

2015
RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM
PROGRAM

NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND
Friday, July 10, 2015 • 10:30 a.m.–Noon

WALDEN UNIVERSITY
A higher degree. A higher purpose.

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2015 Walden University Research Symposium.

A Walden tradition for several years, the Research Symposium is an annual event where we are able to showcase research projects from our academic community, especially work by our recent graduates. The presentations at a symposium appear in two different formats. **Poster presentations** provide an opportunity for researchers to engage with all individuals attending the symposium and potentially to network with other interested researchers. Using a **roundtable presentation** format, a select group of research teams is available for interactive discussions of their work, with handouts and visual materials available to support the discussion. This year's roundtable presenters are focused specifically on creative and novel solutions to the challenges facing researchers, thus continuing the theme from the 2015 Research Colloquium in January.

As you will see from the abstracts in this program—one of the largest groups that we have had over the years—the research being conducted at the university is quite diverse. Beyond their shared focus on positive social change, I was most struck by the timeliness of the research topics, including improving the effectiveness and delivery of healthcare, responding to the increasingly complex world of public education, reaching beyond the borders of the United States, and addressing public health concerns from avian flu to Ebola.

For 2015, we have also expanded the Meet-and-Greet area of the symposium. The editors from each of the five academic journals supported by Walden University are in attendance. If you are interested in these publication venues, you can get any questions answered. We also have members of our Institutional Review Board in attendance, along with colleagues to discuss our Research Dissemination Support (RDS) Program and our institutional repository, ScholarWorks.

The “magic” of a research symposium can be found in the interactions between presenters and audience, however. So, please don't be shy—step up, ask questions, make comments, and enjoy the experience.



Daniel W. Salter, PhD

Director, Strategic Research Initiatives, Center for Research Quality

Symposium Program Committee

Daniel Salter, PhD, Center for Research Quality, Chair

Peter Anderson, PhD, College of Health Sciences

William Barkley, PhD, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Paula Dawidowicz, PhD, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Elisha Galaif, PhD, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Stephanie Gaddy, EdD, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Gerald Giraud, PhD, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Deborah Lewis, EdD, College of Health Sciences

Susan Marcus, PhD, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Angela Witt Prehn, PhD, College of Health Sciences

Tammy Root, PhD, College of Health Sciences

Kurt Schoch, EdD, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Amy Sickel, PhD, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Poster Presentations

1. Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs, and Behaviors of Diabetes Among Afro-Caribbeans Near Brooklyn

Sophia I. Allen, PhD, Graduate,
College of Health Sciences

Literature has found Afro-Caribbeans with diabetes have a negative perception of medical professionals. Using a cross-sectional design, Afro-Caribbeans with Type 2 diabetes were recruited across seven churches to determine whether shared knowledge and beliefs about diabetes screening and complications exist and whether they would attend a workshop at their church. *Capstone Research*

2. Social Intelligence of Undergraduates Enrolled in Traditional Versus Distance Higher Education Learning Programs

Bo S. Bennett, PhD, Graduate,
College of Social and Behavioral
Sciences

Many academics, policy makers, and laypeople remain concerned that distance education can adversely affect one's social development. The purpose of this quantitative study was to test that concern by comparing the social intelligence of distance undergraduates with the social intelligence of traditional undergraduates. *Capstone Research*

3. School Leaders' Perceptions of Students' Antisocial Behavior

Faye Britt, EdD, Graduate,
The Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

This qualitative case study sought to understand school leaders' perceptions of students' ability to manage their behavior. This understanding provided insight into the barriers to addressing the problem and suggested a potential solution for increasing academic success. The recommended job-embedded professional development training might help increase the capacity of the school leaders to manage students' antisocial behaviors. *Capstone Research*

4. Effect of Employees' Life Events on Organizational Withdrawal Behaviors

Anthony H. Brown, PhD,
Graduate, College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences

Research on the impact of employees' life events as possible effects on organizational withdrawal behaviors (OWBs) unveiled that employees' personal distractions ultimately could lead them to voluntary or involuntary turnover. Employees' better health and economic status were factors that impacted their currently working. *Capstone Research*

