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. 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 provides 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

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

Lori Wingate, Director of Research
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 (nee Jason Burkhardt)
Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Evaluation, WMU

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

Emily 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
Undergraduate Students

Jacob Batt—Mathematics
Christopher Proctor—Aerospace Engineering, WMU (graduated in December 2015, continuing in master’s program)
Kadeesha Anderson—Nursing (through December 2015)

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 2015-16 fiscal year.

Ruqayyah Abu-Obaid—Masters of Economics, Al al-Bayt University, Jordan
Karen Alexander—M.S.W., Grand Valley State University
Saeed Almueed—M.A., WMU
Teryila Amough—M.B.A., WMU
Miranda Lee—M.A., Webster University
Michelle Calco—M.B.A., Michigan State University
Steven Dibble—M.S., WMU
Cheryl Endres—M.A., WMU
Erica Fiekowsky—M.A., WMU
Stacy French—M.A., Siena Heights University, Ph.D.
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
Michael Kiella—M.A., WMU
Thomas Lyzenga—M.A., Oklahoma State University
Alexander Manga—M.B.A., WMU
Krystin Martens—M.A., WMU
Robert McCowen—B.S., Clemson University
Stephanie Means—M.S., WMU
Satoshi Ozeki—M.A., WMU
ACTIVITIES such as invited scholars/lectures, conferences, symposia, etc.

Visiting Scholars

Valerie Caracelli, Senior Analyst, U.S. Government Accountability Office
Dr. Caracelli’s one-day visit (April 13) included meetings with Center personnel and a presentation as part of the Evaluation Café series title, “The Federal Context: Meeting the Challenge to Plan, Conduct and Use Evaluations in Decision Making.”

John Gargani, President, American Evaluation Association; President and Founder, Gargani + Company, Inc.
Dr. Gargani’s two-and-a-half-day visit (April 25-27) included meetings with Center personnel, “office hours” for doctoral students, a meeting with the Michigan Association for Evaluation board, as well as the following public presentations:
• Evaluation Café presentation: “Why Design Matters to Evaluation”
• Workshop: “Evaluation and Program Design”
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.

1,001 Evaluation Approaches: How Many Do You Know?
September 23, 2015
Lyssa N. Wilson, IDPE Student, WMU

Using Systems Thinking in Your Evaluations: How Separate Evaluation Projects Can Strengthen Each Other
September 30, 2015
Laura Sundstrom, Evaluation Associate, Curtis Center Program Evaluation Group, University of Michigan School of Social Work

Lessons and Thoughts from Edward Tufte’s Presenting Data and Information Workshop
October 7, 2015
Cheryl Endres, Erica Fiekowsky, and Lyssa N. Wilson, IDPE Students, WMU; Emma Perk, Project Manager, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Evaluation at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation: Building and Strengthening Grantee Evaluation Capacity
October 14, 2015
Dr. Huilan Krenn, Director of Evaluation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The Detroit Sexual Assault Kit Action Research Project: Developmental Evaluation in Practice
October 21, 2015
Dr. Rebecca Campbell, Professor of Ecological Community Psychology, Michigan State University

What Counts as Evidence? The Misalignment of Evaluation in the Policy Cycle
October 28, 2015
Dr. Daniela Schroeter, Assistant Professor, School of Public Affairs and Administration, WMU; Gregory D. Greenman II, IDPE Student, WMU

Assessing Organizational Culture and Change
November 4, 2015
Dr. Frank Jeremy, Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, WMU
Managing Evaluations  
November 18, 2015  
Dr. Melanie Hwalek, CEO, SPEC Associates

Evaluating Evaluation Training  
December 2, 2015  
Dr. Lori Wingate, Director of Research, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Evaluability Assessment  
December 9, 2015  
Dr. Bradley Watts, Assistant Director, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Conquering Excel: Slicing Your Way to New Insights  
February 3, 2016  
Miranda Lee, Project Manager, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Tips, Tricks, and Time Savers: Automation and Organization in Microsoft Office Suite  
February 10, 2016  
Miranda Lee, Project Manager, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Personality Assessment in Healthcare: Implications for Personnel Evaluation  
February 17, 2016  
Stephanie Means, Project Manager, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Ambiguities in Evaluating the Merit of Scientific Journals: Which are the ‘Best’ and Why?  
February 24, 2016  
Stephen Magura, Director, The Evaluation Center, WMU

Systems Thinking in Philanthropy  
March 2, 2016  
Teri Behrens, Director, Institute for Foundation and Donor Learning, Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, Grand Valley State University

