



# 2010 SUMMER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

### 2010 SUMMER RESEARCH

Minneapolis, Minnesota • Thursday, July 22, 2010 • 3–7:30 p.m.



**WALDEN UNIVERSITY**  
*A higher degree. A higher purpose.*

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## Introduction

Welcome to the 2010 Walden University Summer Research Symposium. For our 40th Anniversary, this session's symposium highlights diverse research from our faculty, students, and graduates. The studies that are represented include work from student capstone projects as well as faculty research in development and research supported by grants or internal fellowships. We are proud that this year's event includes a faculty research panel, outstanding dissertation and doctoral study awards presentations, poster presentations, and roundtable discussions. Within the roundtable format, a select group of researchers will be available for interactive discussions of their work, with handouts and visual materials available to support the discussion. Timely topics in this year's symposium include epidemiology, bullying, management, leadership development, and mental health. Methodologies include qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches appropriate for both practitioner research as well as large-scale theoretical studies. We hope that the information presented in this variety of formats will inspire new ideas and opportunities for further research collaboration within the Walden community. You can use the area at the back of this program to record key contacts made at this event.

## Symposium Program Committee

**Laura Knight-Lynn**, Ph.D., Center for Research Support, Chair

**Leilani Endicott**, Ph.D., Center for Research Support

**Molly Lauck**, Ph.D., Center for Research Support

**Louis Milanese**, Ph.D., Center for Research Support

**George Smeaton**, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Elisha Galaif**, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Nancy Rea**, Ph.D., College of Health Sciences

**Angela Prehn**, Ph.D., College of Health Sciences

**Regina Galer-Unti**, Ph.D., College of Health Sciences

**Wendy Andberg**, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Tanya Settles**, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**William Barkley**, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Jenny Sherer**, M.A., Center for Research Support

**David Gould**, Ed.D., College of Management and Technology

**David Milen**, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**John Flohr**, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

**Deborah Lewis**, Ph.D., College of Health Sciences

**Andrew Thomas**, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

**Paula Dawidowicz**, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

**Kurt Schoch**, Ed.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

**Kelly Hall**, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership  
**Ken Kempner**, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership  
**David Mathieu**, Ph.D., Center for Undergraduate Studies  
**Pamela Smith**, Ph.D., College of Management and Technology

*A special thanks is extended to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Walden University Board of Directors for their support and assistance with the research symposium, and their assistance with the selection of Best Faculty Poster and Best Student Poster.*

## **Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors**

**Barbara Solomon**, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, Research Professor, Hamovitch Research Center, School of Social Work, University of Southern California  
**William G. Durden**, Ph.D., President, Dickinson College  
**Anita McDonald**, Ph.D., Chancellor, Penn State DuBois  
**Estanislado Y. Paz**, Ph.D., Founding President, Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents

**3–4 p.m.**

### **Walden Faculty Research Panel Ted Mann Concert Hall**

**Iris Yob**, Ph.D., Center for Faculty Excellence  
**Amy Sickel**, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Science  
**Howard Schecter**, Ph.D., College of Management and Technology

Members of this faculty panel will share information from their active research agendas with the Walden community. Faculty members will briefly present their current research projects, highlighting the research plan, experiences in the field, any findings to date, and how their interests interact with Walden's positive social change mission. A question and answer period will follow the presentations.

**4–5 p.m.**

### **Research Presentations by Award Recipients Ted Mann Concert Hall**

At commencement, Walden University bestows awards to graduates, students, and faculty members whose work exemplifies the university's mission of providing a diverse community of career professionals with the opportunity to transform themselves as scholar-practitioners, as well as the university's core values of quality, integrity, and student-centeredness.

**Dissertation Award:**  
**Carl Eckrode**, Ph.D. in Public Health  
**Doctoral Study Award:**  
**Douglas Tedford**, Ed.D.

**5–5:30 p.m.**

**Transportation to  
Poster Session/  
Roundtable Discussions**

The last part of the Research Symposium will take place at the Radisson University Hotel in the University Ballroom. Transportation will leave from the front of Ted Mann Concert Hall directly following the Research Presentation and will shuttle back to the Hubert Humphrey Center on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota about every 20 minutes until 8 p.m.

