

Wendy Erisman, Ph.D.

Strix Research LLC
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Training and experience in research and evaluation design, mixed methods research, and organizational development. Content expertise in federal and state higher education and workforce development policy; college access and success for diverse student populations; and adult, developmental, and correctional education.

EDUCATION

Certificate in Nonprofit Management, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, December 2003
Ph.D. (Cultural Anthropology), University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, December 1998
M.A. (Sociology), Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, December 1989
B.A. (Sociology) summa cum laude, Rice University, Houston, Texas, May 1988

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Strix Research LLC, Austin, Texas

Owner, 2010-present

- Provide research, program evaluation, technical assistance, and strategic planning services in the areas of adult and postsecondary education access and success.
- Recent evaluation projects include: *Promoting Reentry Success through Continuity of Educational Opportunities* (U.S. Dept. of Education/RTI International), *Adult College Completion Initiative* (Lumina Foundation/Higher Ed Insight), *Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative* (Southern Regional Education Board), *College Goal Sunday* (YMCA of the USA), *Minority Student Success Initiative* (Walmart Foundation/Institute for Higher Education Policy), and the *New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability*.
- Recent technical assistance projects include: *Promoting Reentry Success through Continuity of Educational Opportunities* (U.S. Dept. of Education/RTI International), *Adult College Completion Network* (Lumina Foundation/Higher Ed Insight), and *Accelerate Texas and Developmental Education Demonstration Projects* (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board).

Higher Education Policy Institute, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Austin, Texas

Senior Research Specialist, 2009-2010

- Conducted original quantitative and qualitative research and wrote reports and policy briefs.
- Monitored and analyzed relevant research and policy in higher education. Presented findings to a range of audiences, including policymakers, higher education leaders, and the public.
- Planned and managed complex policy research projects. Oversaw the work of HEPI researchers and graduate research assistants.

Institute for Higher Education Policy, Washington, District of Columbia

Director of Research and Evaluation, 2008

Senior Research Analyst and Director of Evaluation, 2007

Senior Research Analyst, 2005-2006

- Oversaw all IHEP research and evaluation projects, including allocation of personnel and management of budgets, deadlines, and deliverables.
- Identified new areas for research and evaluation work, helped develop project ideas and proposals, and participated in strategic planning efforts for the department and organization.
- Led research projects and program evaluations, including initiating projects and drafting funding proposals, developing research design and methodology, setting goals and timelines, supervising the work of staff members, reporting on progress to funders, and presenting project results to various audiences.
- Conducted literature reviews, collected and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data, developed recommendations, and wrote reports for IHEP research projects and program evaluations.

University Writing Program, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Andrew W. Mellon Lecturing Fellow, 2001-2004

- Taught courses on critical thinking, argumentation, and analytical writing that produced significant improvements in first-year students' oral and written communication skills.
- Worked with team of colleagues to research university policies and to create comprehensive by-laws governing departmental activities and employment conditions.
- Served on committee responsible for departmental hiring. Wrote job listings, reviewed resumes, conducted interviews, and determined criteria for selecting candidates.

Cultural Foundations Program, St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas

Instructor, 1999-2001

- Served on committee responsible for recommending the purchase of new information technology for all university divisions. Coordinated project evaluating student and faculty use of information technology resources that led to revision of university's budget priorities.
- Received a university technology grant to create web-based instructional tools for use of faculty members teaching general education courses.
- Using federal grant funding, developed pilot program to integrate community service work into university core courses as a strategy to raise student awareness about issues of social inequality.

PUBLICATIONS

Addressing the College Attainment Gap for Working Adults with Prior College Credit. Patricia Steele and Wendy Erisman. *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*, March/April 2016 (forthcoming).

Promoting Reentry Success through Continuity of Educational Opportunities: Reentry Education Model Implementation Study. Wendy Erisman. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, 2015

Accelerate TX Evaluation Toolkit. Wendy Erisman and Karin Samii-Shore. Austin, TX: Strix Research LLC and Shore Research Inc., 2015.

Adult College Completion in the 21st Century: What We Know and What We Don't. Wendy Erisman and Patricia Steele. Washington, DC: HigherEd Insight, 2015.