Using R to Automate and Document Your Evaluation  
March 16, 2016  
Steven Dibble, IDPE Student, WMU

Continuous Improvement at the Learning Network  
March 23, 2016  
Jared Volz, Learning Network Facilitator, Kalamazoo Community Foundation
Performance Evaluation for Learning, Growth, and Adaption: What Are We Learning from State-Level Performance Evaluation Policy Initiatives?
March 30, 2016
Patricia Reeves, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership; and Evaluation, Measurement and Research, WMU

Underappreciated Tasks Essential to Evaluation: Managing Large Project Data Collections
April 6, 2016
Tessa Souers, Research Assistant, SAMPI, WMU; Crystal Stein, Project Manager, SAMPI, WMU

The Federal Context: Meeting the Challenge to Plan, Conduct, and Use Evaluations in Decision Making
April 13, 2016
Valerie Caracelli, Senior Analyst, U.S. Government Accountability Office

Using Mixed Methods in Research and Evaluation
April 20, 2016
Daphne Watkins, Associate Professor, School of Social Work and School of Medicine, University of Michigan

Why Design Matters to Evaluation
April 26, 2016
John Gargani, President, American Evaluation Association; President and Founder, Gargani + Company, Inc.

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 interdisciplinary Ph.D. in evaluation 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 Kristin Hobson, Daniela Schroeter, Jane Davidson, and Michael Scriven. The 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

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 Addresses**


**Presentations**


PERK, E. (2015, 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.


Publications


Webinars


Workshops


WINGATE, L. A. (2016, February). Identifying and communicating your project’s intellectual merit and broader impacts: Setting the stage for continued funding. Workshop presented at the WMU Spring Convocation: Recognition of Discovery, Diversity, and Global Engagement, Kalamazoo, MI.


CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND DEGREES GRANTED

Courses taught in 2015-16:

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

- EVAL 6010—Interdisciplinary Seminar in Evaluation (Fall 2015 and Spring 2016)  
  Chris Coryn
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Research on Evaluation (Fall 2015)  
  Chris Coryn
- EVAL 6970—Advanced Seminar in Evaluation: Meta-Analysis (Spring 2016)  
  Chris Coryn
- EVAL 7100 — Independent Research (Fall 2015)  
  Stephen Magura
- EVAL 7120—Professional Field Experience (Fall 2015 and Summer 2016)  
  Chris Coryn
- EVAL 7300—Doctoral Dissertation (Fall 2015, Spring and Summer 2016)  
  Chris Coryn  
  Stephen Magura  
  Daniela Schroeter  
  Brad Watts  
  Lori Wingate

Degrees granted by the IDPE program in 2015-16:

- **Kelly N. Robertson, Ph.D.** (Fall 2015)  
  *Defining Equity and Addressing the Social Determinants of Equity in International Development Evaluation*  
  Dissertation Committee: Lori Wingate (Chair), Douglas Davidson, Mahendra Lawoti, Donna Mertens, Rodney Hopson

- **Alexander Manga, Ph.D.** (Spring 2016)  
  *Crowd Sourced Product Reviews: A Study of Evaluation Standards Uses*  
  Dissertation Committee: Daniela Schroeter (Chair), Kuanchin Chen, Chris Coryn

- **Krystin Martens, Ph.D.** (Spring 2016)  
  *Rubrics as a Tool for Reaching Explicitly Evaluative Conclusions: Implications for Evaluation Theory, Training, and Practice*  
  Dissertation Committee: Lori Wingate (Chair), Michael Scriven, E. Jane Davidson, Marianne Di Pierro
Saeed Mohammed Almueed, Ph.D. (Spring 2016)
A Metaevaluation of School Counseling Program Evaluations
Dissertation Committee: Chris Coryn (Chair), Daniela Schroeter, Beverly Vandiver

Stacy French, Ph.D. (Summer 2016)
Metaevaluation of the CFAI Agency Accreditation Process
Dissertation Committee: Chris Coryn (Chair), William Fales, Wes Martz

Abhik Ranjan Roy, Ph.D. (Summer 2016)
Building an Evaluation Model of Academic Advising’s Impact on Progression, Persistence, and Retention within University Settings
Dissertation Committee: Tabitha Mingus (Chair), Chris Coryn, Marcia Fetters

Woodhouse-Jackson, Michelle, Ph.D. (Summer 2016)
An Analysis of Evaluation Practices of Two Training Programs in the Healthcare Sector Using the New World Kirkpatrick Model
Dissertation Committee: Chris Coryn (Chair), Kyle Brink, Michael Scriven

ENROLLMENTS

In its 13th year of operation, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation program admitted three new students for the 2015-16 academic year, for a total of 29 active doctoral students enrolled in the program this year, 7 of whom graduated. Twelve IDPE doctoral students worked on Evaluation Center projects this year. (See list of students on pages 2-3).
The Evaluation Center’s portfolio includes 17 grant and contract-funded projects for fiscal year 2015-16. Cumulatively over their total award periods, these projects are worth $4.1 million. 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.