**Faculty Poster  
Presentations**

**Proposed and  
Completed Research**

*1. Latino/Hispanic Students’  
Motivation to Enter Field of  
Ecology: Facilitated through  
Professional Learning of Teachers  
in an Elementary School*

Tom Cavanagh, Ph.D.,  
Heather Miller, Ph.D.,  
The Richard W. Riley College  
of Education and Leadership

*Research in Progress*

This presentation describes a qualitative exploration of existing data which built upon existing literature by assessing and quantifying students’ exposure and career aspirations towards ecology and the natural sciences.

**5:30–7:30 p.m.**

**Poster Session and  
Roundtable Discussions  
University Ballroom,  
Radisson University Hotel**

*2. Family and Parent Involvement  
Components in K-12 Teacher  
Education*

Anthony Morgan, Ed.D.,  
The Richard W. Riley College  
of Education and Leadership

*Completed Research Project*

This study was an examination of the presence of family and parent involvement components in pre-service teacher training. Leaders of 18 state-approved teacher education institutions in a southeastern state completed surveys that described how family and parent involvement components were infused into pre-service teacher education.

### **3. Interventions in Secondary Mathematics with At-Risk Students: A Systematic Review**

**James Dugan, Ed.D., Ed.D.,  
The Richard W. Riley College  
of Education and Leadership**

*Completed Research Project*

A systematic review of interventions in secondary mathematics with at-risk students was conducted. The goal was to identify interventions most successful at improving mathematics achievement while reducing mathematics achievement gap. Effective interventions identified were instructional interventions (cognitive and metacognitive approaches, cooperative learning, peer tutoring) and technology-based interventions.

### **4. Influence of Future, Past, and Present Thinking on Learning Style**

**Vincent Fortunato, Ph.D., College  
of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

According to the theory of MindTime, the human ability to engage in mental time travel gave rise to three distinct and measurable patterns of thinking that influence how people perceive and interact with the world. In this study, we examined the influence of these thinking patterns on individuals' thinking style.

### **5. Oldest Old: Locus of Control, Self Description and Earliest Memory**

**Martha Giles, Ph.D., College of  
Social and Behavioral Sciences,  
LeAnn Stadlander, Ph.D., College  
of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

Earliest memories and current self personality descriptions of 24 individuals over 85 years of age were examined. Consistent evidence of locus of control (external vs. internal) was apparent in both the memory and personality description for individuals, suggesting an innate method of viewing the world. Implications are discussed.

### **6. Symptomology Among Pregnant Women in High Risk Areas**

**Carl Sheperis, Ph.D., College of  
Social and Behavioral Sciences;  
Donna Sheperis, Ph.D., College of  
Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Michelle Perepiczka, Ph.D., College  
of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

To circumvent the cyclical nature of oppression in underserved communities, Head Start provides mental health services to pregnant women as an early intervention for their developing child. This research explored the mental health symptomology of pregnant women in these programs. Differences in scores on the Brief Symptom Inventory will be discussed.

### ***7. Building a Culture of Assessment through Faculty Involvement***

**Shari Jorissen, Ph.D., Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Eric Reidel, Ph.D., Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Jimmy Middlebrook, Ph.D., Center for Undergraduate Studies, David Mathieu, Ph.D., Center for Undergraduate Studies, John Paulson, Ph.D., Center for Undergraduate Studies**

#### *Completed Research Project*

It is important to map undergraduate outcomes to professional skill expectations and program outcomes. A variety of stakeholders have an interest in the skills of undergraduate program graduates. The DEEP-C model highlighted in this study is used in Walden's Center for Undergraduate Studies to map these outcomes with faculty involvement.

### ***8. Mass Casualty Events: Creating Positive Social Change within the Community for Emergency Preparedness***

**David Milen, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Jill Conner, RN, BSN, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### *Completed Research Project*

In October 2009, a multiregional disaster exercise involving 32 emergency and community resources was held in order to determine if an alternative care site for mass casualty

victims would be sustainable for 96 hours and if interoperability of communications would influence the use of community resources and diminish hospital surge.