5. Downsizing the United States Air Force Security Forces: A Phenomenological Investigation

Winell S. de Mesa, DBA,
Graduate, College of Management
and Technology

The United States Air Force has downsized an average of 10,000 personnel each year from 1990 to 2010. Despite this fact, the mission remains the same, which causes an increase in workload to the remaining airmen. The results can be used by all leadership facing budgetary constraints and technology upgrades. *Capstone Research*

6. Community College Developmental Education Services: Perspectives of Spanish-Speaking Latino Early Childhood Educators

John E. Eberly, EdD, Graduate,
The Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

The purpose of this single-case study was to understand the perceptions of Latino Spanish-speaking English learners on the efficacy of developmental education services at a western United States community college. Research questions focused on how the developmental education services contributed to the successful completion of the child development practicum for Latino Spanish-speaking

English learners. The primary data collection method was in-depth individual interviews of a purposeful sample of nine successful students. Findings indicated that participants relied on Spanish instruction for comprehensible context, but needed consistent education support services and information from a culturally responsive institution in a language they understood. *Capstone Research*

7. The Relationship of Mental Health Agency Productivity Standards With Marriage and Family Therapist Job Satisfaction and Turnover Intent

Gilbert E. Franco, PhD,
Graduate, College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences

A quantitative study investigated how productivity standards were related to self-efficacy, job satisfaction, and marriage and family therapist (MFT) turnover intent. The results showed that productivity standards may predict turnover intent, mediated by job self-efficacy and job satisfaction. It was found that productivity may predict job satisfaction, mediated by job self-efficacy. *Capstone Research*

8. Administrative Effectiveness and Public Administration Practice in Midwestern State Employment Agencies

Kathleen A. Frederick, PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Researchers have examined the multiple dimensions of unemployment. Performance rates had declined significantly in a majority of Central Region (CR) 5 states in the 3-year period 2007–2009. What was not known, however, was the effectiveness of the public administration practice in individual state employment agencies when addressing the economic crisis and rising unemployment. In this evaluative study, the effectiveness of each of 10 state employment agencies in the CR 5 of the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration was investigated. *Capstone Research*

9. Mixed-Methodological Analysis of a Healthcare Executive and Servant Leader: Attributes and Behaviors and Their Associations With Reporting Relationships and Business Structures

Harold Griffin, PhD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

This study used a mixed-methodological approach to determine the association between the business relationships (X_1) and the settings (X_2) where these relationships were formed and Don's servant leadership constructs (Y) and their hypothesized proportional distributions. Moderate to strong statistical relationships existed between the variables.

Completed Research

10. Associations Among Ethnicity, Gender, Age, Age of First Drink, and Drinking Behavior Among Adolescents

Ricky Gujral, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Moderation management theory was employed to assess whether gender, ethnicity, age, and age of first drink were associated with drinking among adolescents. The statistically significant model distinguished between adolescents who reported moderate versus binge drinking. Age of first drink made a statistically significant main-effect contribution to the model. *Capstone Research*

11. Business Governance Best Practices of Virtual Project Teams

William J. Hamersly, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Using the systems theory and decomposition and normalization models, a number of themes emerged, building a best practice model for organizations requiring expansion through virtualization of business project teams. This phenomenological study used the personal and professional experiences of 22 senior project management practitioners to align proven business practices and technologies with the concept of virtual project teams.
Capstone Research

12. Networking the Relationships of Microenterprise Development in Bulgaria

Kristina Harris, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

In 1989, the microfinance industry was first established in Bulgaria. With a significant population living at or below the poverty line, the rural areas of Bulgaria lack economic development and job growth. This qualitative case study explored strategies that microenterprise development (MED) leaders utilize to help sustain small business leaders in Bulgaria.
Capstone Research

Presidential Research Fellowship: Fellowship in Research and Applications for Social Change from Walden University

