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

Research Staff

Lyssa Wilson Becho, Project Manager Research  
Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

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

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

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

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Faculty

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

Michael Harnar, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Evaluation  
Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University

Support Staff

Bonnie Gabriel, Finance Assistant Senior  
M.S.F., Walsh College

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

Anastasia Councell, Project Assistant  
B.B.A., Business Administration, WMU
**Student Employees**

Christopher Proctor—Aerospace Engineering
Martiza Miranda—Social Work

**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 2018-19.

**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
**Sabrina Holley**—M.D., University of Cincinnati
Amy Jersild—M.A., School for International Training
**Aaron Kates**—M.S.W., Grand Valley State University
**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
Injae Son—M.S., Andrews University
Zachary Tilton—M.A., University of Bradford
Takara Tzuzaki—M.S.C., London School of Economics and Political Science
Ron Visscher—M.M., Northwestern University
**Lyssa Wilson**—B.A., University of New Hampshire
Lenore Yaeger—M.S., University of Nebraska
Amanda Yearling—M.L.I.S., Wayne State
ACTIVITIES

Visiting Scholars

Leslie Goodyear
Principal Research Scientist, EDC; President, American Evaluation Association
April 25, 2018

Dr. Goodyear's visit included meetings with Center personnel and doctoral students; an Evaluation Café presentation titled, “What’s New in AEA, Evaluation Practice, and the Field?”; as well as a meeting with the Michigan Association for Evaluation's board members.

Tessie Catsambas
CEO/CFO, EnCompass LLC; President, American Evaluation Association
December 4-6, 2019

Dr. Catsambas's visit included meetings with Center staff, doctoral students, WMU Vice President for Research Terri Goss Kinzy, and Michigan Association for Evaluation board members; and an Evaluation Café presentation titled "Trends and Issues in Evaluation."

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 Bond Framework: A Practical Application of Visual Communication Design and Marketing to advance Evaluation Reporting
September 12, 2018
Katie McAlindon- Department of Psychology Communications Coordinator, MSU

Open Science Methods in Evaluation Practice
September 19, 2018
Steve Dibble- Director of Data Science at Edwards Garment; IDPE, WMU

Evaluation Research: Partnership Approaches to Community Change
September 26, 2018
Jennifer W. Neal - Associate Professor, Ecological-Community Psychology, MSU

Transportation as a key to Health Equity
October 3, 2018
Kathleen Baker - Director of the W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical
**Change; Associate Professor of Geography, WMU**

**Monitoring and Evaluation Practice in Peace Building**  
October 10, 2018  
Zach Tilton- Fellow at Digital Impact Alliance, United Nations Foundation; IDPE Student, WMU

**AEA18 Preview: Presentations from Students and Staff**  
October 24, 2018

**Early Care and Education Arrangements and your Children's Risk of Foster Placement: Findings from a National Child Welfare Sample**  
November 7, 2018  
Sacha Klein- Associate Professor, School of Social Work, MSU

**The Illusion of Measuring Impact**  
November 14, 2018  
Luis F. Velez- Program and Evaluation Officer at W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Arts and Culture**  
November 28, 2018  
Yolonda Lavender- Executive Director, Black Arts and Cultural Center, Kalamazoo, MI

**AEA Presidential Visit**  
December 5, 2018  
Tesie Catsambas- CEO/CFO and Co-Founder of EnCompass; In-Coming President of the American Evaluation Association

**Effective Communication Skills While Facilitating Interviews and Focus Groups**  
January 16, 2019  
Ouen Hunter and Jeffrey Hillman- IDPE Students, WMU

**Improving Learning and Accountability in Foreign aid**  
February 6, 2019  
Paul Clements- Professor of Political Science at WMU

**Using Big Data: Electoral and Voter Data for Targeted Promotions**  
February 20, 2019  
Christina Soliz- Program Coordinator at Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

**Increasing Transparency in Education Evaluations: An Introduction to the Registry of Efficacy and Effectiveness Studies (Rees)**  
February 27, 2019  
Jessaca Spybrook- Professor of Evaluation, Measurement, and Research at WMU

**Comparing Success and Failure Cases to Support Effective Program Implementation**
March 13, 2019
Melinda Davey- Senior Analyst at Jacobs Engineering Group; Jonathan Morell- Editor of Evaluation and Program Planning; Director of Evaluation at Syntek

**Urban Socioecological Systems: Food Security and Sustainability**
March 20, 2019
Stephanie White- International Research & Development Specialist - Department of Community Sustainability at MSU

**Preformative and Developmental Evaluation: Working Without Established Dimensions of Merit**
March 27, 2019
Presenter: Michael Kiella- IDPE Alum and Private Consultant