### ***9. Mental Health Stigma, Treatment-Seeking, and Physical Health among Young Adults***

**Amy Sickel, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Jason Seecat, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Nina Nabors, Ph.D., College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### *Proposed Research*

Depression-related treatment seeking may be problematic for young adults due to illness burden and the significant psychological, social, and health-related consequences associated with mental illness stigma. The proposed study seeks to determine the applicability of Steele and Aronson's Model of Stereotype Threat to understanding mental health stigma and treatment seeking behavior and physical health among young adults.

**10. Assessing a Predictive Modeling Technique for Patient Management of Diabetes**

**Howard Schechter, Ed.D., College of Management and Technology; Nithyanandam Mathiyazhagan, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

*Completed Research Project*

Predictive modeling as an aid to better blood sugar self-management has been attempted by many researchers. They have met with limited success. This study uses two novel approaches based in Knowledge Management using an Adaptive Neural Fuzzy Inference System (ANFIS) and a non-Euclidean geometric model.

**11. Social Environment Dimension of Cultural Intelligence in Global IT Workforce**

**Mukesh Srivastava, Ph.D., College of Management and Technology**

*Completed Research Project*

This research attempts to develop an enhanced model for the measurement of cultural intelligence in individuals in the Management Information Systems workforce and identifies additional dimensions of cultural intelligence. The improved model serves to assist global businesses with a means to measure CQ in order enhance the value of expatriate and foreign business assignments.

**12. Quest for Values. Toward a New Social and Economic Order**

**Juan Stegman, Ph.D., College of Management and Technology**

*Proposed Research*

Strategic Value Management (SVM) shows how consumers and investors are the ones that really put pressure on the firms: managers are unable to enact their personal values as they are ultimately agents hired to maximize the shareholders' wealth. The paper proposes new courses of action to develop an economic system more transparent and accountable, involving consumers and investors, which then permits managers to act according to their values.



## **Student Poster Presentations**

### **Student Completed Research**

#### *13. The Role of Verbal and Nonverbal Communication Between Students with Special Needs and Their Teachers*

**Dottie Williams, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

##### *Completed Research Project*

A phenomenological study investigated the communications between adolescent students with special needs in a Midwestern middle school.

Qualitative data from interview, observations and written responses were analyzed. Descriptive analysis revealed students learn from encouraging teacher cues. Results impact social change by developing a pro-social relationship where students can sustain meaningful skills. As teachers build the students' confidence, more success is experienced in the classroom and the community at large.

#### *14. Education, Prevention, and Intervention of Bullying in Middle School*

**Heather Genz, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

##### *Completed Research Project*

This quantitative study examined the perceptions of middle-school students pertaining to traditional and electronic bullying. Inferential and descriptive data were analyzed, and the findings were used to help development of an anti-bullying program, delete Bullying, which was created to establish positive social change by reducing bullying behaviors in middle school.

#### *15. Integrating Cell Phones into the Secondary Montessori Classroom*

**Cynthia DeWitte, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

##### *Completed Research Project*

This study documents how participants' attitudes toward m-learning changed as a result of their experience with using a cell phone for learning, the limitations and advantages of m-learning, the 21st-century skills students demonstrate when using a cell phone, and how students connect to their learning ecology with a cell phone.

**16. Use of Handheld Devices for Improved Phonemic Awareness in Kindergarten**

**Cristy Magagna-McBee, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

*Completed Research Project*

This study explored Bee-Bot handheld devices in kindergarten and whether they are effective with phonemic awareness. A sequential mixed-methods study was completed and DIBELS scores were analyzed and interviews conducted. Given the importance of reading, social, and technology skills this study contributes to social change by improving literacy instruction.

**17. State Capacity Influences on the Epidemiology of Neglected Tropical and Vector-borne Diseases in Africa**

**Elizabeth Filauri, College of Health Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

This ecological, correlational study examined relationships between state capacity and the epidemiology of neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases in Africa. Regression analyses revealed statistically significant findings for malaria, diarrhea, and trypanosomiasis disease burden as well as measures of mortality. A broad range of effect sizes were also observed, indicating the complex contributions of factors studied.