13. Reading Specialists' Perceptions and Roles in Implementing Response to Intervention

Twyla Heindl, EdD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

The roles of reading specialists differ from campus to campus throughout the study site due to varied implementations of response to intervention (RTI). To ensure that students were receiving consistent interventions based on their needs, the site needed to examine how and when instructional services were delivered to struggling students, as well as the role of the reading specialist in the process.
Capstone Research

14. The Effects of Certified Nurse Assistants' Socialization, Onboarding, and Turnover

Dorothy Henry, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Drawing from social identity theory, this study investigated certified nurse assistants' perceived belongingness, attachment to their organizations, and intentions to leave their jobs. Healthcare reform was the public policy guiding this study. Findings indicated that affective commitment to the organization partially mediated the relationship between organizational identification and turnover intentions.
Capstone Research

15. Development and Validation of the Body Knowledge Questionnaire

David Hernandez, PhD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Cheri Hernandez, PhD, Faculty, University of Windsor, Ontario

This study evaluated the psychometric properties (validity and reliability) of a new instrument, the Body Knowledge Questionnaire (BKQ), which measures weight management integration—an individual's attitudes, preferences, and behaviors associated with weight management. The BKQ has potential for use in weight management practice areas to ameliorate the global obesity problem. *Completed Research Faculty Research Initiative Grant from Walden University*

16. The Experience of Weight Management in Normal- and Obese-Weight Adults

David Hernandez, PhD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Cheri Hernandez, PhD, Faculty, University of Windsor, Ontario

Chris Wellington, M.S., Windsor of Family Health Team, Windsor, Ontario

Arthur Kidd, M.D., Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital, Windsor, Ontario

This study explored the weight management experiences of normal- and obese-weight adults. Normal-weight adults focus on living while automatically maintaining

weight within self-defined limits, whereas obese-weight adults focus on food and their weight. With this knowledge, new dietary, cognitive, and lifestyle weight management strategies can be developed to overcome food-centric, weight-promoting influences. *Completed Research*

17. The Burden of Avian Influenza Viruses in Community Ponds in California

Zin Htway, PhD, Graduate, College of Health Sciences

This research was a baseline study of the proportion of influenza A virus (IAV) in urban and rural communities in California. Surface water samples were collected from artificial recirculating water ponds in the geographic locations of rural and urban Californian communities. *Capstone Research*

18. The Role of Online College Courses in Rehabilitating Offenders

Niares A. Hunn, PhD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Research and testimonial evidence indicate the importance of postsecondary education in rehabilitating inmates and in decreasing reoffending. Limited research exists on improving critical thinking skills and cognitive processing among inmates. Results indicated that critical thinking skills improved for all students; there was no significant difference based on incarceration status. *Capstone Research*

19. Relationship of Teacher Training Levels to Teacher Referrals for Twice Exceptional Students

Robin A. Jones, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Previous studies report the role of teacher training and twice exceptional (2E) students, yet none investigated the relationship between teacher training and 2E referrals into gifted programs. This study demonstrated the need to understand teachers' referrals of 2E students into gifted programs with the collection of data from 102 K–12 teachers according to their teaching credentials, from no training to being certified. Findings revealed there were 2.5 times more boys given referrals than girls. *Capstone Research*

20. Physician Assistants' Preventive Medicine Practices and Related Habits, Attitudes, and Beliefs

Judia Yael Malachi, PhD, Graduate, College of Health Sciences

Physician assistants are pivotal in expanding access to care, yet research on their preventive medicine practices is limited. This study highlighted physician assistants' preventive medicine practices and examined the relationship between their practices, personal health habits, prevention and counseling attitudes, and perceived barriers to the delivery of clinical preventive services. *Capstone Research*

21. Technology as a Health Intervention and the Self-Efficacy of Men

Karen D. Maxwell, PhD, Graduate, College of Health Sciences

Mortality rates are higher for men than women. Limited knowledge exists regarding the specific components needed to design technology health tools to appeal to men. This study examined the relationship between the use of technology health tools and the role of self-efficacy in men and participation in healthy lifestyle behaviors. *Capstone Research*

