

40TH

**Evaluation Looking Forward:
Transitioning from Past to Future**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

**APRIL 2-4, 2017
SEAVIEW RESORT AND SPA
GALLOWAY, NJ**

EERS

Eastern Evaluation Research Society



Ph.D. in Program Evaluation

The Research and Evaluation in Education Ph.D. is a new offering from UMass Lowell's Graduate School of Education. The program will prepare students with expertise in research methods and program evaluation skills

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Learning with Purpose

40TH

Evaluation Looking Forward: Transitioning from Past to Future

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

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EERS

Eastern Evaluation Research Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome!

On behalf of the Eastern Evaluation Research Society's (EERS) Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to our **40th Annual Conference**. Yes, we are now officially forty years old! As we celebrate this anniversary, we re-affirm our dedication to supporting and enriching the work of evaluators across many disciplines.

This year, we have designed an inspiring program around our conference theme: **Evaluation Looking Forward: Transitioning from Past to Future**. Our presenters are impressive—including our Eleanor Chelimsky Forum speaker, **George Grob**, President of Center for Public Program Evaluation and Co-Chair of AEA Evaluation Policy Task Force and discussant, **Mark Mel**, Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology at Pennsylvania State University. We are also excited to bring you two esteemed keynote and plenary speakers:

- **Kathryn Newcomer**, AEA President and Director and Professor of Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University;
- **Dominica McBride**, CEO of Become: Center for Community Engagement and Social Change and Member at Large, AEA Board of Directors; and

Finally, we are pleased to host three long-time and distinguished members for a **40th Anniversary Presidential Panel**:

- **Karen Kirkhart**, Professor, School of Social Work, Syracuse University and Past President of AEA
- **Nick Smith**, Professor, School of Education, Syracuse University and Past President of AEA
- **Jonathan Morell**, Director of Evaluation, Fulcrum Corporation and Editor-in-Chief, *Evaluation and Program Planning*

While EERS is known for providing a stimulating knowledge and skill-building experience for evaluators, we are also known for creating a welcoming atmosphere to facilitate networking, camaraderie, and opportunities for students. So, please avail yourselves of the interactive networking dessert and reception Sunday night, the student poster session and reception Monday night, and the hospitality suite open both nights for more networking after the formal programming has finished.

We hope you enjoy the conference, make some new connections, and join us again next year!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hamilton

EERS President 2016-2017

EERS 2017 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

2:00 - 9:00pm	Registration (Lobby Bar)
3:00 - 6:00pm	Pre-Conference Workshops
	Workshop #1: A World of Possibilities Exploring the Uses of GIS in Evaluation (Michael Giangrande; Harding Room)
	Workshop #2: Text analysis: Beyond the word cloud (Tony Fujs; Salon A) [CANCELLED]
6:00 - 7:30pm	Dinner on your own
7:30 - 9:00pm	Interactive Networking Session and Dessert Reception (Oval Room)
9:00 - 11:00pm	Hospitality Suite open for evening networking (Room 490)

MONDAY, APRIL 3

8:00am - 5:30pm	Registration (Presidential Hallway)
8:00 - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast (Presidential Foyer)
8:45 - 10:00am	Eleanor Chelimsky Forum* – <i>George Grob, Mel Mark</i> (Salon A and B)
10:15 - 11:45pm	Concurrent Sessions
12:00 - 1:30pm	Lunch and Keynote Address by Kathy Newcomer (Salon C)
1:45 - 3:15pm	Concurrent Sessions
3:30 - 5:00pm	Concurrent Sessions
5:30 - 6:30pm	Presidential Panel – <i>Jonny Morell, Nick Smith, Karen Kirkhart</i> (Salon C)
6:30 - 6:45pm	EERS 40th Anniversary Celebration (Salon C)
6:45 - 7:45pm	Student Posters and Networking Reception with Cash Bar (Salon C)
7:45 - 9:00pm	Dinner (<i>not an official conference function, arrangements for joining others can be made at the registration desk</i>)
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Hospitality Suite open for evening networking (Room 490)

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

7:30am - 1:00pm	Registration (Presidential Hallway)
8:00 - 9:30am	Breakfast with Discussion Led by Dominica McBride (Salon C)
9:45 - 10:00am	Break to allow for hotel check-out
10:00 - 11:30am	Concurrent Sessions
11:45 - 1:15pm	Concurrent Sessions
1:15 - 2:00pm	Lunch and Awards
2:15 - 3:00pm	Board Meeting: All conference participants are welcome!

*Note: The Chelimsky Forum will be videotaped.

Conference Schedule: SUNDAY, APRIL 2

2:00 to 9:00 pm
Lobby Bar

Registration

3:00 to 6:00 pm
Harding Room

Pre-Conference Workshop

A World of Possibilities: Exploring the Uses of GIS in Evaluation

Michael Giangrande, Westat

This workshop aims to increase your understanding of the uses of geographic information systems (GIS) to study various phenomena. Using free trial software, we will introduce the basic concepts and techniques and discuss how GIS affords the opportunity to answer important questions in a wide range of disciplines. We will use examples from the field and include a demonstration of how one can search for geographic data online, import and view geographic data in a GIS, and design custom maps that visualize the results of your analysis.

Participant Outcomes:

- Understand the potential for using digital geographic data
- Become more knowledgeable about when GIS tools are appropriate for addressing research and evaluation questions
- Understand strengths and limitations of GIS

3:00 to 6:00 pm
Salon A

Pre-Conference Workshop

[CANCELLED] Text Analysis: Beyond the Word Cloud

Tony Fujs, World Bank

This workshop introduces participants to modern text analysis techniques and conceptual framework. Participants will learn about theory and applications of text analysis that are particularly relevant to evaluators, such as analysis of case notes, social media streams, or open-ended survey questions. The concepts and methods presented in this workshop will be illustrated by concrete examples and step-by-step demonstrations.

Participant Outcomes:

- Understand the potential applications of modern text analysis techniques
- Understand the core concepts and terminology used in text analysis
- Become familiar with the tools and techniques available to manage unstructured text and implement text analysis techniques

7:30 to 9:00 pm
Oval Room

Welcome Reception

Interactive Networking Session and Dessert Reception

9:00 to 11:00 pm
Hospitality Suite, Room 490

Networking in Hospitality Suite

Join Board members for an informal social and networking opportunity.

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

8:00 to 5:30 pm
Presidential Hallway

Registration

8:00 to 8:30 am
Presidential Foyer

Continental Breakfast

8:45 to 10:00 am
Salon A and B

Eleanor Chelimsky Forum on Evaluation Theory and Practice***Evaluation Theory and Practice: Stepping Back and Looking Forward—Reflections on Current Practice**

Introduction: **Jill Feldman**, Westat

Featured Speaker: **George Grob**, President of Center for Public Program Evaluation and Co-Chair of AEA Evaluation Policy Task Force

Discussant: **Mel Mark**, Pennsylvania State University, Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology

The presentation will take a fresh look at current evaluation practice and reflect on the kinds of research and theoretical reflections that will best support our practice in coming years. The Eleanor Chelimsky Forum recognizes the interdependence of evaluation theory and practice for developing best practices and the often divergent views of theorists and practitioners. Its goal is to surface, examine, and offer responses to important issues raised by evaluation theorists and practitioners.

*This session will be videotaped.