2015-16 Grants and Contracts

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

**CDC University Workshops**
Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Principal Investigators: Dr. Lori Wingate
March 2015 – September 2016
$9,262

**EvaluATE: ATE Evaluation Resource Center**
Sponsor: National Science Foundation (Advanced Technological Education program)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori Wingate
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Arlen Gullickson
August 2012 – August 2017 (includes one-year no-cost extension)
$2,186,660

**Evaluation of Family Literacy Program**
Sponsor: Literacy Center of West Michigan
Principal Investigator: Stephanie Means
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter
January 2015 – December 2016
$9,405
**Evaluation of Indiana State University’s First in the World Grant**
Sponsor: Indiana State University | National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Dr. Bradley Watts, initially Dr. Daniela Schroeter
October 2014 – September 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 WMU’s Upward Bound Program**
Sponsor: WMU Division of Multicultural Affairs | U.S. Department of Education
Lead Evaluator: Miranda Lee
September 2008 – May 2017
$50,000

**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 (through September 2015: Bradley Watts (beginning September 2015))
Co-Principal Investigator: Krystin Martens (through September 2015)
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 2015
$60,000

**External Evaluation of Delaware State University’s Optics for Space Technology and Applied Research**
Sponsor: NASA via Delaware State University
Principal Investigator: Dr. Bradley Watts
August 2015 – July 2016
$14,336
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 – August 2016
$199,103

International Labour Organization
Sponsor: International Labour Organization
Principal Investigator: Dr. Chris Coryn
October 2015 – January 2016
$33,800

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 2015 – December 2015
$149,285

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

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 – August 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 2014 – February 2016
(Awarded to and administered by WMU’s Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology)
YWCA of Kalamazoo
Sponsor: YWCA of Kalamazoo | Kellogg Foundation
Principal Investigator: Kelly Robertson
February 2015 – September 2015
$8,000

Submitted Proposals—Notification Pending
The following proposals were submitted in 2015-16, and notification of award status was pending at the close of the fiscal year.

**EvaluATE: ATE Evaluation Support Center**
Sponsor: National Science Foundation (Advanced Technological Education program)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori Wingate
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Arlen Gullickson
Submission date: October 8, 2015
$2,225,096

**Evaluation for Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program**
Sponsor: Central Michigan University
Principal Investigator: Dr. Bradley Watts
Submission date: November 16, 2015
$22,000

**Evaluation of “A Strengthening Institutions Program for Indiana State University: Sycamore Success”**
Sponsor: Indiana State University
Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniela Schroeter
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission date: June 26, 2015
$315,221

**Evaluation of Michigan Tech’s NRT Graduate Degree Program**
Sponsor: Michigan Technological University
Principal Investigator: Dr. Bradley Watts
Submission date: February 9, 2016
$232,943

**Evaluation of the Use of Restorative practices to Reduce School Truancy and Suspensions**
Sponsor: Michigan Supreme Court
Principal Investigator: Dr. Bradley Watts
Submission date: May 13, 2016
$49,814
External Evaluation of Delaware State University’s Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials
Sponsor: National Science Foundation via Delaware State University
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori Wingate
Submission date: January 7, 2015
$50,771

Translational Potential of NIDA-funded Behavioral Clinical Trial Research
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Bradley Watts
Submission date: February 10, 2016
$415,212

Submitted Proposals—Not Funded
The following proposals submitted in 2015-16 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: October 1, 2015
$2,275,395

Evaluation of Emerging Leaders in Public Health
Sponsor: Kresge Foundation
Principal Investigator: Dr. Bradley Watts
Submission Date: November 16, 2015
$22,000

Evaluation of Lipscomb University’s FITW Grant
Sponsor: Lipscomb University (Tennessee Department of Education)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission Date: July 1, 2015
$411,770