22. The Relationship Between Terrorism, Oil Prices, and Airline Profitability

Ubirathan Miranda, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Increase in the price of petroleum and terrorism negatively affect airline profitability. This quantitative study was an exploration of the relationship between terrorism, fuel price, and airline profitability. Airline financial and security archives were the data for this secondary analysis. Results indicated that terrorism and fuel cost significantly predict profitability. *Capstone Research*

23. The Impact of Centering Pregnancy Implementation

Carole Ann Moleti, DNP, Graduate, College of Health Sciences

Evaluation of six Centering Pregnancy Group Prenatal Care cycles showed the logic models supported implementation and expansion of Centering Groups at two federally qualified health centers. There was adequate progress toward site approval and method fidelity scores and favorable patient and staff satisfaction ratings using the Centering Counts data collection system. Interim outcomes in 33 participants demonstrated beneficial effects on key indicators. *Capstone Research*

24. Predictors of Nonadherence to Medical Follow-Up Care Among African Americans With HIV/AIDS

Phyllis Morgan, PhD, Faculty, College of Health Sciences

Persons living with HIV/AIDS who do not adhere to their medical follow-up appointments tend to have poorer health outcomes compared to HIV/AIDS patients who adhere to their medical follow-up appointments. This study examined factors that influence nonadherence of African Americans with HIV/AIDS to medical follow-up appointments. *Completed Research*

25. Modeling Risk Management in Banks: Examining Why Banks Fail

Daniel O. Okehi, PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

The aims of this research were to determine why there have been persistent bank failures in Nigeria and to investigate whether ineffective risk management in banks, coupled with poor corporate governance practices and nonadherence to regulations (independent variables), play a significant role in the banks' performance (dependent variable). *Capstone Research*

26. Financial Resources and Technology to Transition to 450-mm Semiconductor Wafer Foundries

Thomas Earl Pastore, PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Financial models that can be applied by management to build giant wafer foundries to manufacture low-cost semiconductor products were demonstrated. This advanced semiconductor technology will likely drive a new frontier called the Internet of Everything, an expected \$14 trillion market that will likely contribute to global positive social change. *Capstone Research*

27. CEO Duality and Performance of Not-for-Profit Hospitals

Anh Ngoc Pham, PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Depending on their needs for enhancing and sustaining their business and market values, some firms choose to operate with a corporate governance structure of CEO duality, in which an executive serves as the CEO and the chairperson of the board of directors. This study used multiple regression data analyses of financial indicators from 146 U.S. not-for-profit hospitals selected from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development database of California, for the period from 2009 to 2012. The results of this secondary analysis suggested CEO duality and presence of physicians on healthcare governance were not related to financial performance of not-for-profit hospitals.
Capstone Research

28. A Comparison of Regional Healthcare Structures for Emergency Preparedness

Leslie L. Porth, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

This study examined the influence of disciplines, community setting, and weather-related disasters on regional healthcare activities. Social network theory framed this quantitative study of 375 acute care hospitals using archival 2011 survey data. A general linear model analysis suggested a statistically significant increase in activities with established multidisciplinary networks.
Capstone Research

29. Understanding Distinctive Beliefs and Perceptions About Depression Among Haitian Men

Darlyne Richardson, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

A quantitative analysis explored the relationship between levels of depression in Haitian men related to restrictive emotionality, self-reliance, subjective masculine stress, spiritual well-being, and length of time in the United States. The data were obtained from demographic questionnaires and surveys to among 90 Haitian men residing in the United States.
Capstone Research

30. Measuring Engagement in Online High School Students

Beth Robelia, PhD, Faculty,
The Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

Online high schools can create social change by creating learning environments that can flex place, pace, path, and time. Many online learners do not engage with their studies. Over 400 high school students were surveyed for their perceptions of the most engaging aspects of online learning. *In-Progress Research Faculty Research Initiative Grant from Walden University*

31. Health Behaviors, Hardiness, and Burnout in Mental Health Workers

Jeremiah B. Schimp, PhD,
Graduate, College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences

This study addressed the connection between health behaviors, hardiness, and burnout in 223 mental health workers who completed online surveys of burnout, demographics, hardiness, and health behaviors. The results suggested mental health workers are better able to maintain their emotional energy through the cultivation of hardiness and management of stress. *Capstone Research*

32. Assessment and Data-Informed Decision Making in Preservice Teacher Education

Lisa Share, PhD, Faculty,
The Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

Stacy Ness, PhD, Faculty, The
Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

Jennifer Knutson, MA, Faculty,
The Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

The presentation highlights a 2-year study regarding assessment knowledge and data-informed decision-making skills of early childhood education and special education preservice teachers. Challenges included internal program and field experience changes, external standards revisions, and obtaining a sizeable sample. Data analysis led to program changes to improve candidate performance. *Completed Research*

33. One Hospital's Patient Satisfaction Plans in Response to a Changing Healthcare Environment

Valerie A. Smart Shoup, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Changes in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reimbursement programs resulted in approximately 50% of hospitals realizing a decrease in Medicare payments and 50% of hospitals realizing increases in payments based on Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) scores. This case study explored how one hospital team in North Texas achieved high HCAHPS scores. The data collection process included administrator interviews, hospital document analysis, observations of staff conducting care, discussions with staff and patients, discussion with patients' families, and review of HCAHPS scores. Themes emerging from the study included caregiver–patient interactions, hospital services, hospital environment, hospital technology, and hospital governance. *Capstone Research*

34. Success Factors of Small Business Owners of Independent Financial Planning Firms

Joanne Snider, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

The Small Business Administration's 2014 statistics indicate 20% of small businesses fail within 2 years, and 50% fail within 5 years. Interviews with 12 successful small business owners of independent financial planning firms revealed these success factors: (a) training in business operations, (b) business differentiation, and (c) website marketing. *Capstone Research*

35. Lessons Learned From the Ebola Cases in Dallas, Texas

Chris Spoons, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

A review of literature revealed a gap in research on the preparedness of U.S. fire and emergency services to effectively respond to an Ebola incident. This case study used purposeful sampling of key informants in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who were responsible for the September 2014 Ebola response when a Liberian man visiting the United States became the first patient diagnosed with the virus in this country. This study focused on the preparedness and response capabilities of fire and emergency services, but not hospitals or healthcare providers. *Completed Research*

36. *The Truth About Humans: The Decision to Adopt Dogs and Cats*

Lee Stadtlander, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Millions of dogs and cats are adopted from animal shelters every year; however, little is known about why specific animals are adopted. This study examined the qualitative comments given by adopters of cats and dogs for selecting specific animals. Differences between the species and insights into human–animal interactions are discussed.

Completed Research

37. *Validation of the Health Efficacy and Assertiveness Scale*

Lee Stadtlander, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Amy Sickel, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Martha Giles, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Recently, healthcare has required the role of “patient” to change from a receptive role to an active one. Patients’ responsibilities for discussing health with their physicians require greater health assertiveness and efficacy. There is not a validated survey examining patient assertiveness and self-efficacy. This study addressed this issue. *Completed Research*

38. *Gender Differences and Mental Health Stigma*

Amy Sickel, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Jason Seacat, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Nina Nabors, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Although much is known about the impact of mental health stigma, the relationship between stigma and gender is unclear. This study examined gender differences in four stigma variables using a nonclinical adult population. Significant gender differences were found on one of the four stigma variables. Additional research utilizing equal-sized samples is suggested. *Completed Research*

39. *Prostate Cancer and Afro-Caribbean Men: Experiences, Perceptions, and Beliefs*

Harold E. Taitt Jr., PhD, Graduate, College of Health Sciences

The incidence of prostate cancer is high among men of African descent. Research questions in this phenomenological study considered the perceptions and beliefs of Afro-Caribbean men. Participants conveyed low disease awareness but believed that early diagnosis increased survival chances. Findings revealed strategies to help reduce mortality from the disease. *Capstone Research*

40. The Effect of Textbook Format on Mental Effort and Time on Task

Antonio Thomas, PhD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Using Astin's theory of student engagement as a framework, the purpose of this study was to determine whether a significant difference in engagement, as indicated by mental effort and time on task, existed for college students who used a digital game-based textbook versus students who used a traditional print-based textbook. The results showed a statistically significant difference in engagement, Hotelling's $T^2(2, 52) = 25.11, p < .001, D^2 = 1.86$.