10:15 to 11:45 am
Salon A

Skill Building Session

Topic & Content Areas: Capacity building, Evaluation education, Data visualization

Mapping the Future: Cartography, Visualization, and Evaluation (GIS Skill-Building)

Murylo Batista and **Alexandra Ernst**, Research & Evaluation Group at Public Health Management Corporation

Expand your GIS skills by learning about geovisualization techniques and how to get started in making spatial data another evaluation tool for your toolbox. This session is tailored to evaluators with little to no prior experience with GIS looking to integrate the technology into their work by

Chair: **Ben Cohen**, Center for Schools and Communities

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

10:15 to 11:45 am
Salon B

Skill Building Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluator-client relationships, Project management, Capacity building

Monitoring and Evaluating Inclusive Program Practices

David Bernstein, Westat

Participants will learn about different types of inclusive practices, effective methods for monitoring inclusion, and how inclusive practices can support stakeholder involvement in evaluations.

Chair: **Kim Glassman**, Equal Measure

10:15 to 11:45 am
Harding Room

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Evaluator-client relationships, Non-profit evaluation, Workforce development

Evaluating Partnership Programs and Collective Impact Initiatives

Collaboration across boundaries is now the norm, given the current prevalence of public-private-nonprofit programs. In collective impact initiatives, partner organizations go a step further: holding themselves accountable for growing their partnership to achieve population-level outcomes, such as the important VA-HUD “No homeless veterans” initiative [which has unleashed national, state, and local efforts across the country, achieved impressive reduction in veteran homelessness, and achieved the national goal in a number of states, counties, and cities]. The first two panelists will describe and illustrate methods used to evaluate job training programs and multi-site programs in the health and human services arenas. The third presentation will describe how partnership programs and collective impact initiatives can be evaluated by assessing the inputs provided to the partnership program by partner organizations, the products and services produced by the partners in support of the partnership program, and the intermediate and end outcomes achieved.

Evaluating Partnerships in Workforce Development Programs

Burt S. Barnow, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration

This paper identifies key issues in partnerships and discusses the relationship between partnership strength and program impact.

Designing and Managing Multi-Site Evaluations

Debra J. Rog, Westat

This paper offers general principles and frameworks for designing multi-site evaluations as well as practical tools and examples that can guide their conduct.

Evaluating Performance Partnerships

Joe Wholey, University of Delaware and University of Southern California

This paper builds on Foundations of Program Evaluation and Evaluation Roots to show how performance management systems, research, and evaluation studies can be used to assess and improve partnership programs and collective impact initiatives.

Chair: **Jill Feldman**, Westat

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

10:15 to 11:45 am
Eisenhower Room

Concurrent Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Evaluation education

Evaluating the Evaluators

Satabdi Samtani, Lisa M. Chauveron, Jennifer Brown Urban, and Miriam R. Linver;
Montclair State University

The presenters present a national character development training program empowering program and evaluation staff to implement tools and principles of evaluative thinking, and developing tools to accurately use evaluation to assess evaluators.

Student Award Presentation. Extending the Evaluator's Reach: Utilization of a Culturally Responsive Evaluation

Christian Ulysse; *University of Pittsburgh, Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity*

This presentation will view the struggles of data collection in a low-income population and the steps taken to implement a culturally responsive evaluation to better access the target respondents.

Student Award Presentation. Data-Based Faculty Persona Development for a University Library Website Redesign

Cathleen Cerosaletti, *University of Rochester*

The results from this evaluation describe how personal stories can be created from an online survey of faculty preferences for search and retrieval of scholarly materials as a means for website developers to envision the needs of end users.

Chair: Keith Trahan, University of Pittsburgh

10:15 to 11:45 am
Cape May Room

Concurrent Session

Topic & Content Areas: Capacity building, Performance management, Healthcare, Non-profit evaluation

So Happy Together: Integrating Service Provision and Evaluation Data Collection with Electronic Case Records

Aaron Gunning, *Jewish Family and Children Services of Greater Boston*

This presentation will feature a case study, which illustrates how transitioning from paper to electronic client case records can increase the availability of high quality client data to evaluators working in human services settings.

Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) and the Health System: Exploring Challenges and Evaluation Possibilities

Juan Weissenberg, *Philliber Research & Evaluation*

This presentation will focus on the challenges and lessons learned from evaluations in the health field involving electronic medical records (EMRs) and will rethink how to better access these data systems for more purposes than billing.

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

Performance Management for Decision Making: The AECF Experience

Marian Amoa, The Annie E. Casey Foundation; Deborah Grodzicki, Innovation Network

The Annie E. Casey Foundation will chronicle the development of a performance management system and its complementary role to traditional evaluation.

Chair: Tom Archibald, Virginia Tech

12:00 to 1:30 pm
Salon C

Lunch and Keynote Address by Kathy Newcomer

Introduction: David Bernstein, Westat

From Learning To Action: Employing Evaluation to Advance the Public Good

Kathy Newcomer, Director of the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University, AEA President 2017

The Current President of the American Evaluation Association will describe what she believes are the most imposing challenges to learning from evaluation, and will offer suggestions on how we might meet them.

1:45 to 3:15 pm
Salon A

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Non-profit evaluation, Evaluation in a Federal agency

Back to the Future

How can the past help prepare us for the future? The Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) has found that by relying on evaluation fundamentals – matching research designs to questions raised, addressing complex issues with interdisciplinary approaches, using multiple data sources, conducting inclusive research - we are best positioned to address evolving priorities and questions about the agency's mission, policies, programs, and practices. Our panel will present how one Federal evaluation office is transitioning from its past and into the future.

They Say a Secure Future Requires a Diversified Portfolio: CNCS's Research Agenda

Mary Morris Hyde, Corporation for National and Community Service

A Federal evaluation office will share how it is preparing for a future set of yet-unknown evidence priorities by building on what has been learned from past transitions.

Bringing the Community Back In

Andrea Robles and Anthony Nerino, Corporation for National and Community Service

A collaborative research approach offers benefits such as active engagement and inclusion of residents and other stakeholders through the research process, skill-building, production of local knowledge, and can facilitate cultural competency.

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) National Assessment: A Multi-Component Cross-Grantee Evaluation Study of a Key National Tiered-Program

Lily Zandniapour, PhD, Corporation for National and Community Service

The SIF national evaluation is a rigorous, multi-component study that provides credible evidence capable of answering questions about effectiveness at the funding stream and portfolio level.

Chair: Tom Archibald, Virginia Tech

1:45 to 3:15 pm
Salon B

Skill-Building Session

Topic & Content Areas: Design, Project management, Education and theory

Expanding the Evaluation Toolbox with Innovative Community Based Participatory Research Tools

Michelle Mitchell and Ashley Tetreault, Partnerships For Health

This skill building session will expand the evaluators' toolbox with innovative Community Based Participatory Research tools that allow the evaluator to move beyond traditional focus groups and design methodologies to maximize participant's involvement and amplify their voices.

Chair: Jennifer Hamilton, Westat

1:45 to 3:15 pm
Cape May Room

Concurrent Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Education, Healthcare

Got 10-Weeks? Try The Short-Term Impact Evaluation of Maine's Annual Tobacco Treatment Conference

Lori Travis & Natalie Kuhn, MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence

This presentation discusses a mixed method program evaluation of tobacco treatment training programs that was effectively and efficiently conducted over 10 weeks.

Interrupted Time Series Analysis for the Evaluation of Healthy Schools Program

Eva Chen, Westat

Westat conducted a retrospective quasi-experimental evaluation study to examine the long-term impact of Healthy School Program on student obesity.

Retention and Completion—A Meta-Analysis of MOOC interventions

Fu (Alex) Wang, University of Pennsylvania

This paper reports on a meta-analysis of RCTs of MOOCs that aim at improving learner retention and completion rates.

