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Program Evaluation & Research Center

Initially launched July 1, 2011, PERC continues to scale up activity this year under the leadership of director Reagan Curtis (for more detail see http://perc.cehs.wvu.edu/projects/perc-newsletters)

PERC is continuing tracking, quality improvement, and evaluation capacity-building work on the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI; http://www.wvctsi.org/) with funding from the National Institutes of Health through 2017. We are excited to be presenting two related papers at the American Association of Behavioral and Social Science conference February 10-11, 2014. These papers describe the collaborative and dynamic logic modeling processes utilized for CTSI, as well as insights into the Health Sciences Technology Academy (HSTA) from rural student participant perspectives.

PERC is also doing formative and summative evaluation for The Education Alliance (http://www.educationalliance.org/), which was awarded a second year of funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. That project is funding 25 AmeriCorps Members to work as onsite mentors to 700 struggling students in schools across seven West Virginia counties. We are proud of our role in helping The Education Alliance support so many struggling students achieve school success.

In addition to these active externally funded projects, PERC contributed to numerous grant proposals to agencies including the National Institute of Justice, the National Science Foundation, the WV Higher Education Policy Commission, and the Benedum Foundation. We stand ready and excited to help you with applied research and evaluation components of grant proposals you are conceptualizing.

PERC awarded another round of Faculty Affiliate seed grant funding as past awardees published two manuscripts and submitted one external funding proposal connected to their previous awards. We are excited to see where the newly funded projects lead.

New Members Joining the PERC Team

We continue to grow and expand our research endeavors. One research assistant professor and three new graduate students joined the PERC team. Dr. Luke Moore is the new co-director the Tracking, Evaluation, and Quality Improvement (TEQuIP) core of WVCTSI, which is our largest project at the moment. He has experience in program evaluation, research design, and quantitative data analysis. Dr. Moore’s prior experience in the field of public health and education is an invaluable asset to our team.
Sera Mathew is one of our new graduate research assistants. She has a background in public health and interest in health curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation. While pursuing a PhD in Education, Sera is working on two projects in PERC. She is leading an evaluation project for the Health Science and Technology Academy (HSTA; http://www.wv-hsta.org/) and is actively involved in a project that targets development of Practice Based Research Networks (PBRN) in West Virginia.

Tyler Saenz is another new graduate research assistant. He is pursuing a master’s in Educational Psychology majoring in Evaluation and Research. His work with PERC allows him to gain valuable real-world experience on a number of different projects. Tyler is studying the utilization of logic models in CTSI while developing a proposal for his master’s thesis.

Megan Smith was the most recent graduate student researcher to join PERC. Megan is working on a Ph.D. in Education while supporting The Education Alliance mentoring project. She is also helping Malayna Bernstein and Reagan Curtis develop a proposal to the Benedum Foundation focusing on the impact on student learning of the Benedum Collaborative Professional Development School (PDS) Partnership.

PERC Consultation Services

We provide a wide range of support for your research or evaluation project. If you would like some assistance with identifying appropriate analytical approaches to address your research questions, or you need some assistance with the data analyses portion of your study, please contact PERC and set up an appointment with one of our faculty affiliates who can help you. We will be happy to contribute to the development of reports, manuscripts, or conference papers and presentations. Several faculty members in CEHS and beyond have already taken advantage of our consultation services and we extend our invitation to all.
PERC Advanced Analyses Lab

PERC is excited to announce opening the new Advanced Analyses Lab in Allen Hall 709. We have computers equipped with software for quantitative (SPSS, SAS, JMP, MPlus) and qualitative analyses (HyperResearch, NVivo). Our graduate students are training in how to use this software so that we can support your needs. The lab is open to faculty and graduate students engaged in research and everyone is allotted 10 free hours of consultation per semester. Starting Spring 2014, we will announce drop-in hours, and you can schedule an appointment to come in, use the available resources, and seek consultation from faculty and graduate students regarding quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodology research design and analyses, as well as support using software available in the lab.

New RFP for Faculty Affiliates
http://perc.cehs.wvu.edu/r/download/178369

Over the past two years, we have provided five seed grants to fund projects initiated by existing or new PERC faculty affiliates. A new request for proposals was distributed just before Thanksgiving so if you have a project idea that advances your research agenda and connects to PERC’s broad mission and goals, this opportunity is for you! It is anticipated that $12,000 total funding will be available for up to 4 awards. We are particularly interested in supporting projects that will lead to peer-reviewed publications and external funding proposals.

Save the Date: PERC Community Meeting
Thursday January 23rd 1:30-3pm all members of the PERC community (current and potential affiliates, clients, stakeholders, and students) are invited to join us in Allen Hall 802b for tasty treats and discussion of PERC activities, capacities, plans for the future, and ways to collaborate across departments, colleges, and communities. Please join us!

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