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

Charter and Alternative School Evaluations
- Gresham-Barlow School District (3 schools)
- Scio School District (2 schools)
- Reynolds School District
- Estacada School District
- Beaverton School District
- Forest Grove School District

Program and Grant Evaluations
- 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
- Study of Professional Learning – David Douglas School District

Research and Data Services
- Data collection and analysis – All Hands Raised Partnership
- Data study – The Right Brain Initiative – Regional Arts and Culture Council
- Cohort Data Analysis project – Self Enhancement, Inc.
- Data study – K-12 Student Success Evaluation Outcomes Study – Oregon Community Foundation

Consulting Services Available
- 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.

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Portland State University

Center for Student Success

Victoria Lukich, EdD, Director
Victoria Lukich has a rich and varied background in K-12 education spanning 36 years. Her experience has been as a classroom teacher at the middle and high school levels, a school improvement coordinator, assistant principal, and principal. In addition, Dr. Lukich served as a district-level administrator overseeing and supporting high schools and option schools in a large school district. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Education conducting program evaluations of secondary schools throughout the U.S. Her work in four different districts at the school and district levels, in addition to work with the USDOE, provide her with extensive experience in curriculum development, using data to guide school improvement efforts, program evaluation, and school leadership. Dr. Lukich also has expertise in guiding and supporting schools and school leaders through the change process, as well as promoting and engaging in practices that promote equity in schools.

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 has included 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.

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.

Contact Information
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"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 & Clark Montessori and the Gresham-Barlow Web Academy. Your process is thorough, thoughtful, comprehensive, and insightful..."
-Tim Drilling, Executive Director of Assessment & Accountability, Gresham-Barlow School District