The Evaluation Center (EC) was established in 1965 at The Ohio State University and relocated to WMU in 1973.

The Evaluation Center is a research unit that reports to the Vice President for Research. 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 EC houses the IDPE program, providing office space for IDPE Program Director Dr. Chris Coryn and all IDPE students. The Center’s office coordinator and office assistant provide administrative 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, either directly or by indirect costs.

Leadership Team

Stephen Magura, Director  
Ph.D., Sociology, Rutgers University

Daniela Schroeter, Director of Research  
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Lori Wingate, Assistant Director  
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  
Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Miranda Lee,¹ Project Manager  
Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Krystin Martens, Project Manager (through September 2014)  
Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Stephanie Means, Project Manager  
Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

Emily Perk, Assistant to the Director  
B.A., Anthropology, Arizona State University

Support Staff

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

Mary Ramlow, Office Coordinator  
B.A., Management and Organizational Development, Spring Arbor University

Undergraduate Students

Jacob Batt—Mathematics  
Christopher Proctor—Aeronautical Engineering  
Kadeesha Anderson—Nursing

¹ Née Jason Burkhardt. Presentations and publications published prior to name change are attributed to Jason Burkhardt.
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 during the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Karen Alexander—M.S.W., Grand Valley State University
Saeed Almueed—M.A., WMU
**Teryila Amough**—M.B.A., WMU
Melissa Borgos-Colon—M.P., University of Puerto Rico
Michelle Calco—M.B.A., Michigan State University
Tala Davidson—M.S., Temple University
Steven Dibble—M.S., WMU
**Cheryl Endres**—M.A., WMU
**Erica Fiekowsky**—M.A., WMU
Stacy French—M.A., Siena Heights University
**Gregory Greenman II**—M.P.A., Roosevelt University
Todd Harcek—M.S.A., Central Michigan University
Julio Hernandez-Correa—Ph.D., WMU
**Kristin Hobson**—M.P.H., Indiana University
**Sabrina Holley**—M.D., University of Cincinnati
Michael Kiella—M.A., WMU
**Miranda Lee**—M.A., Webster University
Thomas Lyzenga—M.A., Oklahoma State University
Alexander Manga—M.B.A., WMU
**Krystin Martens**—M.A., WMU
**Pedro Mateu**—B.A., Universidad de Pacifico
Robert McCowen—B.S., Clemson University
**Stephanie Means**—M.S., WMU
**Satoshi Ozeki**—M.A., WMU
**Kelly Robertson**—M.A., WMU
Abhik Roy—M.S., Michigan Technology University
**Nicholas Saxton**—M.A., WMU
**Corey Smith**—B.A., Kalamazoo College
Maran Subramain—M.A., WMU
Gisele Tchamba—M.S.A., Andrews University
Activities such as invited scholars/lectures, conferences, symposia, etc.

Visiting Scholars

Nizoramo Haitova was a visiting scholar in The Evaluation Center in summer 2015. From Tajikistan, Ms. Haitova’s stay at The Evaluation Center was made possible by support from The Edmund S. Muskie Internship program. This program “is a summer internship experiences which provides participants with the change to apply lessons learned in the classroom to a workplace center” (http://www.culturalvistas.org/muskie). Ms. Haitova received a master’s degree in educational leadership from WMU in May 2015 and will begin a Ph.D. in educational leadership this fall also at WMU. While at The Evaluation Center, she assisted with a National Science Foundation project, led by Dr. Daniela Schroeter.

Stewart Donaldson, President of the American Evaluation Association, visited The Evaluation Center for two days in January 2015. At Claremont Graduate University, Dr. Donaldson is Professor of Psychology and Community and Global Health; Dean of the School of Social Science, Policy and Evaluation and the School of Community and Global Health; and Director of the Claremont Evaluation Center. Dr. Donald’s visit included an information breakfast conversation with staff from The Evaluation Center and the Office of the Vice President for Research and students from the IDPE program, and evening reception, office hours for students, and an Evaluation Café presentation.

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 ninth year of the series. Presenters included a mix of Evaluation Center staff, IDPE students, WMU faculty, and community experts.

