



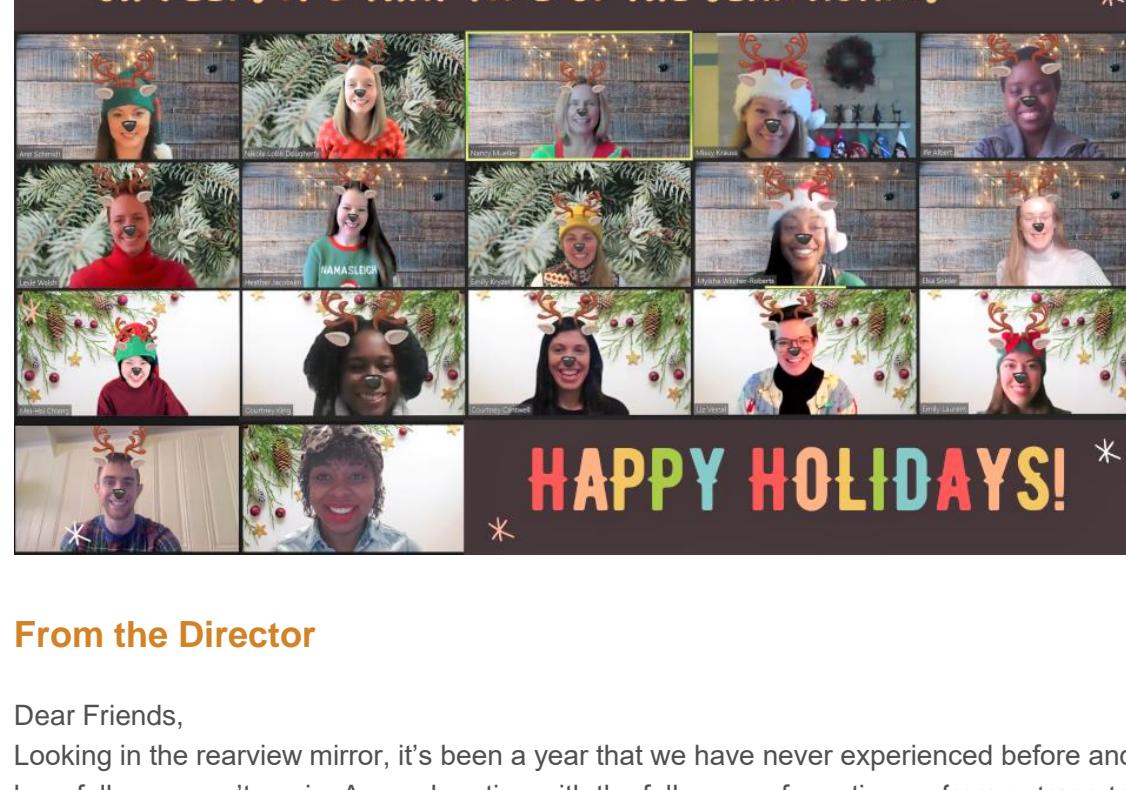
Evaluation Center

Brown School

Washington
University in St. Louis
BROWN SCHOOL

Evaluation Edge | Partnering for Impact

December 2020



From the Director

Dear Friends,

Looking in the rearview mirror, it's been a year that we have never experienced before and, hopefully, we won't again. A year bursting with the full range of emotions – from outrage to sadness to hope – and everything in between. Like so many others, I'm sometimes exhausted by heightened concern for my family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and community. I'm grateful for the frontline health and social service professionals who continue to make sacrifices to care for those in crisis. I also remain mindful of the racial and health inequities that are exacerbated by the pandemic, and how the Evaluation Center is helping organizations understand and communicate the inequities their clients are experiencing. 2020 has shown that this work is more important than ever.

In a recent Zoom meeting the facilitator asked us, "What song would be playing if you walked into a big event or onto a sports field?" An intriguing question – one I hadn't thought about. Our meeting playlist included an eclectic set of artists like Public Enemy, Scorpions, Lady Gaga, Lizzo, OutKast, Beyoncé, and Earth, Wind & Fire. This simple question prompted a glimmer of hope and a reminder of our resilience as we thought about the future.

I am ready to welcome 2021. We will remain dedicated to supporting our partners who are focused on the health and well-being of our communities, especially our communities of color, and work with them to better understand and demonstrate their social impact.

Our projects below with [Fathers and Families Support Center](#) and [Rung for Women](#) illustrate some of this work. Our upcoming [Post-Master's Certificate in Data Visualization and Communication](#) will provide professionals with the tools and skills to translate their data into meaningful and useful stories about their work. Thank you for your continued support in us. We wish you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful holiday season and a brighter 2021.