Making Progress to Degrees: Student and Institutional Outcomes Reported by Adult College Completion Projects. Wendy Erisman and Patricia Steele. Washington, DC: Higher Ed Insight, 2014.

Convenient, Accessible and Low-Cost: Stakeholder Perspectives on Adult College Completion Efforts. Wendy Erisman and Patricia Steele. Washington, DC: Higher Ed Insight, 2014.

Getting to the Finish Line: State and Metro Strategies to Increase College Completion by Returning Adults. Wendy Erisman and Patricia Steele. Washington, DC: HigherEd Insight, 2013.

From Contact to Completion: Supporting Returning Adult Students in Obtaining a College Credential. Wendy Erisman and Patricia Steele. Washington, DC: HigherEd Insight, 2012.

Sealing the Gaps: Supporting Low-Income, First-Generation Students at Four-Year Institutions in Texas Post-Transfer. Abby Miller and Wendy Erisman with Adolfo Bermeo and Chandra Taylor Smith. Washington, DC: The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, 2011.

Assessing General Education Competencies: Findings from a Survey of Texas Public Colleges and Universities. Wendy Erisman. Austin, TX: Higher Education Policy Institute, 2010.

Measuring Student Learning as an Indicator of Institutional Effectiveness: Practices, Challenges, and Possibilities. Wendy Erisman. Austin, TX: Higher Education Policy Institute, 2009.

Creating Change One Step at a Time: An Overview of Efforts to Improve College Access and Success in Indiana. Wendy Erisman and Melissa Del Rios. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2008.

Corporate Investments in College Readiness and Access. Wendy Erisman and Shannon M. Looney. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy and Business-Higher Education Forum, 2008.

Higher Education in Michigan: Overcoming Challenges to Expand Access. Alisa F. Cunningham, Wendy Erisman, and Shannon M. Looney. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2008.

From Aspirations to Action: The Role of Middle School Parents in Making the Dream of College a Reality. Alisa F. Cunningham, Wendy Erisman, and Shannon M. Looney. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2007.

Opening the Door to the American Dream: Increasing Higher Education Access and Success for Immigrants. Wendy Erisman and Shannon M. Looney. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2007.

Expanding Access and Opportunity: The Impact of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program. Wendy Erisman and Courtney McSwain. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2006.

Making Accountability Work: Community Colleges and Statewide Higher Education Accountability Systems.

Wendy Erisman and Lan Gao. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2006.

Learning to Reduce Recidivism: A 50-State Analysis of Postsecondary Correctional Education Policy. Wendy

Erisman and Jeanne Bayer Contardo. Washington, DC: Institute for Higher Education Policy, 2005.

PRESENTATIONS (*indicates invited presentations)

***Reentry Education Framework.** Second Chance Act National Meeting, Washington, DC, December 2015.

***Reentry Education: Lessons Learned and Next Steps.** Adult Education State Directors' Annual Meeting, Alexandria, VA, August 2015.

***Adult Learners in the 21st Century: What We Know and What We Don't.** Lumina Foundation, Indianapolis, IN, August 2015.

Promoting Reentry Success through Continuity of Educational Opportunities: Reentry Education Model Implementation Study. Correctional Education Association, Arlington, VA, July 2015.

***Using Data and Evaluation for Continuous Improvement.** Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Summer Technical Assistance Institute, Austin, TX, June 2015.

***State of the Network: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going?** Adult College Completion Network Convening, St. Louis, MO, October 2013.

***Adult Degree Completion Initiative: Interim Evaluation Findings.** Adult College Completion Network Convening, Chicago, IL, October 2012.

***Promising Practices along the Transfer Pathway: Evidence from Texas.** National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students 10th Annual Anniversary Conference, Fort Worth, TX, January 2012.

Promising Practices along the Transfer Pathway: Evidence from Texas. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Charlotte, NC, November 2011.

Building Evaluation Capacity in College Access and Success Programs. American Evaluation Association, Anaheim, CA, November 2011.

***Evaluation Technical Assistance Workshop.** Adult College Completion Network Convening, Denver, CO, October 2011.

Promising Practices along the Transfer Pathway: Evidence from Texas. National College Access Network, St. Louis, MO, September 2011.

Building Evaluation Capacity in College Access Programs. National College Access Network, St. Louis, MO, September 2011.