Useful and Free Evaluation Websites
September 10, 2014
Dr. Wendy L. Tackett—President of iEval

Harnessing Complexity: Analysis Methodology and Ethical Frame for Using Video Data in Evaluations
September 17, 2014
Dr. Kurt Wilson—President of Effect X

Digital Qualitative: Leveraging Technology for Deeper Insight
September 24, 2014
Dr. Robert W. Kahle—Founder and Principal Researcher, Kahle Research Solutions, Inc.
Doing Evaluation by Combining “Traditional” Knowledge with “Complex” Understanding of how the World Works
October 22, 2014
Dr. Jonathan Morell—Director of Evaluation, Fulcrum Corporation

Evaluation and Social Justice
October 29, 2014
Dr. Jerry Johnson—Associate Professor, School of Social Work & Research Director, Johnson Center Community Research Institute, GVSU

Project Management—Tools and Techniques
November 5, 2014
Dr. Daniel Gaymer—Faculty Specialist, Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology, WMU

Using Multi-Attribute Utility Theory in Evaluation: Challenges and Opportunities
November 12, 2014
Dr. Daniela Schroeter—Director of Research, The Evaluation Center, WMU

The Detroit Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Action Research Project: Developmental Evaluation in Practice
November 19, 2014
Dr. Rebecca Campbell—Professor of Ecological-Community Psychology, MSU and Recipient of AEA’s 2013 Outstanding Evaluation Award

Tools and Resources for Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Evaluation
December 3, 2015
Corey Smith—Doctoral Associate, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Formidable Challenges and Promising Opportunities for the Transdiscipline of Evaluation
January 13, 2015
Dr. Stewart Donaldson—President of AEA, Director of Claremont Evaluation Center, and Dean at Claremont Graduate University

Bike Evaluation: Selecting Bike Vendors
February 4, 2015
Tim Krone—Owner of Pedal Bicycles

Conducting an On-site Observation: Tip, Tricks, and Best Practices for Observers
February 11, 2015
Dr. Kristin Everett—Senior Research Associate, SAMPI, WMU
Achieving Excellence in Engineering Through Testing and Evaluation
February 23, 2015
Dr. Joe Stufflebeam—Engineering Manager at TRAX International Corporation, White Sands Missile Range

Making Evaluation Useful!
March 4, 2015
Dr. Wendy L. Tackett—President of iEval

Project Management: Keeping You and Your Project Organized
March 18, 2015
Emma Perk—Project Manager, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Research on Evaluation at WMU: An Overview of Current Investigations and Their Relevance to Evaluation Theory, Methods, and Practices
March 25, 2015
Dr. Chris L. S. Coryn—Associate Professor and Director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation (IDPE), WMU
Lyssa Wilson—IDPE Student, WMU
Gregory Greenman II—IDPE Student, WMU
Satoshi Ozeki—IDPE Student, WMU

Visualizing Data with Text Analysis Tools
April 2, 2015
Ms. Kate Langan—Assistant Professor, Humanities Librarian, WMU

Group Facilitation: Tools, Skills, and Techniques
April 8, 2015
Claire Bode—Public Policy Education Specialist, Michigan State University Extension

Evaluation Validity and LGBT Populations: Addressing Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation
April 15, 2015
Jennifer Hsu—Coordinator of LGBT Student Services, WMU

Evaluation of the Federal Railroad Administration’s Confidential Close Call Reporting System
April 22, 2015
Dr. Jonathan Morell—Director of Evaluation, Fulcrum Corporation
Melinda Davey—Senior Analyst, Organizational Solutions Group and Jacobs Advanced Consulting
Dr. Joyce Ranney—Senior Program Evaluator and Program Manager, Volpe Center
The idea for *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation (JMDE)* originated with Daniela C. Schroeter and Chris L. S. Coryn when they were in the doctoral 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). Dr. Coryn is the current executive editor. Editors include IDPE student Kristin Hobson, Evaluation Center Director of Research Daniela Schroeter, Jane Davidson, and Michael Scriven. Six of the seven associate editors are IDPE students, including Gregory Greenman II, Robert McCowen, Abhik Roy, Corey Smith, Carl Westine, and Lyssa Wilson.