And my theme song for 2021? *Eye of the Tiger* by Survivor.

What's YOUR theme song? If you email the name of your theme song to evaluation@wustl.edu, we'll compile the list on our website. (Let us know if it is ok to include your name with the song). Check out [our team's theme songs](#) now!

Nancy

Nancy Mueller, MPH

Assistant Dean for Planning and Evaluation at Brown School

Director of the Brown School Evaluation Center



Featured Project



Upcoming Events

Feb. 5- April 23, 2021

Applications now being accepted for the [Post-Master's Certificate in Data Visualization & Communication](#)

The [Evaluation Association of St. Louis](#) offers monthly evaluation workshops/events. Check out the virtual offerings this fall and EASL's Twitter @evalstlouis. Register for these upcoming EASL events:

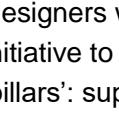
Fathers & Families Support Center Impact Evaluation

The [Evaluation Center](#) partnered with [Fathers & Families Support Center](#) (FFSC) to design and implement a 5-year impact evaluation. FFSC empowers the uninvolved, non-custodial father to become a responsible, involved and financially supportive parent, improving the lives of children and families in Saint Louis Missouri.

A randomized controlled trial design was used to examine outcomes of fathers enrolled in the comprehensive [Family Formation Program](#), which includes curriculum focused on parenting, healthy relationships, economic stability and legal services, compared to fathers receiving economic stability services only.

The evaluation compared changes in family functioning, father and child outcomes and father economic stability and mobility of participants in the comprehensive Family Formation and the Economic Stability programs. Since 2016, the Center and FFSC enrolled 690 fathers and collected both quantitative and qualitative data at three time points (baseline, 3-month and 12-month follow-ups). Data collection is complete and the team will be sharing findings and implications in early 2021.

This evaluation was supported by the New Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Family Formation grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Family Assistance.

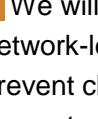


Evaluation in Action

Starting in March 2021, [Rung for Women](#) and its Co-Designers will launch a coordinated and co-located initiative to provide women with services in four areas or 'pillars': support and coaching, physical and mental well-being, financial wellness and wealth-building, and career services. Their mission is to empower women to grow and achieve sustained independence. They are partnering with the Evaluation Center to engage in evaluation planning for their pilot cohort and refine their quality improvement and performance management processes.

[CarePortal](#) is an online platform that connects churches and community partners to children and families in need through child welfare, currently across 21 states. The Evaluation Center has [partnered with CarePortal](#) in evaluation planning and implementation to learn more about the platform and its impact on the community. Evaluation activities to date include:

- 1) development of logic model and evaluation plan;
- 2) development, analysis, and synthesis of an online survey to participating church members;
- 3) conducting and analyzing key informant interviews with CarePortal and child welfare agency staff; and
- 4) review and analysis of the portal database.



New Partnerships

The Evaluation Center is looking forward to working with our new partners in 2021:

We will be working with [Missouri KidsFirst](#) to develop a network-level evaluation plan. Missouri KidsFirst works to prevent child abuse through child protection training, support of child advocacy centers, policy advocacy and facilitation of statewide sexual abuse prevention initiatives.

[AmeriCorps St. Louis](#) is partnering with the Evaluation Center to design and conduct a process and outcome evaluation for their Disaster Response and Environmental Stewardship focus areas.



In the News

[Young People with Disabilities Focus of COVID-19 Testing Grant](#)

The Source, November 23, 2020

January 20, 2021

[Annual Business Meeting](#)

Staff Spotlight



Meet Emily Laurent, Data Analyst

What is your favorite part of the evaluation process, and why?

My favorite part of evaluation is using data to tell a story.

What is one resource that has helped you grow as an evaluator?

The Evaluation Association of St. Louis - I have learned so much by attending EASL's webinars and virtual learning opportunities.

Name one project management resource that you regularly use and explain why you like it.

Asana – It's so handy to be able to organize tasks by due date and by project.

Do you have a New Year's intention?

One of my New Year's intentions is to read more. My goal is one hour per day!

Do you have any pets?

I have two chi-weenie's – Ollie & Mocha!

What's your favorite type of cuisine (and some favorite dishes)?

Japanese is my favorite, and I love sushi and ramen.

What are you watching right now (TV, movie, etc.)

Schitt's Creek has brought me so many much-needed laughs this year.

Evaluation Center

Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis

One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130

evaluationcenter.wustl.edu

evaluation@wustl.edu



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