The Center for Student Success in the Graduate School of Education (est. 2003) provides quality program evaluation, consultation, professional development and research services to K–12 schools, districts, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to success for all students. Our staff and consultants have extensive experience in all aspects of K–12 schooling from the classroom, school, and district perspective. Graduate School of Education faculty and partnerships with other PSU departments provide additional expertise and research skills to meet the needs of our partners and clients.

**Services and sample projects**

**Program and grant evaluations**
- Evaluation of the Oregon Framework for Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Pilot Project 2012-2013—Oregon Department of Education
- Chalkboard CLASS Project Evaluation—Foundations for a Better Oregon
- Restorative Justice in Schools Evaluation—Resolutions Northwest
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers federal grant evaluation—Hood River County School District
- Evaluation design and research literature review for community education grants program—Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

**Research and data services**
- Data collection and analysis for Multnomah County Cradle to Career Partnership—All Hands Raised
- Data study—The Right Brain Initiative—Regional Arts and Culture Council
- Cohort Data Analysis project—Self Enhancement, Inc.
- K–12 Student Success Evaluation Outcomes Study—Oregon Community Foundation

**Charter and alternative school evaluations**
- Gresham-Barlow School District (3 schools)
- David Douglas School District
- Scio School District (2 schools)

**Professional development and training**
- Developing Fair and Reliable Teacher Evaluation Measures—Astoria, Clatskanie, Jewell, Knappa, Seaside, and Warrenton-Hammond school districts
- Professional Learning Teams—Centennial, Coos Bay, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Hillsboro, North Bend, Parkrose and Portland Public school districts

**Other consulting services available**
- Curriculum alignment and implementation of Common Core Standards
- Survey design, administration, and analysis
- Focus groups
- Literature reviews and synthesis of best practices
- Logic models and program evaluation design
- Board presentation

“The Center provides responsive, professional, and thorough services with a keen eye toward understanding and meeting our specific goals. A unique strength is that the Center’s team of professional evaluators and researchers also have a depth of experience as educational practitioners, having served as teachers, principals and district leaders in many Oregon schools. This allows for a pragmatic and efficient approach grounded in on-the-ground realities of teaching and learning, as well as educational theory and research best practices.”

**Nate Wass Shull**
Vice President, Partnerships
All Hands Raised

**Rates**
Our rates are competitive with other academic and commercial organizations offering educational services. Project cost will vary depending on the services required. Initial consultation and estimates are provided free of charge.
Portland State University  
Center for Student Success

Linda Jessell, MA, Director
Linda Jessell’s extensive background in public education in Oregon includes over 40 years of work in schools, school districts, and at the university level. She has been director of the PSU Center for Student Success since 2008 and has also served on the faculty of the Graduate Teacher Education Program in the PSU Graduate School of Education. Her current areas of specialization include: program evaluation, charter school evaluation, research and application of research to existing programs, teacher professional development, and school leadership training and development. Jessell’s work in K–12 schools includes leadership positions in the Beaverton and Gresham-Barlow school districts, including the following positions: assistant principal, principal, director of secondary schools, and curriculum director. The key areas of focus for her work in schools includes: high school improvement, curriculum development and grade level alignment, curriculum alignment with state content standards, teacher and administrator professional development, and school improvement planning and implementation. In 2005, Jessell’s work was recognized by the Business Education Compact and she was selected to receive their annual Education Achievement Award.

Marjorie McGee, PhD, Research Associate
Dr. McGee is the Center’s lead data analyst. She is adept in answering key research or evaluation questions and identifying the appropriate datasets, including Oregon Department of Education student level datasets. She is skilled in a number of software programs used for research such as SPSS, Stata, and Atlas Ti. Her analytical skills include the ability to conduct statistical analyses using complex survey data, as well as using an intersectional, inter-categorical approach to examine educational disparities by multiple social statuses.

Rick Dills, EdD, Consultant
Dr. Dills has over 30 years of experience as an educational practitioner (teacher, coach, and school administrator). His work with the Center includes grant evaluation design and implementation, logic model-based evaluation plans and the use of data to assess and inform educational improvement. Before his retirement as a school administrator, Dr. Dills was the director of student achievement for the Gresham-Barlow School District. In that capacity, he and the district received state, national and international recognition for leadership in using Rasch-based assessment information to study and promote student growth. Dr. Dills has taught classes on performance assessment and educational measurement for Portland State University, and previously worked for the Oregon University System to develop its Proficiency-Based Admission System.

Consultant cadre
The Center works with a variety of consultants to provide additional expertise and meet the needs of our clients. Our consultant cadre includes educational leaders with extensive backgrounds in K–12 education, including district and school leadership, curriculum and instruction, staff development, strategic planning, grant writing, and program evaluation.

“The Center has provided excellent third-party evaluation for the CLASS Project for several years. As our work has gained traction and rapidly expanded throughout Oregon, the Center has deepened their qualitative and quantitative analyses. Throughout our collaboration, they have remained supportive, adaptive, rigorous, and ethical. We appreciate their exemplary work.”

Dan Jamison  
Strategic Advisor, Chalkboard Project

“We have been impressed by the charter school evaluations the Center for Student Success has done at Lewis and Clark Montessori and the Gresham–Barlow Web Academy. Your process is thorough, thoughtful, comprehensive, and insightful…”

Tim Drilling  
Executive Director of Assessment and Accountability, Gresham-Barlow School District

Contact information
Phone: 503-725-9519  
Email: centerforsuccess@pdx.edu  
Web: pdx.edu/ceed/success