### Research Activities Performed and Disseminated

#### Publications

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


Presentations

The following presentations were given by Center staff and the IDPE director; several include doctoral student co-presenters. (BOLD CAPS = Center staff; Bold = Students)

CORYN, C. L. S. (2015, March). How to conduct a meta-analysis: A conceptual introduction. Paper presented at The Tate Grant and Innovation Center, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.


**Workshops**

The following workshops were given by Center staff and the IDPE director.

CORYN, C. L. S., & Wilson, L. N. (2015, March). *Applying the tailored design method to increase the quality of surveys.* One-day workshop given at the meeting of the Michigan Society of Association Executives, Lansing, MI.


WINGATE, L. A. (2014, September). *Translating evaluation findings into actionable recommendations.* Workshop presented at CDC University. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA.

**Curricular Activities and Degrees Granted**

**Courses taught in 2014-15:**

**Western Michigan University, School of Public Affairs and Administration.**

PADM 6461 – Evaluation of NPOs (Spring 2015)
Daniela Schroeter

**Western Michigan University, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation (IDPE) Program:**

EVAL 6000—Foundations in Evaluation (Fall 2014)
Chris Coryn

EVAL 6010—Interdisciplinary Seminar in Evaluation (Fall 2014 and Spring 2015)
Chris Coryn

EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Cost Analysis (Fall 2014)
Chris Coryn

EVAL 7100 – Independent Research (Fall 2014)
Stephen Magura
EVAL 7100 – Independent Research: Multi-Attribute Utility Analysis and Social Network Analysis (Fall 2014)
Daniela Schroeter

EVAL 7100 – Independent Research: Multi-Attribute Utility Analysis (Spring 2015)
Daniela Schroeter

EVAL 7100 – Independent Research: Research on Evaluation Practice: Connecting Theory with Practice (Spring and Summer 2015)
Daniela Schroeter

EVAL 7120—Professional Field Experience (Fall 2014 and Summer 2015)
Chris Coryn

EVAL 7300—Doctoral Dissertation (Fall 2014, Spring and Summer 2015)
Chris Coryn
Stephen Magura
Daniela Schroeter
Lori Wingate

Degrees granted by the IDPE program in 2014-15:

**Pedro Fernando Mateu Bullón, Ph.D.** (Spring 2015)
*Failing to Replicate? Hypothesis Testing as a Crucial Key to Make Direct Replications More Credible and Predictable*
Dissertation Committee: Edward B. Applegate (Chair), Chris Coryn, David Hartmann

**Maran Subramain, Ph.D.** (Summer 2015)
*The New World Kirkpatrick Model in Nutrition Education Training Programs Evaluation*
Dissertation Committee: David Hartmann (Chair), Marianne Di Pierro, Donald McCloud, Marci Scott

**Gisele Tchamba, Ph.D.** (Spring 2015)
*An Evaluation of the Primary Care Providers’ Perspective of the Effects of Moderate Alcohol Consumption on Health*
Dissertation Committee: C. Dennis Simpson (Chair), Kieran Fogarty, Stephen Magura

Enrollments

In its 12th year of operation, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation program admitted four new students for the 2014-15 academic year, for a total of 33 active doctoral students enrolled in the program this year, three of whom graduated. Fifteen IDPE doctoral students worked on Evaluation Center projects this year. (See list of students on pages 2-3).

Grants and Contracts Proposed, Submitted, and Awarded

The Center’s portfolio includes 22 grant and contract-funded projects for fiscal year 2014-15. Cumulatively over their total award periods, these projects are worth $5.9 million, with $1,064,646 awarded in the 2014-15. These projects span the areas of community development; scientific, social, and educational research; business; STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education; public health; international development; and substance abuse and addiction treatment—among others. The Evaluation Center’s sponsors include federal agencies; universities; local, national,
and international organizations; and WMU-based units. Our current externally funded projects are listed below.