Chair: Ben Cohen, Center for Schools and Communities

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

1:45 to 3:15 pm
Harding Room

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Education, Healthcare and mental health, Non-profit evaluation

Keeping it Together: From Old School to Cutting Edge Methods for Tracking Participants

Tracking participants over the course of months or years is an important, but challenging, aspect of many evaluations. Sample attrition is a key threat to the validity of findings, and frequently we are evaluating programs where participants are likely to move and change contact information frequently. This panel addresses the issue through three lenses: (1) tracking high school students through informal and face-to-face methods; (2) tracking college students through a comprehensive national database; and (3) how to combine old school and cutting edge methods to obtain high response rates on projects at a range of costs and complexities.

Tracking Youth for Evaluation in the South Side of Chicago

Scott Herrling, *Philliber Research & Evaluation*

This presentation describes how an 81% final follow-up rate was attained over five years among youth enrolled in a teen pregnancy prevention study in a highly challenging Chicago neighborhood.

Tracking New York City Students from High School into College with StudentTracker

Stacie R. Powers, *Philliber Research & Evaluation*

In this presentation, we describe how a recent evaluation for a long-time client, Girls Inc. of New York City, expanded to include data on how their alumnae were faring in college and what this meant for program development.

Enhancing Participant Tracking Strategies to Maintain High Response Rates in Hard to Reach Populations

Juan Weissenberg, *Philliber Research & Evaluation*

We will draw on recent evaluations with over 80% response rates to address questions like what type of contact information to gather, how frequently to follow up with participants, how many calls to make and when, and considerations for protecting participant confidentiality when using social networks to find them.

Chair: Jill Feldman, Westat

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

1:45 to 3:15 pm
Eisenhower Room

Concurrent Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Non-profit evaluation

Evolving from Collaboration to Productivity: Social Network Analysis of a Multi-Sector Research Center

Anne M. Gadomski, Nancy H. Tallman, and Moira R. Riley; Bassett Research Institute, Bassett Medical Center

This presentation focuses on the utility of longitudinal social network analysis to capture the transition from lower-level collaboration (communication and meetings) to more developed relationships, resulting in tangible measures of productivity, for a multi-sector research center.

An Innovative Approach to Evaluating a National Network of Collective Impact Initiatives

Robert Roach and Wei Laiyi, Equal Measure

Despite the proliferation of collective impact initiatives over the past few years, there have been relatively few attempts to evaluate the implementation and success of collective impact models. We provide an overview of an innovative approach to evaluating collective impact across a network of 20 communities.

Social Capital and Evaluation Design: Applying Theory to Practice

Everett Herman, Keith Trahan, and Cindy Tananis; Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity, University of Pittsburgh

This presentation will demonstrate how integrating social capital theory in an intentional manner can strengthen evaluation design.

Chair: **Justin Piff,** Equal Measure

3:30 to 5:00 pm
Salon A

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluator-client relationship, Capacity building, Education, Non-profit evaluation

The Future of Place-Based Evaluation: How Five Organizations and a Funder Collaborate to Measure Effectiveness

Determining if a single program “works” in a school or community setting can be relatively straightforward process. However, how do five high-quality programs show their collective effectiveness in a school setting under the watchful eyes of a highly engaged funder and dozens of interested parties? In this talk-show format session, members of the youthCONNECT partnership will discuss how they work together to not only measure the effectiveness of their own programs, but also how they collaborate to measure the larger outcomes that their programs produce collectively.

What is youthCONNECT and why should you care?

Isaac Castillo, Venture Philanthropy Partners

youthCONNECT is an example of a collective impact and place-based approach that utilizes the expertise of existing evaluation staff in nonprofit organizations to improve population level outcomes.

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

Why is My Organization Participating in youthCONNECT?

Maggie Morrow, *College Summit*

Nonprofits that participate in collective impact or place-based initiatives often have to consider the greater good and will need to take risks to ensure that the larger project is successful.

What Did It Take to Stop Worrying and Trust the youthCONNECT process?

Elena Pinzon O'Quinn, *Latin American Youth Center*

In evaluating a collective impact or place-based initiative, one of the critical first steps is establishing trust among all of the partners.

How Did We Create a Working Partnership within the School for youthCONNECT?

Maria Roncal, *Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection*

Nonprofit and internal evaluators need to use nuance and strategy to successfully navigate a school environment.

How are we Benefiting from youthCONNECT?

Lauren Rice, *The Urban Alliance*

youthCONNECT Partners expanded individual and organizational evaluation capacity through peer learning, collective group work, and Community of Practice meetings.

Chair: **Justin Piff**, *Equal Measure*

3:30 to 5:00 pm
Salon B

Skill Building Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Data visualization

Beyond the 'EASY' Button: Three Ways you Can Use Technology to Make Evaluation Easier for You and Your Client

Sheila Matano, Jill Scheibler, Dana Ansari, and Mandi Singleton; *Carson Research Consulting*

This skills-building session will provide a hands-on introduction to three cost-effective technology tools that can be used to make attendees' data collection, analysis, and visualization work easier.

Chair: **Cheryl Ackerman**, *University of Delaware*

3:30 to 5:00 pm
Harding Room

Ignite Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Evaluation Practice, Education, Non-Profit Evaluation

Spicing It Up: Infusing Evaluation Practice with Organizational Development Concepts

Kimberly Edmunds, *Equal Measure*

What organizational development can bring to evaluation practice is attention to the ongoing learning of the organization as a whole.

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

You Want Me to Measure What?! – A Practical Approach to Developing New Measures

Theresa Stroble, *Philliber Research & Evaluation*

This presentation describes a journalism project measuring an unfamiliar construct and discusses the challenges that arose and how these were overcome with the creation of a measurement tool.

What to Expect When Collecting Survey Data at Multi-Language Programs

Lou Mortillaro, *Philliber Research & Evaluation*

In this ignite presentation, we discuss challenges related to collecting data from participants whose primary language differs from the evaluator's and solutions from lessons learned in the field.

Weighing Our Options: An Empirical Approach to Selecting An Intermediate Outcome Measure

Adrienne Smith, *Education Policy Initiative at California (EPIC)*

In this presentation, I suggest a method for empirically testing between several intermediate measures of classroom teaching quality in the quest to understand whether a program has an effect on student test scores.

Evaluation of Summer Learning Loss Prevention: How to Measure Academic Growth Over a Short Time Period

Rita Turner, *Philliber Research & Evaluation*

This presentation will discuss lessons learned from the evaluation of Practice Makes Perfect, a five-week summer program designed to eliminate summer learning loss by working with schools to provide youth in high needs communities with opportunities for academic remediation and enrichment.

The Echo of Values and Discipline in Evaluation

Kim Glassman, *Equal Measure*

How can evaluation's interdisciplinary roots strengthen methodology and ultimately, client relations?

Chair: **Ben Cohen**, *Center for Schools and Communities*

3:30 to 5:00 pm
Cape May Room

Concurrent Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Evaluation theory

Belts & Suspenders, O Rings, and Plan B: Intrinsically Contingent Interventions

Mel Mark, *Penn State University*

Evaluators often use logic models or program theories that imply a fixed, linear program, and instead should be open to a range of planned alternatives that include redundancies, fallbacks, contingent activities, tailored treatments, or tiered intervention components.

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

Effective Approaches for Recruiting Hard-to-Reach Research Subjects

Michael Long and **Andrew MacDonald**, ICF

This presentation outlines concrete strategies researchers can use to recruit marginalized and/or hard-to-reach populations to participate in research and evaluation studies.

The Advantages of Adding a Matched Group to an Existing Experimental Design

Jennifer Hamilton, Westat

There are at least two fairly common situations in which adding a non-randomized (matched) group to the original design can improve both the rigor and relevance of the findings.