**18. Hawaii 3ForLife: Utility Model for Hepatitis B Screening and Immunization**

**Augustina Manuzak, College of Health Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection is a global public health problem. Asia and Africa are countries with high endemicity of HBV infection. This study addressed the existence of health disparity in HBV infection among Asian Pacific Islanders in Hawaii, an area with large population of high risk immigrants from Asia and Pacific Islands.

**19. Acculturation, Social Support, and Self-Esteem as Predictors of Nigerian Students' Mental Health**

**Verna LaFleur, College of Health Sciences; Manoj Sharma, Ph.D., College of Health Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of acculturation, social support, and self-esteem on mental health among Nigerian nursing students. Data were obtained using an online survey of 69 items assessing each variable. The results revealed that mental health is influenced by acculturation, social support, and self-esteem.

**20. Comparison 360-Degree Assessments for First Level Sales Managers Across Industries**

**Tyron Woodard, College of Management and Technology**

*Completed Research Project*

The 360-degree assessment was created to identify performance strengths and opportunities in order to develop rated managers. The goal of this research is to evaluate the assessments of first-level sales managers to determine if there is a relationship between how rating sources view rated sales managers.

**21. Who shares? An Exploration of Effective Managerial Knowledge Sharing Practices**

**Gwen Lock, College of Management and Technology**

*Completed Research Project*

Public sector organizations are facing the escalating threat of loss of operational knowledge from an ageing workforce. A case study approach using social network analysis identified that managers who used face-to-face communication, proximity, and effective brokerage practices were influential knowledge resources. Findings also indicated that effective organizational practices support improved service delivery to citizens.

**22. Faith-based Social Venture Enterprise: A Model for Financial Sustainability**

**Verneice Starling, College of Management and Technology**

*Completed Research Project*

The purpose of this grounded theory study was to complete a business model to assist faith-based, nonprofit organizations in financially sustaining social services through federal tax exempt, earned-income enterprise. The study queried Christian baby-boomer consumers living in the southwestern United States, and the results produced a theory for testing in the marketplace.

**23. The Effect of Encounters Between Medical Gatekeepers and Patients on the Doctor-Patient Relationship**

**Linda Erlich, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

Research currently indicates patient perceptions of the doctor-patient relationship are central to health outcomes. Two factors not yet studied include the effect of medical gatekeeper characteristics and the interaction between gatekeeper characteristics and healthcare attitudes/behaviors. Regression analyses revealed that healthcare attitudes/behaviors and gatekeeper characteristics individually predicted and interacted to predict doctor-patient perceptions.

**24. *Effects of Jewish Religious Identity and Age on Academic Stress***

**Louis Teller, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

Effects of Jewish religious affiliation and age on academic stress as measured by the Academic Stress Inventory (AESI) were examined. AESI self-stress subscale scores of Jewish students were significantly higher than non-Jewish students in the age 13 retrospective condition. Findings suggest the need for stress-reduction interventions targeted toward Jewish adolescents.

**25. *Transformational Leadership and Emotional Intelligence: A Mixed-Methods Learning Study***

**Robert T. Schaeffer, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

This mixed-methods study investigates the relationship between Transformational Leadership (TFL) and Emotional Intelligence (EI) through learning and developmental experiences, to assess if (and how) transformational leadership and emotional intelligence skills can be increased in participants through leadership training and coaching. Because current models of the TFL and EI relationships are inadequate and incomplete, a secondary goal of this study is to develop an applied TFL/EI model that can be used across several leadership contexts.

**26. *A Phenomenological Approach to the Thoughts, Contexts, Themes, and Benefits of Mental Orgasms in Women***

**Chelsie Reed, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

The female mental orgasm, a purposeful orgasm without physical stimulation, has been recognized quantitatively with functional magnetic resonance imaging. This phenomenological study revealed the essence, descriptive statements, benefits, and themes of mental orgasms in women. The findings may influence mental, sexual, and physical health care practices for women.

**27. *Societal Modeling for Enhanced Analytics by Public Policy Officials and Related Personnel***

**Dennie Beach, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

Organizations and officials in the public sector traditionally have analyze and view information in silos without comprehensive examination across subject matter domains. This study explores whether incorporating socioeconomic data from the IMF and other governmental and nongovernmental sources in the public sector increase the effectiveness of decision-making by public policy officials and if graphical data modeling tools and processes increase the effectiveness of analyzing complex information in the public sector.

