda Lee, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU
- Member—WMU Committee on Campus Climate Survey

Stephanie Means
- Ad hoc reviewer—Evaluation Review
- Board member, SLDReads
- Pro bono evaluator—Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Pilot Program, WMU

Emma Perk
- Board member and communications officer—Michigan Association for Evaluation
- Conference proposal reviewer—American Evaluation Association Data Visualization and Reporting TIG
Mary Ramlow
- Building co-coordinator—Ellsworth Hall, WMU
- Chair—Ellsworth Hall Emergency Team, WMU
- Co-chair—Spring Awards Luncheon Committee, Professional Support Staff Organization, WMU
- Executive board member—Administrative Professional Association, WMU
- Member—Membership Committee, Professional Supports Staff Organization, WMU
- Member—Special Events Committee, Administrative Professional Association, WMU
- Vice president—Professional Support Staff Organization, WMU

Kelly Robertson
- Reviewer—*Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*
- Mentor—Seita Scholars Program, WMU

Brad Watts
- Conference proposal reviewer—American Evaluation Association Costs, Benefits, and Economics TIG
- Member—Dissertation committee, Miranda Lee, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU
- Reviewer—*Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*
- Vice Chair—Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
- Board Member—The Meadows of Woodbridge Hills Homeowners Association

Lori Wingate
- Reviewer—*American Journal of Evaluation*
- Board member and evaluation advisor—Future for Teens, Kalamazoo, MI
- Chair—University-wide Search Committee for Assistant/Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Evaluation
- Member—American Evaluation Association Summer Evaluation Institute planning committee
- Member—Dissertation committee, Cheryl Endres, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU
- Member—NSF ATE Principal Investigators’ Conference Steering Committee
- Workshop Proposal Reviewer—American Evaluation Association annual conference