Chair: **Matt Von Hendy**, Green Heron Information Services

3:30 to 5:00 pm
Eisenhower Room

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Capacity building, Evaluation design and research methods, Project management, Evaluation education

Embracing Complexity and Long-Term Impact through Stronger M&E Capacity

The need for data and evidence affected the evolution of evaluation and monitoring - bringing about the importance of organizational learning and capacity strengthening to better evaluate impact. Complex evaluation demands have resulted in the intersectionality among disciplines and sectors. For those working in gender equality and women's empowerment, a strong M&E capacity with the ability to generate evidence and knowledge beyond simplistic approaches is urgently needed. The panel will provide insights from UN Women Independent Evaluation Office and Vital Voices Global Partnerships' work in creating M&E capacity embedded within feminist and women's empowerment programs.

Building Internal M&E Capacity to Better Evaluate Women Leadership's Outcomes

Alejandra Garcia Diaz Villamil, Vital Voices Global Partnership

The presentation focuses in the process and development of creating M&E capacity in Vital Voices Global Partnerships to demonstrate the impact of long-term investments in individual women leaders.

Inclusive Systemic Evaluation for Gender equality, Environments and Voices from the Margins: An Approach for the SDG Era

Shravanti Reddy, UN Women

Inclusive Systemic Evaluation for Gender equality, Environments and voices from the Margins (GEMs) is an approach that brings together systemic evaluation practice with intersectional analysis of the GEMs dimensions.

Evaluating a Systemic Coordination Function: Systems and Feminist Approaches

Priya Alvarez, UN Women

Evaluating coordination benefits from a systems thinking approach that acknowledges the complex, dynamic and contextually embedded nature of social systems, its relationships and multiple perspectives. In addition, a feminist approach seeks to understand the efforts needed to foster transformative change in gender power relations within an inherently non-transformatory context.

Chair: **Kelly Feighan**, Public Health Management Corporation

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

5:30 to 6:30 pm
Salon C

Presidential Panel with Jonny Morell, Nick Smith, and Karen Kirkhart

In honor of our 40th anniversary, we have invited three luminaries in the field—Karen Kirkhart, Jonny Morrel, and Nick Smith—to reflect on how EERS has evolved, the current state of evaluation, and where our profession might be headed. After sharing their initial thoughts, audience members will have the opportunity to participate in what is sure to be a lively and engaging discussion. We hope you will join us!

*Introduction: **Jennifer Hamilton**, Westat*

Invited Speakers:

Karen Kirkhart, Professor, School of Social Work, Syracuse University and Past President of AEA

Nick Smith, Professor, School of Education, Syracuse University and Past President of AEA

Jonathan Morell, Director of Evaluation, Fulcrum Corporation and Editor-in-Chief, Evaluation and Program Planning

6:30 to 6:45 pm
Salon C

40th EERS Celebration

Cake and Champagne Toast

6:45 to 7:45 pm
Salon C

Student Evaluator Poster Presentations and Networking Reception

Optimizing the Quality and Precision of a Large-Scale School Climate Survey

Dandan Chen, University of Delaware

Challenges of Evaluating Large and Multifaceted Education Programs for English Language Learners

Rosie Emerson, University of Massachusetts Lowell

A Retrospective Comparison Study of Summer Research Interns' Educational Outcomes

Yueyue Fan, University of Delaware

Academic Makerspace Evaluation

Elizabeth Famosa, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Engaging Women and Minorities in the Fields of STEM Through Informal After School Inter-disciplinary Programs

Leah Ferullo, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Photovoice as a Participatory Method of Program Evaluation

Hannah Krutt, Towson University

Got 10-Weeks? Try The Short-Term Impact Evaluation of Maine's Annual Tobacco Treatment Conference.

Natalie Kuhn, MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence

Conference Schedule: **MONDAY, APRIL 3**

Evaluating the Counseling Component of a Wraparound Special Education Program

Jill Ramey, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Evaluation of Mental Health Perceptions and School-Based Services in the US, the UK, and China

Rachel Salinger, University of Delaware

**9:00 to 11:00 pm
Hospitality Suite,
Room 490**

Networking in Hospitality Suite

Join Board members for an informal social and networking opportunity.

Conference Schedule: **TUESDAY, APRIL 4**

7:30 to 1:00 pm
Presidential Hallway

Registration

8:00 to 9:30 am
Salon C

Breakfast with Discussion Led by Dominica McBride

Imagine: Evaluation Sparking Social Change

*Introduction: **Siobhan Cooney**, Cooney Collaborative*

*Featured Speaker: **Dominica McBride**, Founder and CEO, Become: Center for Community Engagement and Social Change*

With current racial, religious and class divisions, along with notions of “a post-truth society,” culturally responsive evaluation is essentially relevant and necessary in addressing today’s social climate. This presentation will provide a description of culturally responsive evaluation and how evaluation can contribute to a socially just society.

9:45 to 10:00 am

Room Checkout

10:00 to 11:30 am
Salon A

Skill Building Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Capacity building, Evaluation education

Going to BAT: Demonstrating the Interoperability of Blackboard Assessment Tools (BAT) – A Case Study

***Nalin Johri** and **Anne M. Hewitt**, Seton Hall University*

This skill building session introduces participants to Blackboard’s Learning Management Suite and demonstrates its use for assessing student competency attainment at the individual, course and program level.

*Chair: **Siobhan Cooney**, Cooney Collaborative*

10:00 to 11:30 am
Salon B

Skill Building Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods

Designing an Effective Well-Matched Comparison Group Study

***Michael Scuello** and **Jing Zhu**, Metis Associates*

This session is intended to take the audience through the process of designing a well-matched comparison group study, from the specification of outcomes and data requirements to data collection, matching, and analysis.

*Chair: **Cheryl Ackerman**, University of Delaware*

Conference Schedule: TUESDAY, APRIL 4

10:00 to 11:30 am
Harding Room

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Organizational learning and development, Project management, Capacity building

Shifting Course to Stay on Course: A Learning Organization Reflects

This panel highlights three important transitions in the recent history of a Northeast evaluation firm. The organization undertook these transitions in anticipation of, and in response to, changes in the social sector. In this session, we will explore organizational, communications, and project portfolio shifts – addressing the “what, why, and how” of the transitions. We will share how the organization: 1) sharpened its approach to building a culturally responsive consultancy; 2) adapted its communications strategies to achieve greater impact in a changing media environment; and 3) shifted from programmatic to systemic evaluations, with a focus on youth economic development initiatives.

Learning as a Constant

Kimberly Edmunds, *Equal Measure*

This brief presentation will address what it means to become a learning organization in the context of the evaluation field.

From Pondering Culturally Responsive Consultancy to Implementing Authentic Practices

Wendy Sedlak, *Equal Measure*

This presentation will share the steps the organization has taken over the last eight years to assess, reflect, and respond to changes needed to sharpen its culturally responsive consultancy and DEI practices.

From 2-D to Multi-D: Adapting Communications Strategies to Shifts in Media

Seth Klukoff, *Equal Measure*

In this session, we will share how one learning organization in the evaluation field has adapted its communications strategies in response to the burgeoning, multi-dimensional media environment.

From Programmatic to Systemic Evaluations: Tracking the Shift to Youth Economic Development Initiatives

Bilal Taylor, *Equal Measure*

In this session, we will discuss how the organization responded to the field’s growing understanding that a range of opportunities must exist in a youth’s ecosystem to help them make successful transitions to adulthood.

Chair: Jennifer Hamilton, Westat

Conference Schedule: **TUESDAY, APRIL 4**

10:00 to 11:30 am
Cape May Room

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Evaluator-client relationships, Healthcare, Leadership development

Rapid Cycle Learning: From Program Design To Implementation

Following four decades of leadership development programming, a major U.S. health foundation made the decision to restructure its well-known leadership development programs. Rather than waiting for program implementation to do evaluation, the Foundation decided to use rapid and intentional iterative learning loops to evaluate the program strategy and design process itself. As the programs began implementation, the evaluation team worked to transition rapid cycle learning into a norm for each of the programs. This presentation explores why this approach was chosen, the tools used, and the challenges that evaluators have encountered in helping facilitate this major cultural shift.

