

PRESENTERS

MEL vs. M&E: What Is the Difference and Why Does It Matter?

WELCOME



Ann Person, Mathematica Policy Research

Ann Person, senior researcher and director of the Center for Improving Research Evidence at Mathematica, is an expert in postsecondary education and the school-to-work transition. She has a decade of experience designing approaches to producing and applying evidence to improve programs, particularly in postsecondary and workforce education. Dr. Person has worked as a teacher and an administrator, and from 2009 to 2012 she served as the senior program officer for research and data on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success strategy. She has a Ph.D. in human development and social policy from Northwestern University.

MODERATOR



Matt Sloan, Mathematica Policy Research

Matt Sloan, the director of Mathematica's Center for International Policy Research and Evaluation, has significant international experience that includes working in developing countries, conducting rigorous program evaluations, and managing complex data collection projects. Mr. Sloan currently leads several evaluations of programs that are designed to improve education outcomes. He is directing impact evaluations of programs in Burkina Faso and Niger that seek to increase girls' enrollment in and attendance at school and expand their learning. He also oversaw the design of a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program. This program is providing holistic support, including scholarships, mentoring, transition support, and networking, to academically promising, economically disadvantaged students in sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the developing world. Mr. Sloan speaks French and holds an M.S. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.A. in international relations from Pomona College.

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Nancy MacPherson, Rockefeller Foundation

Nancy MacPherson is currently the managing director for evaluation at the Rockefeller Foundation. Responsible for Foundation-wide evaluation function and standards at the program and grant portfolio levels, she joined the Foundation in 2008. Before 2008, she worked in Asia and Africa with international development organizations, the United Nations, and multilateral and bilateral agencies. She set up and managed IUCN's Program and Project Evaluation System and Performance Assessment System and IUCN's Results Based Management System, and served as special advisor to the IUCN director general on performance assessment. Ms. MacPherson has also played a key role in the establishment and nurturing of a number of professional associations and networks focused

Nancy MacPherson *(continued)*

on evaluating global and regional development, notably the International Development Evaluation Association and the African Evaluation Association. She is the inaugural recipient of the 2015 American Evaluation Association's Enhancing the Public Good Award, presented to an individual whose evaluation work has substantially contributed to the public good. This work could be focused on theory, practice or use in any area of evaluation (that is human services, health, international development, education) and must be of high quality, ethically defensible, and culturally responsive as well as lead to effective, humane organizations and ultimately the enhancement of the public good. Ms. MacPherson holds a master's degree from Carleton University, Ontario.



Jackie Williams Kaye, Wellspring Advisors

Jackie Williams Kaye is director of research and evaluation at Wellspring Advisors. Wellspring coordinates grant-making programs that are designed to advance social and economic justice. Jackie supports Wellspring staff and grantees in using evaluation and research to inform grant-making strategies and to learn from them. She spent the first phase of her career as a researcher and program evaluator; her work focused on public health, education, and other human service areas. In recent years, she has helped lead an effort within the philanthropic community to improve evaluation of programs in the areas of advocacy and policy change. Before joining Wellspring, Jackie spent 10 years integrating evaluation and learning into grant-making, first at the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and then at The Atlantic Philanthropies.



Joshua Kaufman, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Joshua Kaufman joined USAID in 1996 and currently serves as the director of the Office of Evaluation and Impact Assessment in the U.S. Global Development Lab. Before he joined the Lab, Mr. Kaufman served as the deputy director of the Office of Innovation and Development Alliances and worked for many years in the USAID Center for Democracy, Human Rights and Government. Mr. Kaufman has a master's degree in international affairs from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in politics and peace and conflict studies from Brandeis University.



Clemencia Cosentino, Mathematica Policy Research

Clemencia Cosentino's research focuses on education practices and policies designed to increase access to educational opportunity. She has extensively studied the underrepresentation and advancement of U.S. minorities and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education as well as in the workforce. In addition to her work in the United States, Ms. Cosentino developed a comparable portfolio of work to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged youth in developing countries. She led the design of the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework for the Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education, a collaborative of private foundations that supports innovative approaches to complex problems affecting access to and quality of secondary education in developing countries, especially in Africa and Asia. She is also the principal investigator of MEL efforts for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program, an initiative designed to develop the next generation of transformative leaders by supporting more than 15,000 academically promising, economically disadvantaged students from sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the developing world. Ms. Cosentino has a Ph.D. in sociology (with concentrations in education and international development) from Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree in politics and peace and conflict studies from Brandeis University.