## 2014-15 Grants and Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Principal Investigators</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anchor Organization Network Evaluation</td>
<td>Heart of West Michigan United Way</td>
<td>Kelly Robertson</td>
<td>April 1, 2012</td>
<td>November 30, 2014</td>
<td>$149,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment for Learning Research Scholars: Capacity Building in Mathematics and Science Education</td>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>Steven Ziebarth, Chris Coryn, William Cobern, Katharine Cummings</td>
<td>September 2007</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
<td>$1,312,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATE Central</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin</td>
<td>Lori Wingate</td>
<td>October 2013</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>$57,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC Metaevaluation</td>
<td>Deloitte</td>
<td>Lori Wingate</td>
<td>August 2012</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>$83,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC University Workshops</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
<td>Daniela Schroeter, Lori Wingate</td>
<td>December 2012</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>$84,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EvaluATE: ATE Evaluation Resource Center</td>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>Lori Wingate, Arlen Gullickson</td>
<td>August 2012</td>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>$2,186,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Family Literacy Program: Schools of Hope</td>
<td>Literacy Center of West Michigan</td>
<td>Stephanie Means, Daniela Schroeter</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>$3,784</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation of Family Literacy Program: Iglesias de Esperanza, Family Literacy Church and Clergy ELL Programs  
Sponsor: Literacy Center of West Michigan  
Principal Investigator: Stephanie Means  
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
January 2014 – December 2014  
$5,277

Evaluation of Indiana State University’s First in the World Grant  
Sponsor: Indiana State University | National Science Foundation  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2018  
$394,977

Evaluation of Indiana State University’s Unbounded Possibilities Initiative  
Sponsor: Indiana State University  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori Wingate  
August 2012 – July 2015  
$42,121

Evaluation of the International Codex Outreach Program  
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
October 1, 2013 – September 2014  
$150,000

External Evaluation of Center for Research and Education in Optical Sciences and Applications (CREOSA)  
Sponsor: Delaware State University | National Science Foundation  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori Wingate  
Co-Principal Investigator: Krystin Martens (through September 2014)  
September 2012 – August 2017  
$245,657

External Evaluation of the Augustana College NSF RCN-UBE: Microbial Genome Annotation Network Project  
Sponsor: Augustana College | National Science Foundation  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
December 2011 – December 2014  
$60,000

Field-Initiated Research Trauma Informed Juvenile Assessment and Treatment  
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Justice  
Principal Investigator: Dr. James Henry (Social Work)  
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Chris Coryn  
September 2011 – August 2014  
[Awarded to and is administered by WMU’s Children’s Trauma Assessment Center]
Formative Assessment Systems for ATE  
Sponsor: National Science Foundation  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Arlen Gullickson  
Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Lori Wingate, Dr. Amy Gullickson (University of Melbourne)  
September 2013 – February 2016  
$199,103  

Luxembourg National Research Fund Evaluation  
Sponsor: Luxembourg National Research Fund  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Chris Coryn  
Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. E. Brooks Applegate, Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
March 16, 2015 – December 31, 2015  
$149,285  

National Athletic Trainers Association  
Sponsor: National Athletic Trainers Association  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Chris Coryn  
December 15, 2016 – April 30, 2015  
$35,000  

PEEPs for PD: Identification of Project Effectiveness for Professional Development in Elementary Science Teaching  
Sponsor: National Science Foundation  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Chris Coryn  
September 2012 – August 2015  
$249,993  

Social Literacy Training Evaluation  
Sponsor: Integra Institute  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
January 2013 – March 2015  
$23,968  

Systemic Review of Evidence-Based Program Repositories  
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | National Institutes of Health  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura  
Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Daniela Schroeter, Dr. Chris Coryn  
July 2011 – June 2015  
$409,750  

WMU–Broncos First  
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education via WMU Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology  
Lead Evaluator: Dr. Stephen Magura  
October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2018  
[Awarded to and is administered by WMU’s Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology]
Submitted Proposals—Notification Pending

The following proposals were submitted in 2014-15, and notification of award status was pending at the close of the fiscal year.

**External Evaluation of Delaware State University's Optics for Space Technology and Applied Research**
Sponsor: NASA via Delaware State University  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori Wingate  
Submission date: November 3, 2014  
$75,038

**External Evaluation of Delaware State University's Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM)**
Sponsor: National Science Foundation via Delaware State University  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori Wingate  
Submission date: January 7, 2015  
$50,771

**Evaluation of the Indiana University NRT-DESE: Genomics- and Cyberinfrastructure-enabled Graduate Research Training (GCeGRT) grant**
Sponsor: Indiana State University  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
Submission Date: July 23, 2014  
$334,872

Submitted Proposals—Not Funded

The following proposals submitted in 2014-15 were not funded.