A Shift from Accountability to Learning in Our Ever Evolving Landscape

Denise E. Herrera, *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

The program officer provides an overview of a national funder's past and current approach to evaluation, with emphasis on rapid cycle learning methodologies applied to its new leadership development programs.

Applying Rapid Cycle Learning Tools to Program Design and Implementation

Lisa Frantzen, *TCC Group*

This evaluator shares her experiences helping a foundation to integrate tools that help them collect, reflect, and respond to data quickly.

How the Design Stage Evaluation Positioned Program Implementation Evaluation

Jared Raynor, *TCC Group*

This evaluator shares a view of how foundations are shifting to more learning-focused evaluation, the implications of this for evaluators, and how engaging in design-phase evaluation can position foundations for evaluation during program implementation.

Chair: Kim Glassman, Equal Measure

10:00 to 11:30 am
Eisenhower Room

Concurrent Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Evaluation theory

Less is More: What Evaluation Can Learn from Essentialism and Mindfulness

Elizabeth Grim, *The Consultation Center at Yale*

This session will discuss how essentialism and mindfulness provide frameworks for how we can accomplish more with less in our evaluation work.

Conference Schedule: **TUESDAY, APRIL 4**

Looking Back to Move Forward: Campbell's Experimenting Society Reconsidered

Thomas Archibald, Virginia Tech

In this presentation looking back at Donald Campbell's legacy on issues of validity, evolutionary epistemology, and the experimenting society, the presenter suggests that the current zeal for experimental evaluation misinterprets Campbell's vision and does a disservice to the richness of his legacy.

Chair: **Akisha Jones**, Say Yes to Education/Guilford County Schools

11:45 am to 1:15 pm
Salon B

Skill Building Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Capacity Building

Introducing the Impact Evaluability Assessment Tool

Lily Zandniapour, Corporation for National and Community Service

This session introduces the Impact Evaluability Assessment Tool, a resource developed by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that examines readiness of programs for engaging in impact evaluations that use rigorous designs and can also be used to assess evaluation capacity building needs and guide technical assistance for addressing those needs.

Chair: **Siobhan Cooney**, Cooney Collaborative

11:45 am to 1:15 pm
Salon A

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluator-client relationship, Capacity building, Evaluation design and research methods

Stakeholder Engagement: A Foundation of Conducting Effective Evaluations

To illustrate the importance of stakeholder engagement in conducting effective evaluations, the panel will discuss the lessons learned from an evaluation that received the American Evaluation Association's 2016 Outstanding Evaluation Award. An effective evaluation is responsive to sponsors and stakeholders while adhering to evaluation standards and guiding principles. Furthermore, an effective evaluation offers practical recommendations for making policy and budget decisions and improving program operations and outcomes. In this evaluation, various stakeholder engagement strategies helped the evaluators understand the evaluation context, manage the evaluation politics, and make recommendations that were seen by stakeholders as practical and useful.

Managing the Politics of Evaluation: There is Something New Each Time

Rakesh Mohan; Office of Performance Evaluations, Idaho Legislature

Rakesh will discuss how he managed the politics that surrounded the evaluation. Like a curry, the politics of education evaluations is regional/local, people centered, and contains one or two secret political ingredients that evaluators are last to know, if ever. All evaluations are inherently political, but evaluators and the evaluation process are expected to be non-political. Usually the politics of evaluation is seen at two stages: (1) when the decision is made to ask for an evaluation and (2) how the results of an evaluation are used or not used.

Conference Schedule: **TUESDAY, APRIL 4**

Stakeholder Engagement is Critical in Deciding the Approach and Design of an Effective Evaluation

Lance McCleve; *Office of Performance Evaluations, Idaho Legislature*

Lance will discuss the evaluation approach and design. When evaluations are conducted in a politically charged environment, it is necessary to identify key stakeholders and the various relationships (competing, conflicting, and complementing) among sponsors and stakeholders by conducting extensive interviews and background research. Multiple interviews within each stakeholder group can help evaluators identify themes common among stakeholders.

Pay Attention to Evaluation Context and Policy Actors

George F. Grob, *Center for Public Program Evaluation*

George Grob will discuss how to succeed in a public policy environment. To succeed as an evaluator in a public policy environment, one must have a solid understanding of the public policy process and fully know the context in which the evaluation was requested and will be used. This involves knowing key policy actors, including policy-makers, program officials, legislative and executive branch policy and budget staff, and lobbyists.

Chair: Matt Von Hendy, Green Heron Information Services

11:45 am to 1:15 pm
Harding Room

Panel

Topic & Content Areas: International evaluation, Capacity building, Evaluation design and research methods

Developing Organizational Learning around Emerging M&E Approaches: Three Case Studies from USAID

As part of its commitment to both quality program evaluation and organizational learning, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) supports research on the use of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) across the Agency. This panel will provide three examples drawn from ongoing research into the use of several emerging approaches that are relatively new to USAID, including complexity-aware M&E, context monitoring, monitoring without indicators, and M&E for adaptive management. The presentations included in this panel cover a variety of approaches designed to meet the needs of diverse stakeholders, including Most Significant Change (MSC), Outcome Harvesting (OH), and Developmental Evaluation (DE).

Identifying Best-Fit M&E: The Value of Using a Most Significant Change (MSC) Approach to Measure Community Engagement in Morocco

Travis Mayo, *USAID*

This presentation will describe how and why a Most Significant Change (MSC) approach was determined to be the best fit for the monitoring needs of a project in Morocco, highlighting the value of using a systems-thinking lens in M&E design.

Conference Schedule: TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Supporting the Use of Outcome Harvesting: Challenges and Solutions from the Donor's Perspective

Heather Britt, *EnCompass, LLC*

The presentation will outline key challenges and solutions faced by donors planning and commissioning Outcome Harvest (OH) evaluations, and provide concrete examples about how to customize the right fit between primary intended users' needs and the OH approach.

Looking Forward: Innovations in Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL)

Sophia van der Bijl, *USAID*

This presentation will discuss five innovative MERL concepts being applied to the international development context by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning Innovations program (MERLIN) at USAID's Global Development Lab, including the lessons learned from initial implementation.

Chair: **Kelly Feighan**, *Public Health Management Corporation*

11:45 am to 1:15 pm
Cape May Room

Concurrent Session

Topic & Content Areas: Evaluation design and research methods, Evaluator-client relationships

Developing Clarity about Process and Outcomes in a STEM Dissemination Center: The Role of Visuals

Sukey Blanc and **Beth Uzwiak**, *Creative Research and Evaluation LLC*

This presentation explores contributions of visuals developed by Creative Research & Evaluation at three different junctures in the evaluation of a multi-faceted STEM dissemination center in order to contribute to the evaluation field's understanding how 21st century approaches to reporting data build on the evaluation field's historical discussions about evaluation purposes and methods.

Measuring the Un-quantifiable: Advisory Services & Policy Advice

Stephen Pirozzi and **Kamal M. Siblani**; *Trade & Competitiveness Global Practice, World Bank Group*

This presentation discusses application of a hybrid qualitative methods to describe the effects of advisory services & policy advice.

Student Award Presentation. Bridging the Divide Between Research & Practice: Using Pathway Models to Articulate & Verify Theories of Change

Krystal Woolston, *Montclair State University*

This presentation will explain the process of using literature to establish connections between short- and/or medium-term outcomes to long-term outcomes of a specific type of logic model called a pathway model.

