



Welcome to ICF *Education Connections*

The November 2016 issue of *Education Connections* reports on ICF's multi-year technical assistance effort that is building the capacity of West Virginia to transform its system of early learning. We also describe ICF's contributions to the annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association. Lastly, we listen in on an interview with Mike Green, president of West Virginia's Board of Education.

ICF's expertise extends from early education to K-12 schooling, to postsecondary education and workforce development. The solutions we devise with our clients enhance their capacity to achieve the outcomes they seek. Visit our [website](#) for more information about ICF in education.

ICF Partners with West Virginia to Build Capacity in Early Learning

Through its technical assistance, ICF has helped many organizations and individuals acquire skills and knowledge to strengthen their capacity to proactively apply what they learn to new situations and challenges. In West Virginia, ICF has provided technical assistance since 2014 to the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) as it implements its comprehensive approach to early learning. WVDE has requested assistance in developing the organizational and structural capacity to better prepare children for school, close the reading achievement gap by third grade, and set children on a course for college- and career-readiness. WVDE also asked for support to build the capacity of counties and their local education agencies, to promote and support the state's early learning approach. Visit this [link](#) for more details.



ICF Contributes to Expertise to National Meeting of Evaluators

Part of ICF's mission in evaluation is to contribute its knowledge and discoveries to the



professional dialogue among our colleagues and clients. One way that we accomplish this is by way of conference presentations. At the [American Evaluation Association](#) meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, October 24-29, 2016, ICF shared our expertise on a variety of topics, including recruiting marginalized or hard-to-reach populations, arts education evaluation

design, complexity and evaluation of capacity building, and challenges in PreK-12 evaluations.

"AEA presents an exciting opportunity for us to showcase our collaborations with our clients as well as the insights gained through our mixed methods evaluations." – Tracy Roberts, Vice President, ICF

Visit this [link](#) for a complete list of our papers and presentations.

ICF Insights: Mike Green Reflects

ICF Insights is a television series that examines issues that have an impact on education within the Appalachian Region. ICF's Dr. Anthony J. Marchese interviews Mike Green, president of the West Virginia Board of Education. This three-part interview explores many topics, including the state board's policy role and its relationships with the state legislature and state department of education.



"The hardest job I've ever had," Mike Green says of his role as state board president.

Green notes as key issues, standards, engaging stakeholders, and technology infrastructure. Green grew up in the Bronx, attended college in Boston, served in the military, spent 10 years with the National Security Agency as a mathematician and technology programmer, then worked in private sector sales, marketing, and executive roles in major technology companies. Visit this [link](#) to see the interview.



Time	Room	Session Number/Session Name	Session Type	ICF Presenters
Wednesday, October 26, 2016				
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	M108	LGBT1 Assessments with LGBTQ Youth	TIG Multipaper	India D. Rose Catherine Lesesne
6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	M106	OLECB1 Design, Complexity, and Evaluation Capacity Building	TIG Multipaper	Kimberly Cowley Anne Poliakoff

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Poster 167	1557 Developing an observation tool to improve the quality of delivery of a sexual health education curriculum: Moving beyond fidelity	Poster	Colleen Murray Catherine Lesesne
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Poster 39	1580 Partnering for Evaluation: Collaborative Strategies for Collecting and Disseminating Evaluation Data	Poster	Christina McHugh Ama Takyi-Laryea Jeffrey Taylor
Thursday, October 27, 2016				
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	L505	1947 Attaining our End Goals: Results of the 2015 AEA Member Survey	Panel	Miriam Jacobson
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	L502	2429 Universal Design in Arts Education Evaluation	Panel	Shani James
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	International South 6	2364 EZ Methods for Designing SMART Measures for Program Evaluations	Skill-Building Workshop	Yvette Clinton Sharika Bhattacharya
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	A703	2905 The Sustainability and Usefulness of Data and Evidence in Evaluation	TIG Multipaper	Jeffrey Taylor
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Table 34	2843 Creating an Evaluation Survey: From Inception to Data Gathering	Birds of a Feather Gathering	Matthew McKinney
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	International North C	2260 Needles in a Haystack: Strategies for Recruiting Marginalized or Hard-to-Reach Populations	Panel	Michael Long, Helene Jennings, Andrew MacDonald, Ashani Johnson
Time	Room	Session Number / Session Name	Session Type	ICF Presenters

Friday, October 28, 2016				
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	A707	PreK7 Planning Ahead: Approaches for Dealing with Challenges that Arise in PreK-12 Evaluations	TIG Multipaper	Michael Long Andrew MacDonald
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	L401	2330 A Standardized Framework to Assess the Quality of Evaluation Plans	Demonstration	Lillian Madrigal Dana Keener-Mast Saira Nawaz
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	International North A	2679 Performance Measurement in Arts Education: State of the Field	Panel	Shani James Yvette Clinton Sharika Bhattacharya
1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Field Trip	2419 4 th Annual Walking and Talking Evaluation In and of the Community: Tour and discussion with staff of the Georgia Justice Project	Skill-Building Workshop	Catherine Lesesne
3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	International South 5	2150 Evaluators of Federal grants: Forgotten Issues	Multipaper	Shani James
Saturday, October 29, 2016				
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	M103	RoE3 The Influence of Evaluation Design and Reporting Decisions	TIG Multipaper	Miriam Jacobson
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	International South 7	1728 Conceptual Challenges of Block Grant Evaluation: Our Iterative Approach to a Design Solution	Panel	Tamara Lamia