**Scaling What Works: Evaluation for Reinvention and Adaptation**
April 12, 2019
R. Sam Larson, Assistant Dean of Finance and Operations - College of Education at MSU

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**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
- **Editors:** Lyssa Wilson Becho, Jane Davidson, Michael Harnar, Kristin Hobson, Aaron Kates, Daniela Schroeter, Michael Scriven
- **Associate Editors:** Tarek Azzam, Erica Dodds, Jeffery Hillman, Robert McCowan, Abhik Roy, Corey Smith, Carl Westine

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**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AND DISSEMINATED**

The following 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)

**Presentations**


WINGATE, L. A. (2019, February). *How to harness the power of high-quality checklists for program improvement and evaluation in public health*. Invited presentation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services. Atlanta, GA [remote].


Blogposts


Publications


Posters


Videos

Webinars


Workshops

**BECHO, L.W., & WINGATE, L.** (2018, October). *Survey fundamentals: Good data starts with good questions.* Preconference workshop at the Advanced Technological Education Principal Investigators Conference, Washington, DC.

**PERK, E., & BECHO, L.W.** (2019, June). *Creating one-page reports: A workshop on how to engage busy readers.* Workshop at the American Evaluation Association Summer Institute, Atlanta, GA.


**CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND DEGREES GRANTED**

**IDPE courses taught in 2018-19**

- EVAL 6000—Foundations of Evaluation (Michael Harner)
- EVAL 6010—Interdisciplinary Seminar in Evaluation: Dissertation Preparation (Chris Coryn)
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Meta-Analysis (Chris Coryn)
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Qualitative Research Methods in Evaluation (Michael Harnar)
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Research on Evaluation (Michael Harnar)
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Evaluation Practice (Chris Coryn)
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Evaluating Social Impact (Michael Harnar)
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Philosophy of Science for Evaluators (Michael Harnar)
EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Metaevaluation (Michael Harnar)
EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Needs Assessment (Michael Harnar)
EVAL 7110 – Readings in Doctoral Specialization (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 7120—Professional Field Experience (Chris Coryn, Michael Harnar)
EVAL 7300—Doctoral Dissertation (Chris Coryn)
EMR 6610: Data Analytics II (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 6010: Dissertation Development (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 6970: Cost Analysis for Evaluation (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 6970: Reporting and Communicating Evaluations (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 6970: Sampling and Survey Methods for Evaluation (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 6970: Research on Evaluation (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 7120: Professional Field Experience (Chris Coryn)
EVAL 7110: Readings in Doctoral Specialization (Chris Coryn)

**IDPE Dissertation Advising**

**Chris Coryn**
Chair: Karen Alexander, Lyssa Wilson Becho, Erica Dodds, Cheryl Endres, Ruqayyah Abu-Obaid, Thomas Lyzenga, Robert McCowen
Member: Miranda Lee,

**Stephen Magura**
Chair: Miranda Lee
Member: Karen Alexander

**Brad Watts**
Member: Miranda Lee

**Lori Wingate**
Member: Cheryl Endres

**Non-IPDE courses taught by Evaluation Center personnel in 2018-19**

BUS 1750 – Business Enterprise (Bonnie Gabriel)
BUS 3750—Business Process Productivity (Stephanie Means)
MGMT 2800—Introduction to Supply Chain Management (Stephanie Means)
Degrees granted by the IDPE program in 2018-19:

Michael Kiella, Ph.D. (Summer 2018)  
*Preformative and Developmental Evaluation Theories Used to Reveal Dimensions of Merit when Implementing an Ethics Committee into a Hospice Organization*  
Dissertation Committee: Chris Coryn (Chair),

**IDPE ENROLLMENTS**

In its 15th year of operation, the IDPE program admitted 5 new students in 2018-19, for a total of 25 doctoral students enrolled in the program this year. Eight 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 2018-19, 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 24 grant and contract-funded projects in 2018-19. Over their total award periods, these projects are worth $8,713,013.58. 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 2018-19 are listed below.

**2018-19 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

CDC-WMU Evaluation Center Intergovernmental Personnel Act Assignment
Sponsor: Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate
June 2018 – May 2020
$20,391.31

CDC-WMU Evaluation Center Intergovernmental Personnel Act Assignment
Sponsor: Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate
June 2018 – May 2020
$20,645.32

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

Community Utilization of Evidence-Based Program Registers in Community Health
Sponsor: Delaware U.S Department of Health and Human Services
Principal Investigator: Stephen Magura
August 2017 – March 2020
$701,729

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

EvaluATE 4.0: Evaluation Learning and Research Hub for ATE
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate | Co-Principal Investigators: Emma Perk & Michael Harnar
January 2019 – December 2023
$4,973,312.00