Chair: **Keith Trahan**, *University of Pittsburgh*

1:15 to 2:00 pm
Salon C

Lunch and Awards

Speakers: **Jennifer Hamilton**, Westat

Keith Trahan, University of Pittsburgh

Buffet luncheon along with presentation of awards and acknowledgements. Student paper awardees will also be acknowledged at this time.

2:15 to 3:00 pm
Harding Room

Board Meeting

All EERS conference participants are invited to attend.

EERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The EERS Board of Directors is responsible for planning and operating the annual EERS Conference to provide opportunities for evaluators and researchers to present and exchange ideas and insights on evaluation practice and to network with each other. The members of the EERS Board of Directors represent multiple disciplines and a mix of organizational and institutional affiliations, primarily in the mid-Atlantic to southern New England region.

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Matt Von Hendy; Green Heron Information Services; Rockville, MD

Emeritus Members:

John Kelley; Villanova University; Haverford, PA

Joy Quill; C. J. Quill and Associates; Annapolis, MD

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Cheryl M. Ackerman is the Director of Evaluation at the Delaware Environmental Institute at the University of Delaware. Dr. Ackerman currently leads evaluations for three NSF funded projects EPSCoR Track 1, EPSCoR Track 2, and IUSE), of which two are multi-institutional and one involves multiple states. She has over 20 years of experience planning and implementing large scale evaluations in science and education, and using quantitative and qualitative methods. Dr. Ackerman is passionate about evaluation capacity building and is EERS President-Elect.

Priya Alvarez is a feminist and a women's rights professional currently working as Evaluation Specialist at UN Women. She has worked as independent evaluator and gender equality policy expert for a range of organizations and governments for over 15 years. She holds a MS degree in Evaluation of Public Policy from the Complutense University in Madrid.

Marian Amoa is a Senior Research Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. She is responsible for implementing the Foundation's performance measurement and management system. Using her expertise in Results-Based Accountability (RBA), Marian collaborates with various units and teams to identify key metrics to demonstrate the impact of their investments. She is currently leading the Result Scorecard Pilot, a system to support staff in managing their portfolio-level performance and the performance of their grantees.

Dana Ansari, BS, has experience in a variety of research settings with a background in quantitative and qualitative research focused on various health related topics including maternal and child health, smoking cessation, substance abuse, and mental health. She supports all aspects of CRC's evaluation activities including designing evaluations, developing logic models and indicator grids, monitoring program-level data, and writing reports.

Thomas Archibald is the Chief of Party/Director of Virginia Tech's USAID-funded Education and Research in Agriculture project in Senegal. He is also an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education Department at Virginia Tech. His research and practice focus primarily on evaluation capacity building. He serves as a member of the EERS Board of Directors. He received his doctorate from Cornell University in 2013.

Burt Barrow is a professor at George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University Major where the focus has been research and evaluation on workforce development programs.

Amlan Banerjee is a statistician at MN Associates, Inc. He has over 10 years of experience in conducting multi-level statistical analyses using large datasets including those from USDE and DoL.

Murylo Batista is a Research Assistant with the Research & Evaluation Group at Public Health Management Corporation. Murylo received his B.A. from the Geography Department at Dartmouth College where he also completed a Fellowship in Research & Teaching exploring poverty in U.S. metropolitan areas and leading GIS lab courses. His research experience includes GIS/spatial analysis, qualitative methods and CBPR, and working with low-income and racial minority groups.

David Bernstein, Ph.D. is a senior study director with Westat, an employee-owned social science research company. He has over 30 years of professional experience designing, managing, and conducting projects related to evaluation, performance measurement, strategic planning, quantitative and qualitative analysis, public administration, and educational research for U.S Government clients as well as nonprofit organizations and local government. Dr. Bernstein is President of Washington Evaluators, the American Evaluation Association Washington, DC-area affiliate.

Sophia van der Bijl is a Senior Impact Assessment Advisor in the USAID Global Development Lab's Office of Evaluation and Impact Assessment, where she coordinates evaluation planning for the Lab's programs and manages several mechanisms under MERLIN (Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning Innovations). She has more than 17 years of experience in M&E. Prior to joining the Lab, she worked in USAID's Bureau for Food Security, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and Chemonics International.

Sukey Blanc is the founder of Creative Research and Evaluation LLC. Her work centers on evaluation and participatory research in urban schools and universities. Sukey has extensive experience providing formative and summative evaluation services to K-12 educators, university-based programs, and community partners. Much of her work is in service of projects to improve educational quality and access for first-generation college students and young people in under-represented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Heather Britt is an M&E expert with 20 years of experience in international development and humanitarian aid. She helps organizations strengthen their capacity to plan, manage, conduct and use M&E for more effective programming. Heather specializes in complexity-aware M&E approaches that: support adaptive management of programs in dynamic contexts; measure meaningful change; and help sustain that change in continually evolving contexts. She serves as Chair of the AEA's Systems in Evaluation Thematic Interest Group.

Isaac Castillo is the Director of Outcomes, Assessment, and Learning at Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) in Washington, DC. Isaac is recognized as a thought leader in

the field of nonprofit performance management and evaluation, and brings close to 20 years of research and evaluation experience to VPP. Isaac's work has been highlighted in publications such as the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Youth Today, and the Wall Street Journal. You can follow Isaac on Twitter at: @isaac_outcomes.

Cathleen Daniels Cerosaletti is a PhD student in Teaching and Curriculum in the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester. Cathy completed a Certificate in Program Evaluation and has recent experience assisting with educational evaluations and teaching statistical methods. She has performed corporate research in the field of user interface development with the goal of incorporating the voice of the user to improve experience.

Lisa M. Chauveron is a researcher and program evaluator. She has experience working with urban community-based and educational organizations for more than 16 years. She serves as Lead Evaluator at an evaluation consulting group, Impact Development & Assessment, and is interested in evaluation and program planning, evidence-based interventions, positive youth development, violence prevention, and LGBTQ and marginalized youth issues. Lisa is currently a Family Studies doctoral student at Montclair State University.

Dandan Chen is a doctoral student of Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation in the School of Education, University of Delaware. Her research interests are school climate and evaluation methods.

Eva Chen is a senior researcher with more than 15 years of experience conducting quantitative and qualitative research to evaluate the implementation of educational programs, teacher instructional practices and professional development, and student assessment and educational technology. Her most recent projects include evaluating the iRead program on elementary school students' reading achievement, the Universal PreK program in New York City on preschools students' readiness for school, and the Healthy School Program on student fitness over the years.

Benjamin A. Cohen, Ph.D., is the Director of Evaluation at the Center for Schools and Communities (CSC). He is responsible for the management, design, and quality of research and evaluation projects. Ben uses a wide variety of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods at CSC. Prior to his 12 years at CSC, Ben was a Research Analyst at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), and a conversational English instructor in Zilina, Slovak Republic. He studied at the University of Maryland College Park and Drexel University.

Siobhan Cooney is Principal Consultant of Cooney Collaborative, LLC, an applied research and evaluation firm

serving schools, foundations and non-profits. She holds a PhD in Human Development & Family Studies from UW-Madison, a Master's in Child Development from UC-Davis, and a Bachelor's in Psychology from Carnegie Mellon. Find her at www.cooneycollaborative.com

Kimberly Edmunds, during her career in the evaluation field, Kim has worked on projects in such areas as literacy, mathematics, postsecondary access and success, out-of-school time programming, and teacher professional development. At Equal Measure, she manages a multi-year evaluation project funded by the James Irvine Foundation to develop Linked Learning Regional Hubs of Excellence in California. Her interdisciplinary interests have led her to complete degrees in elementary education, urban spatial analytics, and organization development and leadership.