### **28. *Optimistic Bias and Event Controllability in Risk Perception of Stroke Survivors***

**Erik Moore, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Completed Research Project*

This study identified optimistic bias in the risk perception of stroke survivors and revealed that there was higher bias in controllable events than for neutral and uncontrollable events, and lower bias for uncontrollable than for neutral and controllable events.

## **Student Proposed Research**

### **30. *Prognostic Characteristics of Breast Cancer in Women Under 40***

**Julie Tomaska, College of Health Sciences**

*Proposed Research*

It has been illustrated in the literature that young women tend to present with poorer prognostic characteristics and have a higher risk of recurrence and death. The purpose of this study is to evaluate possible associations between age, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status and stage upon primary breast cancer diagnosis.

### **31. *Assessment of Allied Health Professionals' Experience with Physician Behaviors***

**Jay Spitulnik, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Proposed Research*

This study addresses how physicians' collaborative behavior in the form of participative management influences their interaction with allied health professionals and whether the interaction affects overall patient safety culture. The social impact of this study is the potential to reduce the number of deaths that are caused by medical errors.

### **32. *Promoting Parenting Involvement Through Child Development Theory Training***

**Wendy Larue, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

*Proposed Research*

This qualitative case study will examine the effects of providing parents training regarding child development and peaceful parenting practices on parents' self-efficacy beliefs, parenting practices, and involvement with professionals who work with their children. Participants will engage in a 12-hour training. Pre- and post-training data in the form of individual interviews, focus groups, blog discussions, and electronic journals will be collected. Open and axial coding will be used to analyze data. Potential social change implications include increasing parenting self-efficacy, improving communication among parents and

professionals, and preventing child abuse by providing parents with peaceful approaches for managing behavior.

### **33. Understanding and Implementation: The Path to Leadership for School Change**

**Jodi Delucia, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

#### *Proposed Research*

Research has demonstrated that key leadership practices must be implemented in the school setting to foster student success. This quantitative research study examines the relationship between the principal's level of understanding of key research-based educational leadership practices and their implementation of such. This study will utilize a quasi-experimental design.

### **34. The Insignificant Majority: "A Study of NNESTs Quest for Equality"**

**Pamela Cannon, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

#### *Proposed Research*

This instrumental case study will offer insights into educational innovation for EFL through the experiences of multi-national nonnative English speaking teachers (NNEST) involved in PD. The study will provide insight into NNESTs' experiences, offer support to NNESTs through intervention, balance perceived inequalities between NESTs and NNESTs and, increase community/global collegiality.

### **35. Trust and Marital Satisfaction of Military Spouses During Husband's Deployment**

**Myriam McCray, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### *Proposed Research*

This quantitative study will employ the survey method to explore the relationship between trust and marital satisfaction (MS) among 80 military spouses during their husbands' deployment. Social change implications include new understanding that could lead psychologists to develop appropriate programs helping military couples with trust issues, especially prior to deployment.

### **36. Guiding the Promotion of CRAFT, Potential Methods and Barriers**

**Elizabeth Nielson, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### *Proposed Research*

Community Reinforcement and Family Therapy (CRAFT), a method of working with concerned significant others in close relationships with individuals that refuse treatment for drug or alcohol use disorders, is effective but not widely used. The proposed study will provide guidance for an initiative to increase the use of CRAFT.

### **37. Indicators of Adversarial Growth Following Stress-Related Life Events**

**Stephen Cesar, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### *Proposed Research*

This quantitative study aims to explore the relationships between perceived stress of stress-related events and spirituality, religiosity, personality, psychological well-being, and adversarial growth. The positive, social impact of this study is the public may become more knowledgeable about factors involved in turning a negative event into positive, personal growth.

### **38. Individual Differences in Prejudice**

**Carlos Diaz Lazaro, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences;**  
**Avonelle Rand, RN, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### *Proposed Research*

The study will explore the contributions of right wing authoritarianism (RWA), social dominance orientation (SDO), empathy (E), and a materialistic value orientation (MVO) to prejudice in a sample of 300 participants in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The study's design will be correlational. Multiple Regression Analyses will be conducted to assess the contribution of RWA, SDO, E, and MVO to prejudice.