***Moving Beyond Transfer.** TG Member Conference, Austin, TX, April 2011.

***High Impact Internal Evaluation.** Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Developmental Education Technical Assistance Meetings, Austin, TX, January and June 2011.

Assessing General Education Outcomes. Association for General and Liberal Studies, Austin, TX, September 2010.

***Developing a Theory of Change.** Southern Regional Education Board Go! Alliance, Atlanta, GA, May 2010.

Assessing General Education Outcomes. Texas Association for Institutional Research, Waco, TX, March 2010.

Assessing General Education Outcomes. 10th Annual Texas A&M University Assessment Conference, College Station, TX, February 2010.

***From Aspirations to Action.** Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education 15th Annual Conference, Marietta, OH, October 2008.

Effective Tools for Evaluating College Outreach Programs. National College Access Network, Houston, TX, September 2008

Increasing College Access for Underserved Populations. National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Orlando, FL, July 2008.

From Aspirations to Action. Student Financial Aid Research Network, Baltimore, MD, June 2008.

***Evaluating a College Access Campaign.** Southern Regional Education Board Go! Alliance, Atlanta, GA, May 2008.

***Opening the Door to the American Dream.** National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Boston, MA, March 2008.

***IHEP Research on Student Borrowing Patterns.** Council for the Management of Educational Finance, Austin, TX, January 2008.

***Opening the Door to the American Dream.** Hispanic Congressional Caucus Institute Public Policy Forum, Washington, DC, October 2007.

Using Evaluation to Expand and Improve a Large-Scale Financial Aid Awareness Program. American Evaluation Association, Baltimore, MD, November 2007.

College Access Marketing Campaigns Are Working! National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Washington, DC, July 2007.

- ***Opening the Door to the American Dream.** Challenges and Opportunities: Conversations about Immigration and Higher Education, National Forum on Higher Education in the Public Good, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2007.
- ***Evaluating a College Access Campaign.** National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs, Washington, DC, January 2007.
- ***Making Accountability Work.** A New Era of Accountability, Institute for Community College Development, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, August 2006.
- College Goal Sunday: Reducing Financial Aid Barriers for Underrepresented Students?** Student Financial Aid Research Network, Providence, RI, June 2006.
- ***Learning to Reduce Recidivism.** Prisoner Reentry Institute, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, New York City, NY, February 2006.

RECENT TRAINING

American Evaluation Association, Annual Meeting, November 2015

- Full-day workshops on social network analysis

American Evaluation Association, Annual Meeting, October 2013

- Full-day workshop on interactive evaluation practice and half-day workshop on innovative qualitative methods

American Evaluation Association, Annual Meeting, October 2012

- Half-day workshops on mapping complex systems and engaging stakeholders in data analysis

American Evaluation Association, Annual Meeting, November 2010

- Full-day workshop on concept mapping

Higher Education Research Institute, University of California, Los Angeles, Summer Institute, July 2009

- Three-day workshop on hierarchical multilevel modeling

American Evaluation Association, Annual Meeting, November 2008

- Full-day workshop on evaluating collaboration and partnerships

American Evaluation Association, Annual Meeting, November 2007

- Half-day workshops on overcoming focus group challenges and using online surveys in evaluation

American Evaluation Association, Annual Meeting, November 2006

- Full-day workshop on experimental and quasi-experimental design in program evaluation

American Evaluation Association, Summer Evaluation Institute, June 2006

- Three-day session including workshops on logic models; advanced applications of program theory; planning influential evaluations; reliability, validity, and instrument design; focus group research; and communicating and reporting evaluation findings

Association for Institutional Research, Applied Statistics Institute, July 2005

- Four-day session including workshops on analysis of variance; multiple regression; clustering and grouping analysis; and non-parametric statistics

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Evaluation Association, 2005-present

College Access Topical Interest Group Co-Chair, 2010-2012

Association for the Study of Higher Education, 2010-present

American Educational Research Association, 2013-present

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Franklin Seminar Fellow, John Hope Franklin Center, Duke University, 2001-2002

Livingston Fellow, University of Texas at Austin, 1997-1998

University Fellow, University of Texas at Austin, 1992-1993 and 1995-1996

Sterling Prize Fellow, Yale University, 1988-1989

Phi Beta Kappa, Rice University, 1988