Rosie Emerson is a Ph.D. student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell where she is pursuing a degree in Education: Research and Program Evaluation. Rosie received her B.A. in Economics from Wellesley College, her M.A. in Public Policy from Harvard University. She is passionate about helping organizations to assess the effectiveness of their programs. Rosie has experience conducting program evaluation both internationally and domestically and is especially skilled in mixed methods research designs.

Alexandra Ernst is a Project Manager in the Research & Evaluation Group at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC). Alexandra received her B.A. in Environmental Engineering from Rice University and is currently working towards her Master's in Public Health at Drexel University. Prior to joining PHMC she worked for an international development consulting firm, conducting impact and performance evaluations of USAID-funded projects. Her research interests include nutrition and food security, place-based determinants of health, and geospatial analysis.

Yueyue Fan is a doctoral candidate studying learning sciences at the University of Delaware. She has experience working as a research assistant doing internal evaluation on Delaware INBRE and EPSCoR grants, as well as external evaluations for various education programs.

Elizabeth Farmosa has her M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Research Methods and Evaluation from the Graduate School of Education at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Elizabeth has taken several courses on program evaluation as well as qualitative and quantitative data analysis courses. This presentation comes from two Research Experience courses she took with Professor Sarah Kuhn, where we planned and evaluated an engineering makerspace.

Kelly Feighan, Senior Project Director, oversees the Research for Better Schools unit within PHMC's Research & Evaluation Group. As such, she leads evaluations of initiatives that are funded by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, and state departments of education. She develops new projects and is especially interested in the intersections of education and health. Kelly is a PhD candidate at Temple University and an active EERS Board member.

Jill Feldman is a Westat Senior Study Director with over 20 years of professional experience in finance, education, and research and evaluation. Jill currently provides technical assistance and leads several evaluation studies for clients including the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institutes of Health, foundations and the University System of Maryland. She is the EERS Chelimsky Forum project director and has served on the Board since 2005.

Leah Ferullo is a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the Graduate School of Education's Leadership in Schooling program. She holds a master's degree in Education from Lesley University, and is currently on a one year leave of absence from a fifth grade teaching position in Winchester, MA in order to pursue her degree. She has also worked as a research assistant at the Center for Program Evaluation in the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Lisa Frantzen is a Senior Evaluation Consultant at TCC Group who works with foundations, nonprofits, governments, and corporations nationally and internationally to increase the effectiveness of their social change efforts through evaluative learning. Lisa brings her experience as a program manager and evaluator to help clients use evaluation for program design, strategic planning, organizational learning, and capacity building. Lisa has presented at the American Evaluation Conference on shared measurement development, evaluation capacity building, and developmental evaluation.

Tony Fujs is a Data Scientist at the World Bank, where he uses open source software and statistical learning techniques to extract information from structured and unstructured data, streamline data management, and improve data visualization. Prior to joining the World Bank, Tony was the Director of Learning and Evaluation at the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC). Tony holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Finance from the University of Nantes and a Master of Science in Economics from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Anne Gadomski, MD, MPH is a general pediatrician, program evaluator and health services researcher with particular expertise in the health needs of rural children, youth and families. She currently directs the Bassett Research Institute at Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown, NY and leads the Bassett Evaluation Study Team (BEST) in evaluating several

health and human services program in Central New York. Her current focus is the integration of mental health services in primary care settings.

Jennifer Gauck is a Senior M&E Specialist on the Expanding Monitoring and Evaluation Capacities (MECap) task order, which supports USAID's Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research (LER) in the Bureau of Policy Planning and Learning (PPL). Within PPL/LER, Jennifer aids the Research and Development Hub for Monitoring & Evaluation (R&D Hub for M&E) with advancing USAID staff knowledge of a diversity of emerging M&E approaches. Prior to joining MECap, she planned and led evaluations of State Department justice sector and law enforcement reform efforts, trained U.S. government partners on M&E basics, and provided M&E consulting services to a variety of clients.

Michael Giangrande is a Geospatial Services Operations Manager at Westat who uses GIS routinely in his work. Recently, Mike presented about using GIS tools for sampling and analysis in a study of aircraft noise at a conference of the European Survey Research Association in Iceland. He holds a Master's degree in GIS and Cartography from the Pennsylvania State University and is an alumnus of the University of Maryland at College Park.

Kim Glassman has more than 20 years of background in evaluation, research, organizational development, and learning. She brings an interdisciplinary approach to nonprofits, philanthropy, and government from a range of disciplines including health, education, culture, and humanities. In the past few years, Kim developed evaluation systems to understand large-scale initiatives with funders involved in complex, multi-year projects. She also helped community nonprofits build capacity to strategically set outcomes and collect data.

Elizabeth Grim is an evaluation consultant who is passionate about using data, design, and evaluation to advance social justice and create more effective programs and policies. Her vision is a world with complete communities where everyone has access to opportunities for health and wellbeing. Elizabeth has given presentations on research, evaluation, and data visualization at local, state, and national conferences. She holds a dual Master's in Social Work and Public Health from the University of Michigan.

George F. Grob is President, Center for Public Program Evaluation, an evaluation company focusing on public policy, strategic planning, and communications. George's career has straddled the worlds of policy development and evaluation, covering a broad collection of programmatic fields, including health, human services, and the environment, defense and housing finance.

Deborah Grodzicki is a Senior Associate at Innovation Network, Inc., a 501(c)3 evaluation and research firm, partnering with organization such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Connecticut Health Foundation. Deborah has a wide range of evaluation expertise, including evaluation theory and design, mixed methods, and capacity building. Deborah received her Ph.D. in Social Research Methodology from UCLA, her MA in Organizational Behavior from Claremont Graduate University, and her BA in Psychology from the University of Rochester.

Aaron Gunning came to Jewish Family and Children's Services in 2015 where he has helped service providers to collect, manage, and analyze client data. Aaron has Masters Degrees in Education and Human Development from Boston University and Tufts University, respectively. Before coming to JF&CS, Aaron worked on evaluation and research projects related to high school graduation, mentoring, and leadership development with The Center for Promise, The Research Institute for Learning and Development, and JOIN for Justice.

Maya Gutierrez is a Senior Project Director in the Research & Evaluation Group at Public Health Management Corporation, where she has worked for over eight years. Maya received a B.A. in Political Science from Macalester College and a master's degree in Urban Spatial Analytics from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include health policy and advocacy, intersections between public health and city planning, and data visualization.

Jennifer Hamilton is a Westat Senior Study Director with more than 20 years of research experience. She specializes in evaluation methodology, with a focus on the design and implementation of rigorous experimental and quasi-experimental studies. Her research interests include early childhood education, and the use of innovative technology in the classroom. Her clients include nonprofit organizations, foundations, city governments, and school districts. She is President of the EERS and a certified What Works Clearinghouse reviewer.

Everette Herman has earned both a BA in Communication and an M.S. Ed. in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Social and Comparative Analysis in Education at the University of Pittsburgh while service as the Lead Evaluator for the Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity (CEAC). His dissertation is focusing on the effect of social capital on student motivation to become civically engaged.

Denise Herrera is a Program Officer with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her experience includes proposal writing, consulting, and collaborating on a host of federal and state-wide initiatives – often serving as a liaison or intermediary among various educational, governmental, as well as private

sectors. She has provided programmatic and evaluation expertise on community development, culturally responsive evaluation, education, and civic engagement efforts and advisory committees in rural and urban areas in the U.S. and abroad.

Scott Herrling is a Senior Program Evaluator at Philliber Research & Evaluation with a master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision. He has extensive experience evaluating randomized controlled trials. He oversaw the original evaluations of the CAS-Carrera program and the Teen Outreach program and was the lead evaluator of the more recent Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)-funded CAS-Carrera replication study in Chicago. He currently leads two OAH funded pregnancy prevention projects in New York City.