Capstone Research

41. The Impact of the Strong Start Program on Student Outcomes in Developmental College Courses

Nichole Gibbs Thomas, PhD, Alumna, American Nurses Credentialing Center, Silver Spring, MD

Using the four-Cs framework, the Strong Start Program was developed and implemented at a 2-year public community college to increase developmental course pass rates. There was a statistically significant difference ($z = 1.9, p < .05$) in the proportion of students who passed Strong Start-supported courses (68.43%, $n = 199$) and students who passed traditional developmental courses (59.46%, $n = 231$).

Completed Research

42. English Language Learners and High School Transition Experiences

Kimberly Watkins, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The purpose of this study was to present the phenomenological experiences of former English-as-a-second-language (ESL) students as they transitioned from ESL to English-only classes. Deductive coding was used to identify themes: (a) daily experiences with ESL and mainstream classes, (b) understanding of the transition, (c) opinions concerning elements of the programs, and (d) suggestions for ways to improve the programs. *Capstone Research*

43. Relationship Between Whole-Person Learning and Growth Mindset

Marian Willeke, PhD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

The relationship between whole-person learning and a growth mindset in first-generation learners was explored. Whole-person learning was presented as a vehicle for developing a growth mindset. Mindset scores from first-generation learners exposed to and not exposed to whole-person learning were collected from four institutions using a pre-/posttest design. *Capstone Research*

44. Small Business Leaders' Perceptions of Factors Facilitating Successful Performance in Government Contracts

Tamara P. Williams, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

This descriptive study explored factors in leadership used by some small business leaders for successful performance in government contracting and was conducted by interviewing small business leaders in Washington, DC. Clustering themes according to Moustakas's modified van Kaam method were used to organize, analyze, interpret, and provide meaning to participant accounts of the phenomenon.

Capstone Research

45. Terrorist Experts' Perceptions of How the Internet Has Shaped International Terrorism

Samuel Forrest Wilson II, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The Internet and mass media have emerged as enablers for terrorist planning and communication. The Internet allows terrorists to operate without the confines of borders and increases the impact on victims. This phenomenological study bridged the gap by exploring the perceptions of American terrorist experts. Stepanova's asymmetric conflict theory was applied.

Capstone Research

46. Relationships Between Specific Health-Related Fitness Components and Standardized Academic Achievement Tests

Tona Wilson, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Guided by self-efficacy theory, this study assessed the impact of optimal versus minimal physical fitness on student academic achievement. Independent variables were optimal and minimal physical fitness based upon completing six or five FITNESSGRAM components, respectively. Optimally fit students scored significantly higher ($p < .05$) in math and English language arts (ELA) tests. *Capstone Research*

47. Technology Use in Assisting Victims of Labor Trafficking

Eric Youn, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Federal guidelines are becoming more specific concerning the roles and responsibilities of State Departments of Human Services in identifying and providing services to international victims of labor trafficking. Immigration services agencies are tasked with working with these victims and coordinating services with respective state Departments of Human Services. To assist in this formidable task, various common technologies can play a key role. *In-Progress Research*

Reprised Poster

48. Using Grounded Action to Address Student Needs in the CIA/RLL EdD Doctoral Program at Walden University

Debra Chester, EdD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Mitch Olson, EdD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Karen Wiggins, PhD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