Evaluation of Michigan Community College Consortium FITW Grant
Sponsor: Jackson Community College (Michigan Department of Education)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission Date: July 1, 2015
$496,081
Evaluation of NOCTI 21st Century Skills i3 Project
Sponsor: Institute of Educational Statistics
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission Date: August 11, 2015
$326,176

Evaluation of University of Michigan's FITW Grant
Sponsor: University of Michigan (Michigan Department of Education)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission Date: July 1, 2015
$333,596

Evaluation of Wayne State University's FITW Grant
Sponsor: Wayne State University (Michigan Department of Education)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission Date: July 1, 2015
$749,998

Evaluation Planning and Capacity Building for the YWCA
Sponsor: YWCA
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kelly Robertson
Submission Date: October 1, 2015
$10,000

Responsible Fatherhood Opportunities for Reentry and Mobility Evaluation
Sponsor: Douglass Community Association (Michigan Department of Justice)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephen Magura
Submission Date: July 6, 2015
$64,973
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 were enrolled in the doctoral program in 2015-16; one of whom graduated. Additionally, the Center provides numerous students with real-world evaluation experiences on local, national, and international projects—12 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, Watts, 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 2010-2015 (Principal Investigator) and Research and External Funding over $1 Million for 5 Years (Co-Principal Investigator) 2010-2015, WMU

Stephen Magura
Daniela Schroeter
Lori Wingate

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, WMU
• Elected member—Research Policies Council, WMU
• Observation committee member—Academic Program Review and Planning, WMU
• Grant Application Reviewer—Department of Health & 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, University of Melbourne, Australia

**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, WMU
• Chief editor—*Substance Use and Misuse*
• Commissioner—Zoning Board of Appeals (Cooper Charter Township, MI)
• Consulting editor—*Health and Social Work*
• Elected member—Research Society on Alcoholism
• Elected member—College on Problems of Drug Dependence
• Member—Strategic Planning Operations Team, WMU
• Member—WMU Committee on Campus Climate Survey
• Permanent member—National Institutes of Health peer review committee for Risk, Prevention and Intervention for Addictions Study Section
• Trustee and secretary, board of directors—Eastwood House of Recovery (Kalamazoo Township, MI)

**Stephanie Means**

• Ad hoc reviewer—*Evaluation Review*
• Pro bono evaluator—Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Pilot Program, WMU

**Emma Perk**

• Board member—Michigan Association for Evaluation
• Parent advisory committee member—Bullfrogs and Butterflies Christian Learning Center
Mary Ramlow
- Vice president—Professional Support Staff Organization, WMU
- Executive board member—Administrative Professional Association, WMU
- Member—Special Events Committee, Administrative Professional Association, WMU
- Chair—Ellsworth Hall Emergency Team, WMU
- Building co-coordinator—Ellsworth Hall, WMU

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

Daniela Schroeter
- Ambassador—American Evaluation Association Conference
- Associate editor—Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation
- Book proposal reviewer—Sage Publications
- Conference proposal reviewer—American Evaluation Association
- Reverse site visitor—National Science Foundation

Brad Watts
- Member at large—Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation
- Conference proposal reviewer—American Evaluation Association Costs, Benefits, and Economics TIG
- Reviewer—Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation

Lori Wingate
- Board member and evaluation advisor—Future for Teens, Kalamazoo, MI
- Book proposal reviewer—Springer
- Chair—University-wide Search Committee for Assistant/Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Evaluation
- Member—Advanced Technological Education Mentor-Connect Advisory Committee
- Member—NSF ATE Principal Investigators’ Conference Steering Committee
- Member—Racial Healing at WMU Advisory Committee (W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant)
- Pro bono evaluator—Racial Healing project, WMU
- Proposal Reviewer—American Evaluation Association annual conference
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 manner
- 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 2015-16 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 interest 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 3 keynote addresses, 14 presentations, 9 publications, 5 webinars, and 5 workshops in 2015-16.

Globally Engaged

The Evaluation Center has a long history of working across borders. This year, we provided evaluation services to the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Luxembourg Research Fund and collaborated with the University of Melbourne on a National Science Foundation-funded project. Two IDPE two students participated in ILO’s internship program in Geneva, Switzerland.

Four international students are enrolled in the IDPE program. They are from Jordan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, 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, 13 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); and National Science Foundation.

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. Additionally, Dr. Wingate served on the advisory committee and provided pro bono evaluation services 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 29 IDPE students, three are minority females and six 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.