## **Award Recipients**

### **Outstanding Dissertation**

#### **39. Periodicity of Epidemics of Invasive Disease Due to Infection with Streptococcus Pneumoniae in the United States**

**Carl Eckrode, Ph.D., Public Health, College of Health Sciences**

Dr. Eckrode's research assesses the periodicity of epidemic patterns of Streptococcus Pneumoniae Invasive Disease in the United States, addressing an important gap in the understanding of a phenomenon that for years eluded the public health community.

### **Outstanding Doctoral Study**

#### **40. Social Capital Influences Upon Internet Usage of Rural Guatemalan English Teachers**

**Douglas Tedford, Ed.D., Administrator Leadership for Teaching and Learning, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

Dr. Tedford's research, conducted in collaboration with the Fundación Rigoberta Menchú Tum (FRMT), demonstrates how social capital networks influenced teacher Internet usage in rural Guatemala. Research questions addressed teacher concerns about using the Internet, teacher satisfaction with Internet resources, and social influences upon Internet usage.

## Faculty and Student Roundtable Sessions

### First Round:

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Sessions

#### *Table 1. Perspectives on Forty Years of Walden University's Residencies: An Historical Analysis*

Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

##### *Completed Research*

Walden University's history began forty years ago with month-long residencies. What has been the history of the residencies and how has that experience changed in purpose, form, and administration since 1970? What has influenced these changes? This round-table discussion will explore how the framework of historical research can be applied to the documents, artifacts and information collected on residencies over these 40 years and key findings will be shared.

#### *Table 2. Impact of Walden University's Ed.D. Project Study on the Local Setting*

Paul Englesberg, Ed.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership; Michelle Robbins-Lavicka, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

##### *Completed Research Project*

Through a qualitative case study of 10 Walden Ed.D. Doctoral Projects Studies, intended and unintended outcomes at the local setting resulting from each project were identified and described. Site visits and interviews with project developers and stakeholders focused on contextual factors and perceptions of benefits, costs, and anticipated outcomes.

#### *Table 3. Voices of FGC Graduate Students in Distance Education Programs*

Patricia Brewer, Ed.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership; Iris Weisman, Antioch University Midwest

##### *Completed Research*

Nine graduate students participated in a phenomenological study of experiences as first-generation college students. Participants noted practical benefits, including the ability to meet professional goals, as a result of program completion. Parental expectation (undergraduate), peer and spousal support (graduate) were important for persistence. Increased self-efficacy was linked to graduate study.



**Table 4. Evaluating the Impact of Community Leadership: Researching Leadership Development Outcomes**

Jan Garfield, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership; Kurt Schoch, Ed.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

*Proposed Research*

Community-based leadership development projects exist in many communities across the United States and in other countries. This multiple case-study research examines the impact of four community-based leadership development programs, reviewing the scope of existing community leadership development program evaluation, focusing on the impact of such programs regionally and globally.

**Table 5. Factors Predicting Faculty Assessments of Doctoral Student Independent Studies**

Iris Yob, Ed.D., Center for Faculty Excellence; Leilani Endicott, Ph.D., Center for Research Support; Leslie VanGelder, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

*Proposed Research*

Faculty assessments of independent studies, particularly at the doctoral level, can vary widely. This study will identify which faculty factors are the most significant predictors of this variety. Predictors include teaching experience,

research experience, content area, and demographic variables, as well as conceptualization of “doctoral level work” and “social change.”

**Table 6. Creating Peaceful and Effective Schools Through a Continuity of Relationships**

Tom Cavanagh, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership; Angus Hikairo Macfarlane, Ph.D., University of Canterbury; Ted Glynn, Ph.D., University of Waikato; Sonja Macfarlane, New Zealand Ministry of Education

*Completed Research Project*

In the current climate schools are struggling with achievement and discipline gaps between majority culture students and students from racialized, marginalized, and minoritized cultures. This paper, shares the results of over five years of research developing the theory and practice of a Culture of Care in schools.