The success of any university is its ability to retain and promote its students from student admission to graduation. A grounded theory study was conducted investigating the experiences of new doctoral students at Walden University in 2013. The purpose of this study was to understand the new student experience, which resulted in a grounded theory that accounted for the main concerns of the doctoral student participants. The emergent core variable for the study was

weighing in, a process that includes orienting, equipping, considering, and jumping in. Grounded action was applied using the explanatory theory of weighing in for mitigating student related issues throughout the CIA/RLL programs. Several action initiatives and a strategic plan were developed to address these concerns using the theory of weighing in. This study will impact training and support of Walden's full- and part-time contributing faculty and shape student services, instruction, and support. *Completed Research Faculty Research Initiative Grant from Walden University*

Originally presented on February 8th, 2015, at the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada

Roundtable Sessions

1. Strategies for Research Teams in Applied Settings: Overcoming Obstacles to Find Meaning in the Data

Debbie Bechtold, PhD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Martha Larkin, PhD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Janet Williams, EdD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

This discussion focuses on creative solutions to the challenges of conducting research in applied settings in the context of a multiphase study examining data-informed decision making among preservice teachers completing their classroom field experiences. The challenges include low response rates, program/staff changes, and revisions to instrumentation and external standards.

2. Quantitative Thematic Analysis and Concept Mapping to Visualize Reliability and Validity of Instructional Alignment in Research Courses

Charles T. Diebold, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Kimberley A. Cox, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Discusses the use of “quantitative thematic analysis” (you read that right!) to assess alignment of rubric, learning objectives, learning resources, and assignment instructions in Walden University’s core research courses. Topologically novel concept maps from cluster analysis of multidimensional scaling represent the first phase of our study evaluating rubric reliability and validity, informing realignment needs.

Faculty Research Initiative Grant from Walden University

3. Beyond SurveyMonkey: Innovative Tools and Strategies to Support Qualitative Research

Ana Donaldson, PhD, Faculty, The
Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

Jennifer Smolka, PhD, Faculty, The
Richard W. Riley College of
Education and Leadership

This participatory roundtable session will focus on shared technological tools and innovative strategies for creative ways of gathering, analyzing, and reporting qualitative data.

Qualitative research focuses on telling the rich and vibrant stories of the participants. Instead of focusing on rigid research protocols, qualitative research allows for alternative strategies and supportive tools. The activities and resources provided in the session will encourage future methods of data gathering and analysis that go beyond traditional approaches.

Meet-and-Greet Opportunities

Because the symposium is a coming-together of researchers and scholars across the university, we also want to provide some additional information on opportunities in this area.

Academic Journals

Members of the editorial teams from each of the five Walden-sponsored academic journals will be available to answer any journal-related questions.

- *The Journal of Social Change (JSC)* is Walden's flagship journal dedicated to advancing the core mission of the university.
- *The International Journal of Applied Management and Technology (IJAMT)* serves to advance knowledge and applied practices within the fields of management and technology on an international scale.
- *The Journal of Educational Research and Practice (JERAP)* provides a forum for studies and dialogue that allows readers to better develop social change in the field of education and learning.
- *The Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences (JSBHS)* advances positive change across a variety of professional disciplines that contribute to improving the quality of daily life.
- *The Journal of Social Work in the Global Community (JSWGC)* provides a forum to publish original research, literature reviews, and thought pieces on the practice of international social work with a focus on social change.

Research Dissemination Support (RDS) Program

Dr. Molly Lauck, Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, will be available to provide information on the university's RDS Program. This program supports Walden faculty and staff who promote the visibility and scholarly reputation of Walden through the dissemination of their research and research-related activities. The RDS Program offers grants for both publications and presentations.

ScholarWorks

Jennie Ver Steeg, Walden Director of Library Services, will be available to discuss ScholarWorks (Walden's institutional repository); what it is, how it benefits contributing authors and users, and how you may get involved. Scholar Works makes publicly available the scholarly and creative output of the Walden University community in order to generate new knowledge, conserve past knowledge, and transform knowledge by making connections among and between ideas to improve human and social conditions.

Meet the IRB

Dr. Leilani Endicott, Chair of our Institutional Review Board (IRB), will be on hand to talk about faculty and student research ethics issues and also to meet with individuals who wish to explore the possibility of an IRB member role.

<http://researchcenter.waldenu.edu/>

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