**Community Impact of Evidence-Based Program Registers in Community Health**
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura  
Submission date: April 17, 2015  
$2,275,395

**DoD Child and Youth Development System: Evaluation Planning**
Sponsor: U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter  
Co-principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson  
Submission date: August 28, 2014  
$ 449,997
Evaluation of Benetech’s i3 Grant
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter
Submission date: September 17, 2014
$ 446,998

Evaluation of NOCTI’s i3 Grant
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter
Submission date: September 17, 2014
$348,729

Evaluation of Truckee Meadows Community College First in the World Project
Sponsor: Truckee Meadows Community College
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission date: September 16, 2014
$299,459

Moraine Valley Community College Consortium Project Evaluation
Sponsor: Moraine Valley Community College
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission date: September 17, 2014
$476,201

University of Washington Bothell ADANCE Evaluation
Sponsor: University of Washington
Principal Investigator: Lori Wingate
Co-principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson
Submission Date: September 26, 2014
$52,786

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. Three project managers and one senior research associate at The Evaluation Center are enrolled in the doctoral program. Additionally, the Center provides numerous students with real-world evaluation experiences on local, national, and international projects—18 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, Schroeter, and Wingate serve on students’ program and dissertation committees and supervise field experiences.

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

Excellence in Discovery: Research and External Funding over $1 Million Level for 5 Years (2009-2014) and Research and External Funding: 2014-2015
Stephen Magura
Daniela Schroeter
Lori Wingate

Outstanding Poster Demonstration (2nd place)
Research and Creative Activities Poster Day, Office of the Vice President for Research, WMU
Corey Smith, IDPE student (with faculty mentor Lori Wingate): “NSF Investment in Advancing Evaluation Theory, Methods, and Practice: Outcomes, Trends, and Implications”

Community Service

Chris Coryn
- Board member—Michigan Association for Evaluation
- Editorial Advisory Board member, American Journal of Evaluation
- Editorial Advisory Board member, Evaluation and Program Planning
- Executive Editor—Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation
- Elected Member—Survey Coordination Committee (SCC), WMU
- Elected Member—Research Policies Council, WMU
- Observation Committee Member—Academic Program Review and Planning, Western Michigan University WMU
- Grant Application Reviewer—Department of Health and Human Services, New Pathways for Fathers and Families
- External Tenure and Promotion Reviewer—Brigham Young University, Department of Instructional Psychology and Technology
- Webmaster—American Evaluation Association Research on Evaluation Topical Interest Group
- International Advisory Panel Member—Centre for Program Evaluation (CPE), University of Melbourne, Australia
Miranda Lee
- Grant Application Reviewer—Department of Health and Human Services, New Pathways for Fathers and Families program

Stephen Magura
- Abstract reviewer—American Evaluation Association Topical Interest Groups on Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health; Health Evaluation; Research on Evaluation; Quantitative Methods
- Ad Hoc Committee to Review Centers and Institutes at Western Michigan University
- Chief editor—Substance Use and Misuse
- Commissioner—Zoning Board of Appeals (Cooper Charter Township, MI)
- Consulting editor—Health and Social Work
- Dissertation Committee Chair—Miranda Lee
- Elected Member—Research Society on Alcoholism
- Elected Member—College on Problems of Drug Dependence
- Member—University Strategic Planning Operations Team
- Member—WMU 21st Century Student Steering Committee
- Permanent member—National Institutes of Health peer review committee for Risk, Prevention and Intervention for Addictions (RPIA) Study Section
- Trustee and Secretary, Board of Directors—Eastwood House of Recovery (Kalamazoo Township, MI)

Stephanie Means
- Keynote Speaker—Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society 2014 Induction Ceremony
- Track Chair & Reviewer—Human Performance Track for Society for Healthcare Systems’ Healthcare Systems Process Improvement Conference 2014

Emma Perk
- Proposal Reviewer—American Evaluation Association for the Data Visualization and Reporting Topical Interest Group
- Chair—Parent Advisory Committee, Bullfrogs and Butterflies Christian Learning Center