Anne M. Hewitt, Ph.D. is Program Director for the Masters in Healthcare Administration (MHA) and Professor at Seton Hall University. She also serves as Director of the Seton Center for Community and Population Health. Dr. Hewitt publishes frequently and has received grants from federal and state agencies, national non-profit foundations and health organizations. She often serves as an external assessment advisor to non-profit agencies as CEO of Mountainside Associates, an evaluation consulting company.

Mary Hyde has more than 20 years of background in evaluation, research, organizational development, and learning. She brings an interdisciplinary approach to nonprofits, philanthropy, and government from a range of disciplines including health, education, culture, and humanities. In the past few years, Kim developed evaluation systems to understand large-scale initiatives with funders involved in complex, multi-year projects. She also helped community nonprofits build capacity to strategically set outcomes and collect data.

Nalin Johri, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor in the Masters in Healthcare Administration (MHA) program at Seton Hall University. He teaches courses in healthcare finance, health policy, healthcare economics and research methods. Dr. Johri has over fifteen years of experience in program evaluation in international health and development and frequently serves as an independent evaluation consultant.

Akisha Jones is currently a Harvard Strategic Data Project fellow working in the Office of Accountability and Research of Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her work primarily focuses on improving racial disparities in disciplinary and academic outcomes throughout the district. Akisha earned a B.A. in Political Science and a M.A. in Educational Research Methods from the University of Michigan. She also received her Ph.D. in Education Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics from the University of Delaware.

Karen E. Kirkhart has been active in the evaluation profession for over thirty-five years and a regular participant in EERS since 2004. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Work and Psychology from The University of Michigan, and she is currently Professor, School of Social Work, David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Syracuse University, where she teaches graduate courses in program evaluation and clinical practice evaluation. Dr. Kirkhart is also an affiliated faculty member of the Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Kirkhart served as President of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) in 1994.

Seth Klukoff leads all aspects of Equal Measure's communications. His responsibilities include spearheading campaigns, managing publications, overseeing the website, and maintaining traditional and social media presences. His background is in strategic communications and public affairs, policy advocacy, social marketing, and writing. He has worked extensively with organizations in the nonprofit arena — from foundations and think tanks to advocacy groups and large research organizations — as well as in the for-profit sector.

Hannah Krutt is a graduate student at Towson University working towards her Master's in Occupational Therapy. The study in partnership with the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism is a result of her master's thesis project, guided by Amanda Jozkowski, a professor of research methods and statistics. Hannah has a range of prior experience including work with individuals with developmental disabilities, and strongly believes in the importance of self-advocacy and empowerment.

Natalie Kuhn is a senior neuroscience major at Hamilton College, where she plans to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in May 2017. She is currently involved in neuroscience research at Hamilton College among with several other activities. Most recently, she spent the summer of 2016 as an intern at MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence working on a short-term program evaluation for the Training and Education programs using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Wei Laiyi, is a consultant at Equal Measure, has a background in data analysis, qualitative research, and program evaluation, with a focus on education policy and social equity and equality. At Equal Measure, her evaluation work focuses primarily on education, workforce development, and community health. Prior to Equal Measure, Laiyi served as a research analyst for the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds a M.S.Ed from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Miriam Linver is Associate Professor of Family and Child Studies at Montclair State University and co-director of the Research on Evaluation and Developmental Systems Science

Lab. Dr. Linver's research reflects Bronfenbrenner's ecological paradigm, focusing on the contexts of child and adolescent development. Her work has focused on the intersection of family, school, and neighborhood environments, and how environmental influences on children and adolescents may be mediated and/or moderated by individual- or family-level constructs.

Michael Long is a Principal at ICF, where he leads evaluation projects on a number of topics, including K-12 education and financial literacy. Mr. Long has experience designing and managing large, complex, multi-site evaluations, as well as custom designed, small-scale projects. He has a Masters in Education Degree from Harvard University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Maryland. Before joining ICF, Mr. Long was a middle school science teacher.

Elena Pinzon O'Quinn is a Learning & Evaluation Specialist at the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, DC. She is responsible for data management and evaluation for wellness and housing programs. Before joining LAYC, she worked as a research assistant on multiple public health projects and implemented a community health program in Guatemala. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree from George Washington University.

Andrew MacDonald is a Senior Associate at ICF. His interests include K-12 education, financial literacy, national service, international development, and more. Past clients include the US Department of Education, The Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He has a Masters Degree in Public Policy from American University, and has previously worked as a grants manager, program analyst, and researcher in the public and private sectors.

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Jill Scheibler, Ph.D., has almost ten years of research experience, including four years specific to evaluation contexts. Her research work has focused on the areas of community well-being and mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and social impacts of arts programming. She offers extensive experience in qualitative research design and analysis, and experience in program design consultation and data visualization.

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Mandi Singleton, BA, provides evaluation assistance and research services to non-profit and public health service agencies within the Baltimore area. Her work focuses on positive youth development and school-based programs and involves research on early childhood development and education in support of evaluation reporting. She maintains large datasets and databases through the collection, entry, cleaning, storage, and reporting of data; administers surveys; and conducts focus groups with youth and adults to assess program quality and implementation. Ms. Singleton is a certified Program Quality Assessment External Assessor.

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Nick L. Smith is currently Professor in the School of Education at Syracuse University. He received a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology in 1975 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Having taken his first evaluation position in 1973, he has worked in evaluation for over 40 years.

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Nancy Tallman is a research coordinator and member of the Bassett Evaluation Studies Team (BEST) at the Bassett Research Institute at Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown, NY. She is well versed in data collection, conducting interviews, administering and overseeing survey completion, developing logic models, social network analysis and reviewing reports and manuscripts. She is a member of the American Evaluation Association.

Cindy Tananis, Ed.D., founded and serves as the Director of the Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity (CEAC). An associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education, she has over 30 years of experience in evaluation. Her expertise focuses on using participative evaluation designs with involved stakeholders, helping people make sense of and benefit from the evaluation process through collaboration, and linking evaluation studies and school reform policy.

Bilal Taylor works on a diverse set of national and local evaluation projects, including evaluations of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Family Economic Security Workforce Development Pilots, the James Irvine Foundation's Linked Learning Regional Hubs, and Living Cities' City Accelerator initiative. Bilal has a more than 15-year background in planning, implementing, and evaluating high-quality youth development programs, including school and community-based interventions and systems that support older youths' successful transition to adulthood.

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Rita Turner is a data analyst with Philliber Research & Evaluation. She has 25 years of experience in day-to-day project management of the evaluations of human services programs. Among other projects, she currently works on the evaluation of programs focused on teen pregnancy, education, journalism, and arts and culture. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics/Business and a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration.

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Dr. Beth Uzwiak is an ethnographer and artist with a deep commitment to community engagement. Her research examines community-based and grassroots social movements with a focus on gender equity and antiracist activism. Evaluation projects include the Food Bank of South Jersey, the Alice Paul Institute, Norris Square Neighborhood Project, and the PA Humanities Council. Recently, she completed a study of social practice art collaboration between the Mural Arts Program and Cohabitation Strategies in South Philadelphia.

Alejandra Garcia Diaz Villamil has over 10 years of research, evaluation, and monitoring experience within Latin America, Africa, and the United States. Her prior work experience focused on maintaining monitoring and evaluations systems for women's empowerment programs working to reduce poverty, access to microfinance and increase political participation. Alejandra designed and conducted gender-sensitive formative and summative evaluations using participatory action research and mix methods. She is currently the Director of M&E at Vital Voices.

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Joe Wholey is the author or co-author of numerous journal articles and five books. Joe has had appointments in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Government Accountability Office. He was Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a locally elected official, chaired the Virginia Board of Social Services as well as is President of Hospice of Northern Virginia and Co-founder of the American Evaluation Association.

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