Evaluation of the use of restorative practices to reduce school truancy and suspensions
Sponsor: Michigan Supreme Court
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts  
August 2016 – December 2018  
$1,500

**Evaluation of the ISU S.M.A.R.T. Space SIP Grant**  
Sponsor: Indiana State University  
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts  
October 2018 – September 2023  
$70,000

**Evaluation of STEM Explorer at Delta**  
Sponsor: Delta College  
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts  
November 2017 – June 2019  
$35,017

**External Evaluation of Delaware State University’s Optics for Space Technology and Applied Research**  
Sponsor: Delaware State University  
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts  
October 18 – September 19  
$15,396.95

**Florida Council for Resource Development Workshop**  
Sponsor: Florida Council for Resource Development  
Principal Investigator: Emma Perk  
April 2019 – April 2019  
$2,276

**Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan Life Guide and Capacity Strengthening Services- Project 4**  
Sponsor: Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan  
Principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson | Co-Principal Investigator: Lyssa Wilson Becho  
May 2019 – July 2021  
$50,000

**HI-TEC Conference Evaluation Advisor**  
Sponsor: Center for Occupational Research and Development  
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate  
July 2018 – December 2019  
$1,500

**Hosting the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation at The Evaluation Center**  
Sponsor: Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation  
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate | Co-Principal Investigator: Arlen Gullickson
February 2019 – February 2021
$6,000

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

**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

**Trauma Informed Community Program Evaluation**
Sponsor: Battle Creek Community Foundation
Principal Investigator: Brad Watts
October 2018 – May 2020
$37,990

**Upper Peninsula Housing Baseline Study**
Sponsor: CLEAResult Consulting, Inc.
Principal Investigator: Chris Coryn
January 2019 – December 2019
$10,296

**Upward Bound-Kalamazoo Program Evaluation**
Sponsor: WMU Division of Multicultural Affairs | U.S. Department of Education
Lead Evaluator: Emma Perk
June 2017 – May 2022
$10,000

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

### AWARDS

**National Science Foundation Big Idea Machine 2026- First Round Finalist**
(Big Idea proposal was one of 30 out of 800 submissions invited to produce a video pitch)
Lori Wingate

**WMU Excellence in Discovery Award: 2017-18**
Stephen Magura

### PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Lyssa Wilson Becho**
- Program chair— American Evaluation Association, Theories of Evaluation TIG

**Chris Coryn**
- Committee Member- Honorary Degree Committee
- Elected Member- Research Policies Council
- Reviewer- Support for Faculty Scholars Award
- Evaluator- Read and Write Kalamazoo
- Evaluator- Urban Roots
- Evaluator- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

**Michael Harnar**
- WMU Graduate College Student Travel Grant Review Committee—Committee Member
- American Evaluation Association Research on Evaluation—TIG Council Representative

**Stephen Magura**
- Chief editor—*Substance Use and Misuse*
- Conference proposal reviewer—American Evaluation Association, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health TIG
- Consulting editor—*Health and Social Work*
- Elected member—College on Problems of Drug Dependence
- Elected member—Research Society on Alcoholism
- Member—WMU Ad Hoc Committee on Institutes/Centers Policy
- Member—WMU Committee on Campus Climate Survey
- Commissioner—Zoning Board of Appeals, Cooper Charter Township, MI
- Planning Committee and Expert Panel member – *Substance Use Disorders Recovery with a Focus on Employment and Education*, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**Emma Perk**
- Advisor—American Evaluation Association, Potent Presentations Initiative
- Board member and communications officer—Michigan Association for Evaluation
- Member— Program Committee, Hi Impact Technology Exchange Conference
- Member— Communications Committee, High Impact Technology Exchange Conference
- Advisor—STEM Evaluation Community Project, EDC (NSF#1650215)

**Mary Ramlow**
- Building co-coordinator—Ellsworth Hall, WMU
- Chair—Ellsworth Hall Emergency Team, WMU
- Member, Special Events Committee, Administrative Professional Association, WMU
- Co-chair—Awards Luncheon Team, Professional Support Staff Organization, WMU
- Member—Membership Team, Professional Support Staff Organization, WMU

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

**Brad Watts**
- Chair—Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
- Occasional reviewer—*Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*
- Secretary—The Meadows of Woodbridge Hills Homeowners Association

**Lori Wingate**
- Manuscript Reviewer—*Evaluation and Program Planning*
- Member—NSF ATE Principal Investigators’ Conference Steering Committee
- Conference proposal reviewer—American Evaluation Association, Evaluation Capacity Building TIG and Theories of Evaluation TIG
- Advisor—STEM Evaluation Community Project, EDC (NSF#1650215)