Mary Ramlow
- Executive Board Member—WMU’s Administrative Professional Association
- Member—Special Events Committee, for WMU’s Administrative Professional Association
- Member—Awards and Recognition Committee for WMU’s Administrative Professional Association
- Chair—Ellsworth Hall Emergency Team
- Co-Building Coordinator—Ellsworth Hall

Kelly Robertson
- Reviewer—Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation
- Mentor—Seita Scholars Program, WMU
Daniela Schroeter
- Ambassador—American Evaluation Association Conference
- Associate Editor & Reviewer/Referee—Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation
- Book Proposal Reviewer—Sage Publications
- Conference proposal reviewer—American Evaluation Association
- Judge—Office of the Vice President for Research Poster Day, WMU
- Member at Large—Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
- Reverse Site Visitor—National Science Foundation
- Panelist—WMU Office of the Vice President for Research “Discover Discovery” Faculty Seminar “Everything You Wanted to Know About Communicating with Sponsors but Were Afraid to Ask”

Lori Wingate
- Book Proposal Reviewer—Springer
- Member—Advanced Technological Education Mentor-Connect Advisory Committee
- Member—NSF ATE Principal Investigators’ Conference Steering Committee
- Member—Racial Healing at WMU Advisory Committee
- Evaluator—Racial Healing at WMU 2014-15
- Proposal Reviewer—American Evaluation Association annual conference (2005-present)

Future Plans

Goal 1. Provide outstanding evaluation, research, and capacity-building services to a broad array of University, public, community-based, national, and international organizations

Strategy 1.1: Research staff will continually pursue viable grant and contract opportunities to assure
- continuation and renewal of funding streams
- innovation and learning
- job security for all center staff

Strategy 1.2: Evaluation Center administration will provide adequate time and resources for research staff to increase
- funding via grants and contracts
- the number of principal investigators on federal grants
- local, regional, national, and international partnerships and networks
- scholarly publication

Strategy 1.3: Evaluation Center administration will further provide adequate resources for
- maintaining and renewing the electronic repository and research infrastructure
- enhancing investment in the professional development of staff
- increasing and training staff as necessary to fulfill the EC vision and mission
- mentoring new staff
- increasing diversity
Strategy 1.4: Research and support staff will use awarded resources to maintain and enhance
  • high-quality evaluation, research, and capacity-building
  • learning from inquiry, collaboration, and innovation
  • sharing of knowledge and lessons learned with the academic and
  • the visibility of WMU and Office of the Vice President for Research
  • opportunities for engaging doctoral students in evaluation in hands-on learning experiences from practice

Strategy 1.5: Evaluation Center staff will assist a wide range of organizations to
  • improve their programs
  • promote research and evaluation
  • stimulate learning and discourse about research and evaluation

Goal 2. Engage in academic leadership

Strategy 2.1: Research staff will publish in the peer-reviewed literature to increase the
  • visibility and competitiveness of the EC and WMU
  • professional profile of individual EC staff
  • opportunities for extramural funding

Strategy 2.2: Research staff will present at academic and professional conferences to
  • learn from other academics and professionals to improve our work
  • share knowledge and lessons learned from our work
  • increase visibility and network building

Strategy 2.3: Research staff will provide service to professional organizations and scholarly journals

Goal 3. Enrich the experience of students in the IDPE program by providing opportunities for students to put their academic knowledge into real-world practice

Strategy 3.1: Research staff will engage outstanding IDPE students in Center project work to
  • prepare students to be successful in real-world research and evaluation contexts
  • provide hands-on learning experiences
  • promote the interdisciplinary nature of evaluation work
  • ensure a firm foundation in evaluation practice
  • enhance evaluation, research, and communication competencies
  • provide financial support when possible

Strategy 3.2: The leadership team will serve on program and dissertation committees to contribute to WMU's academic community

Strategy 3.3: Support staff will provide administrative services to the IDPE to assure that
  • budgets are tracked and appropriately allocated
  • students are informed of operational procedures and policies
  • student paperwork is up to date and, as appropriate, submitted to the necessary parties
  • applications are processed in a timely matter
  • applications are reviewed by appropriate parties in a timely manner
  • board meetings are scheduled twice annually
Strategy 3.4: Center staff will ensure a synergistic, mutually beneficial relationship between IDPE students and Center staff by honoring values of integrity, respect, diversity, and commitment to excellence.

