



CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES



NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference • July 15-18, 2018 • Washington, DC

Data, Research & Evaluation Institute 101

An Introduction to GEAR UP Data, Research, and Evaluation

Wednesday, July 18 • 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Session Description: Understanding the core foundational aspects of GEAR UP research and evaluation are essential for effectively running a GEAR UP grant. Join NCCEP's Vice President of Research and Evaluation for this beginner-level, informative session that will cover an introductory overview of GEAR UP data management and evaluation practices which will include hands-on materials that you can use as a toolkit for your program. An overview of GEAR UP policy and data requirements will be provided, along with best practices for defining, collecting, and using data to measure performance indicators, and more. Send your evaluator, or bring your leadership team, for this hands-on workshop to get your evaluation efforts underway and leave with knowledge of continuous data collection and program strategies that will enhance your program. This Institute will be especially beneficial for new GEAR UP programs and/or staff.

This workshop will provide participants with:

- An overview of policy as it relates to GEAR UP evaluation.
- An overview of the Annual Performance Report (APR) and Final Performance Report (FPR) requirements.
- An overview of Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) performance indicators and GEAR UP objectives.
- An overview of how to collect sound data for the GEAR UP program.
- An understanding of how to define variables and the importance of doing so.
- An overview of GEAR UP service definitions that you can adopt.
- An overview of sound data collection techniques for student-level data collection.
- An overview of legal processes and protocols to put in place for collecting and using data.
- Hands-on work on identifying pertinent variables that are needed to guide your work.
- A foundational grounding in GEAR UP research and evaluation.
- An opportunity to interact with and learn from GEAR UP leaders and evaluators.
- Materials and suggested topical resources for further exploration following the Institute.
- A notebook of resources and materials.

Who Should Attend? *This session will be especially beneficial for new GEAR UP staff and/or teams. New evaluators, evaluators* that need to take their evaluations to the next level, **data managers**, and **leadership teams** are encouraged to attend this session. For maximum learning, have your core team attend (director plus evaluation staff). **Project directors** are encouraged to attend to learn how working with their evaluation team can lead to maximum success.

Workshop Leader: The Institute will be led by NCCEP's Vice President of Research and Evaluation, Dr. Chrissy Tillery. In that role, she leads national Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) research and evaluation initiatives including the College and Career Readiness Evaluation Consortium, a multi-state national evaluation focused on common indicators and evidence-based outcomes of college access programming. Dr. Tillery works with national constituents to promote best practices in research and evaluation focused on students in low-

income schools as they pursue their college dreams. Her portfolio includes consulting, advising, and partnerships with national organizations. Dr. Tillery has been providing research and evaluation leadership on U.S. Department of Education grants for more than twenty years. Most recently, she authored a chapter in *Preparing Students for College and Careers*.

Data, Research & Evaluation Institute 201

Formative Evaluation to Power GEAR UP Service Design

Wednesday, July 18 • 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Session Description: Evaluation can be a scary word for those who work in education, including GEAR UP. With the wrong focus, evaluation can sound like judgment about a program's worth and place high-stakes pressure on program staff. In this session, we will explore how low-stakes, formative evaluation can instead empower GEAR UP staff members to continuously improve their services and service delivery by providing actionable information about the appeal and effectiveness of those services. We will review frameworks and formative evaluation tools that can be used by GEAR UP leaders and service providers, as well as tools for working with evaluators to plan effective and meaningful formative evaluations. Essential topics covered will include appropriate data to use for formative evaluation, strategies for effective data collection, do-it-yourself (DIY) analytic approaches, and the challenge of getting staff buy-in and positive mindsets about formative evaluation. This Institute will delve into two case studies: one about a state GEAR UP program that adopted formative evaluation mid-way through its grant, and the other about an innovative, design thinking approach to improving a growth mindset intervention.