**Second Round:  
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Table 1. An Evaluation of a Public Organization and Its Use of a Comprehensive Experiential Leadership Training Program**

**Paula O'Neill, College of Management and Technology**

*Completed Research Project*

The purpose of this study was to determine the type of relationship that existed between a comprehensive experiential leadership training CELT program and employee satisfaction, customer satisfaction, and performance results. This quantitative research was an ex post facto study of results of a state agency from 2002-2007.

**Table 2. Learning Barriers in a Hybrid Graduate Special Education Course**

**Lorraine Cleeton, Ph.D., Richard Riley College of Education**

*Proposed Research*

A small private US college implements graduate hybrid special education courses in Special Education to meet the needs of adult returners including veterans identified as having an undergraduate degree in education or from another discipline. Learning barriers are examined in the areas of thinking style, accessibility, flexibility and motivation.

**Table 3. A Case Study on African American Male Achievers**

**Bobbie Kelly, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

*Proposed Research*

At-risk, young African American males face a number of challenges to academic and career achievements. Understanding the elements achievers in the group deem vital to their status attainment may suggest routes for overcoming challenges. This research explores the role social capital networks play in increasing status attainment of individuals.

**Table 4. Public Sponsored Health Insurance (PSHI) for the Uninsured on the Texas-Mexico Border**

**Steven Wagner, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

*Proposed Research*

The Mexican-American population along the Texas-Mexico border ranks nationally among the highest uninsured communities. The uninsured are more likely to obtain less and more likely to delay medical care, leading to expensive chronic conditions and increasing public costs. Prior research identified the need to scrutinize the role of health insurance in lowering costs and improving individual health.

**Table 5. The Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Transformational Leadership in Management**

**Dereje Tessema, College of Management and Technology**

*Completed Research Project*

Project managers with transformational leadership skills manage complex and dynamic projects effectively when they possess hard technical as well as emotional intelligence (EQ) skills. A large number of projects fail due to lack of communication and leadership style. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between emotional intelligence skills and leadership behaviors using input from 578 project management professionals. The method of inquiry was quantitative research using an electronic survey. Statistical analysis showed that eight of the 15 EQ skills were found to explain a significant proportion of variance in transformational leadership behaviors. The study findings indicate that developing these eight emotional intelligence components in project managers provides a basis for cumulative, long-term benefits to organizations in managing their projects.

**Table 6. Longitudinal Study of College Graduates' Equanimity, Commitment to Service, and Understanding of Themselves as Civic-minded Professionals**

**Cheryl Keen, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership; Julie Hatcher, Ph.D., The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**

*Completed Research Project*

This quantitative, online survey-based research with a national sample of 4,000 alumni, ages 21-40, of the Bonner Foundation's intensive co-curricular service-learning scholarship program at 38 colleges measured civic engagement during college, perceived qualities of service and learning experiences, and dependent variables (i.e., Civically Minded Professional scale, career motivations, and an equanimity scale).

## Publication Opportunities at Walden

Positive social change requires the timely and effective communication of information and best practices. Accordingly, Walden University supports a collection of peer reviewed journals designed to advance change and share the scholarly contributions of our students, faculty, and professional partners. All members of the Walden community are encouraged to submit articles on their completed research to a Walden journal that fits with the topic. Currently, three options can be found by visiting the Center for Research Support website (<http://researchcenter.WaldenU.edu/Research-Opportunities-at-Walden.htm>). These include:

- *The Journal of Social Change* [www.journalofsocialchange.org](http://www.journalofsocialchange.org)—*The JSC* is Walden's flagship journal dedicated to advancing the core mission of the university.
- *The International Journal of Applied Management and Technology* [www.ijamt.org](http://www.ijamt.org)—*The IJAMT* serves to advance knowledge and applied practices within the fields of management and technology on an international scale.
- *The Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences* [www.jsbhs.org](http://www.jsbhs.org)—*The JSBHS* advances positive change across a variety of professional disciplines that contribute to improving the quality of daily life.

## Contacts

Be sure to jot down names and contact information of Walden University faculty members and students who are doing work in your area of research interest.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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