Other: Alignment with WMU’s Vision and Strategic Plan

In this section, we discuss how The Evaluation Center and IDPE program’s 2013-14 activities have supported and are aligned with the University’s three Pillars of Vision and five strategic planning goals (see www.wmich.edu/strategic).

Pillars of WMU’s Vision

Learner Centered
The Evaluation Center supports the academic and professional development of IDPE students by encouraging and supporting their engagement in the Evaluation Café series, employing them on projects, and senior staff providing instruction and mentoring activities. Likewise, the IDPE program supports students to attend annual AEA conference, where they give presentations, engage in leadership roles for the organizational topical interests groups, and build their professional networks beyond WMU.

With many IDPE students’ learning extending beyond traditional coursework, they have opportunities to develop and improve the “soft skills”—e.g., communication, management, critical thinking—that are essential for competent evaluation work.

Discovery Driven
The Evaluation Center has several projects supported by external grants and contracts. These grants and contracts enable the Center to provide evaluation services to local, national, and international organizations, as well as to advance the science of program evaluation.

Consistent with the Center’s mission to advance the theory, practice, and utilization of evaluation, we have a strong dissemination focus: Center staff and faculty generated 4 peer-reviewed publications, 25 presentations, and 9 workshops in 2013-14; IDPE students gave an additional 11 presentations.

Globally Engaged
The Evaluation Center has a long history of working across borders. This year, we provided evaluation services to the Swiss National Science Foundation, International Labour Organization, Integra (Slovenia), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s International Codex Outreach program.

Four international students are enrolled in the IDPE program from Malaysia (1), Peru (1), Saudi Arabia (1), and Japan (1).

WMU’s Strategic Planning Goals

1. Ensure a distinctive learning experience and foster the success of students

All IDPE students are required to complete nine credits of practical evaluation experience. Placements on Evaluation Center projects are common. This year, 12 students worked on Center
projects as part of the field experience requirements or otherwise. These experiences afforded them real-world experience, such as

- managing, analyzing, and reporting on data from a survey of NSF program grantees that has been conducted annually since 2000
- presenting Center project work to national and international audiences
- transcribing interview data and analyzing rich qualitative data from interviews and document reviews
- developing relational databases for multiple projects
- collecting data in the field
- conducting extensive literature and document reviews
- developing and implementing evaluation management plans
- developing survey instruments and protocols for interviews and focus groups
- managing logistics for data collection via field visits
- leading internal evaluation work for a large-scale project

2. Promote innovative learning, discovery, and service

Students engaged with IDPE faculty and Center staff in developing numerous scholarly publications and presentations (see publication and presentations), and both staff and students are encouraged to participate in professional conferences and take leadership roles in professional organizations. Center staff’s engagement in and service to the evaluation profession is evidenced by their various contributions listed in the Community Service section of this report.

3. Advance WMU as a major research university

WMU is an evaluation powerhouse in terms of scholarship, service, and education. The Evaluation Center is without peer in terms of its longevity as a center dedicated to evaluation. The IDPE is unique in the world in terms of the interdisciplinary nature of its doctoral degree. The Center has competed successfully to obtain grants and contracts for major federal and international research sponsors, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health (National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism); National Science Foundation; Swiss National Science Foundation, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

4. Ensure diverse, inclusive, and healthy community

Through the Evaluation Café series, the Center and IDPE calls attention to matters related to diversity, inclusion, and vulnerable populations. This year, Evaluation Café presenters addressed cultural competence and racial equity in evaluation. Additionally, Dr. Wingate serves on the advisory committee for WMU’s Racial Healing grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Diversity at The Evaluation Center is greatly enhanced by the presence of students in the IDPE program. Of the 36 IDPE students, four are minority females and seven are minority males.

5. Advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability practices

By sharing technology, facilities, and intellectual and human resources, The Evaluation Center and IPDE program both operate in a more efficient and sustainable manner.