



Reflect, grow, plan the future. Together.



From the Director

Partners and Colleagues,

The Evaluation Center felt the buzz and excitement as Brown School students returned to campus last month. This is an exciting time of the year for many and a great opportunity to look towards the future.

We have been focusing on the future as a Center lately, and recently held a two-day retreat to reflect on the Center's growth and the evolving world around us. During the retreat, staff and students came together to re-align and better articulate the vision, mission, and values that drive our work. A fun and revealing warm-up activity was to anonymously share a six-word memoir and then try to match it to the author. Watch a [short video about six-word memoirs](#) to see how powerful they can be and [read our six-word memoirs. Can you guess who wrote them?](#)

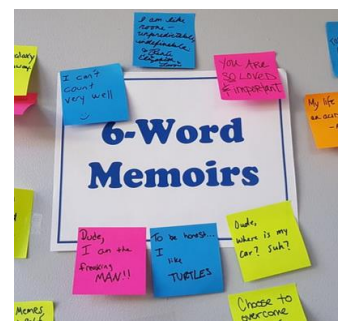


Photo by [Lorianne DiSabato](#) via flickr

Over the next several months our team will continue to refine our Center's strategic goals and objectives for supporting evaluative thinkers working to strengthen organizations, services, and change efforts. Ultimately, we look forward to working with partners who improve health and well-being in communities.

This month, we are also excited to launch the fourth cohort for our [Post Master's Certificate in Program Evaluation](#). Participants in the course are joining us from 10 different states across the U.S. and as far away as Belgium - our most geographically diverse cohort to date.

In partnership,

Nikole Lobb Dougherty
Director of the Brown School Evaluation Center



Featured Project



Increased Access to COVID-19 Testing in the St. Louis Region

As part of the [Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostic Testing for Underserved Populations \(RADx UP\)](#) initiative of the National Institutes for Health, a team from the Department of Pediatrics at Washington University School of Medicine implemented free, weekly, saliva-based SARS-CoV-2 testing in St. Louis area school districts. The Evaluation Center engaged with the school districts by hosting listening sessions with students, parents/caregivers, school staff, and school administrators. The purpose of the listening sessions was to understand the effects of the pandemic on school communities, the impact of access to weekly COVID-19 testing, and sentiments around COVID-19 vaccination. We spoke with participants during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years as the pandemic continued to evolve and as public health guidelines changed. These sessions [informed guidelines](#) for schools on how to safely return to in-person learning for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Upcoming Events

September 23, October 7 & 21, November 4 & 18, 2022

[Post-Master's Certificate in Program Evaluation.](#)

Applications for Fall 2022 closed on September 6, 2022. Please [sign up](#) to be notified when a new cohort forms.

[The Evaluation Association of St. Louis](#) offers monthly evaluation workshops/events. Check out their website for upcoming events.

Staff Spotlights



Meet [Liz Vestal](#),
Evaluation and Client
Services Manager

The school districts included the Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD) supporting students with IDD; as well as five regional school districts through the Safe Return to Schools collaboration: Ferguson-Florissant School District, Jennings School District, Normandy Schools Collaborative, Pattonville School District, and University City School District.

To learn more about this project in SSD, please visit <https://sites.wustl.edu/safereturn/>. For more information on the Safe Return to Schools project, visit <https://safereturntoschoolstudy.wustl.edu/>.



Evaluation in Action

Brown School Evaluation Center Presents

Setting a Bigger Table: Participatory Approaches to Evaluating Impact

Nikole Lobb Dougherty, MA
Director



■ We take a participatory approach to partnerships at the Evaluation Center, as we all benefit from stakeholder input throughout the evaluation process. Our director, Nikole Lobb Dougherty, was a panelist for [Setting a Bigger Table: Participatory Approaches to Evaluating Impact](#) hosted by our colleagues at the Social Policy Institute on September 8, 2022. Other panelists included: Amelia Parnell ([NASPA](#)), Liz Kramer (Public Design Bureau) and Sarah Kennedy ([Generate Health](#)). This event provided tips on how to design collaborative data processes to evaluate program effectiveness, improve impact, and promote equitable outcomes. You can [watch the recording](#) and [access numerous resources](#) shared during the session.

■ For the fourth year, the Evaluation Center and the [Center for Interprofessional Practice and Evaluation at Washington University Medical Campus \(CIPE\)](#) are partnering to evaluate its curriculum for first-year health professions learners. In September and October, over 500 Audiology, Genetic Counseling, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy Learners will participate in 9 hours of interprofessional education and complete a pre- and post-survey about their experience. CIPE uses the survey findings to ensure that the curriculum was implemented as intended and make improvements for the following year.



New Partnerships



Photo by [Yan Krukov](#) via Pexels

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

■ The Center kicked off a new project with the [Gateway Early Childhood Alliance](#) to evaluate their pilot program providing peer-to-peer capacity building resources to early childcare providers. We're excited to help the Alliance identify and demonstrate the impact of community-engaged and led capacity building.

■ We're also partnering with the [Alberti Program](#) at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts to support the design of a program alumni survey and to support data analysis of existing program data. The Alberti Program: Architecture for Young People is a tuition-free program provided to students grades 4 through 8 to explore architecture and design through day camps.



In the News

[Evaluation Center Releases Report Detailing its Achievements](#)

Brown School News, June 13, 2022



Publications

Hayes S, Malone S, Bonty B *et al.* [Assessing COVID-19 testing strategies in K-12 schools in underserved populations: study protocol for a cluster-randomized trial](#). *BMC Public Health* 22,1177 (2022).

Kennedy S, Kramer L, **Lobb Dougherty N**, Parnell A. *Setting a Bigger Table: Participatory Approaches to Evaluating Impact*. Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis; 2022 Sept 8; virtual

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

If I HAD to pick just one, I'd say I love evaluation planning. It's fun to support folks as they dream big about their programs and organizations, and it's often a time when they're reminded of the systems-level changes they are working towards. The planning process can help connect the dots of their day-to-day towards those lofty goals and make them feel more attainable.

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

Learning more about culturally responsive and equitable evaluation (CREE) frameworks have helped me consider more deeply the ways in which evaluation can be a catalyst for change in our world. One particular resource is [The Equitable Evaluation Framework](#) published by the Equitable Evaluation Initiative, a network across the philanthropic field working to expand notions of rigor, validity, and truth in the field of evaluation.

Do you prefer the ocean, a lake, river, or pool?

Lake!

Pumpkin Spice-yes or no?

Once a year, yes.

Do you have any pets?

I have one sweet rescue dog, Alfie, a blue heeler/beagle mix.

What other languages do you know?

Filipino, basic Spanish

Which sports teams do you root for?

Chicago Sky (WNBA), University of Michigan, and Kansas City Chiefs!

Evaluation Center

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