This workshop will provide participants with:

- An overview of formative evaluation concepts.
- Guidelines for formative data use, collection, and analysis.
- Nuanced discussion about helping staff adopt a positive mindset about formative evaluation.
- Frameworks for starting internal and external formative evaluations.
- Hands-on practice using tools to plan and implement a formative evaluation.
- Examples of high-quality formative evaluation from within the GEAR UP community and from peer-reviewed journals.
- An overview of how formative evaluation is being embedded in GEAR UP's College and Career Readiness Evaluation Consortium.

Who Should Attend? This session is designed primarily for **GEAR UP program directors, service developers or providers, and program staff** interested in starting or refining continuous improvement processes to help maximize the effectiveness of services for students. **Evaluators** looking for tools, process, and examples to use with grantees will also benefit from the session.

Workshop Leader: Lauren Bates is a senior researcher from Education Northwest, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research, evaluation, and technical assistance firm in Portland, Oregon. Lauren has been project director for the GEAR UP Wyoming evaluation since 2015-16 and is a member of GEAR UP's College and Career Readiness Evaluation Consortium's Research and Evaluation Working Group. She brings 14 years of applied research experience, including work as an internal and external evaluator. Over her career, Lauren has conducted evaluations in 13 states. She is a former preschool and elementary school teacher.

Data, Research & Evaluation Institute 301

Leveraging Evidenced-Based Academic Indicators for Program Success: An Interactive Workshop in Applying a Data Improvement Cycle

Wednesday, July 18 • 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Session Description: Do you find the educators you work with are *data confused*? Do they find it difficult to wade through mountains of data that could be streamlined to enact a school improvement process? In this advanced Data, Research, and Evaluation Institute a pair of data evangelists will share research and best-practices associated with a data improvement process. Participants will have opportunities to explore research, interact with authentic data, engage in rich discussions with other GEAR UP professionals, and investigate the application of a data-infused school improvement planning process. This session will be grounded in college-readiness academic indicators.

In this workshop, participants will:

- Explore the role of data in understanding student learning.
- Investigate Data Improvement Cycles.
- Review the mechanisms in selecting meaningful, research-based student academic indicators.
- Apply a data improvement process using authentic data to develop an appropriate program intervention.
- Organize, explore, and analyze relevant data to identify meaningful need.
- Leverage evidenced-based strategies and/or practices to understand need and strategize an appropriate intervention.
- Utilize a grant-developed, open-sourced, web-based logic model platform to guide the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of project interventions.
- Reflect on the use of evidenced-based academic indicators within a data improvement cycle to drive innovation and improvement.

Who Should Attend? Leadership teams, evaluators, and project staff who work with school partners to design, implement, and/or support programs, activities, and/or interventions. Project directors, service staff, and evaluators will have opportunities to gain a deeper systemic understanding of the data improvement process from a grant perspective.

Workshop Leaders: This Institute, led by a University of Oklahoma's K20 Center leader and a College of Education's faculty, will leverage academic, research, and GEAR UP expertise. The University of Oklahoma's K20 Center has conducted research and technical assistance in the areas of leadership, data-driven decision making, student-centered instruction, and strategic planning to a statewide network of over 2,300 school partners. Included in the network are 86 school partners served by two GEAR UP Partnerships serving 15,041 students, families, and educators.

Dr. Angela Urick, Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma – Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education's Educational Administration, Curriculum and Supervision | Dr. Urick is an assistant professor in the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, at the University of Oklahoma. She specializes in how to lead and measure school improvement. She is a former educator, and a current educational researcher who has won national and international awards. Dr. Urick wants to use her research background in improvement to collaborate with educators and other stakeholders so that we can increase student access to high quality learning experiences.

Dr. Scott Wilson, Director of Innovative Learning - University of Oklahoma's K20 Center | Working within an educational research center dedicated to the study and dissemination of effective teaching and learning, Dr. Wilson leads a team of researchers, practitioners, designers, and developers to identify promising innovations that promote engaged learning. In his 29-year educational career, Scott has served many roles, including project director, researcher, and evaluator for GEAR UP Projects.