

Wendy Erisman, Ph.D.

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; postsecondary 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

Higher Ed Insight, Washington, DC

Senior Advisor, 2011-present

- Provide research, program development and evaluation, organizational development, and technical assistance services in the areas of adult and postsecondary education access and success.
 - Clients and projects include:
 - *National Survey of Some College, No Degree Re-Enrollers and Completers* and other research projects on adult learners (Lumina Foundation)
 - Woodward Hines Education Foundation annual evaluation and strategic learning efforts
 - *HOPE Chicago* evaluation
 - *Equity in Mental Health on Campus* evaluation (The Steve Fund)
 - *Improving Mississippi's Persistence and Completion Together* evaluation (Woodward Hines Education Foundation)
 - *ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge* evaluation (Civic Nation)
 - *New Technologies for Agricultural Extension* evaluation (eXtension Foundation),
 - *FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant Initiative* evaluation (Kresge Foundation)
 - *Adult College Completion Initiative* evaluation (Lumina Foundation)
 - *Adult Student Strategy* program development (Woodward Hines Education Foundation)
 - Barbara Bush Foundation strategic learning efforts

Strix Research LLC, Austin, Texas

Owner, 2010-present

- Provide research, program development and evaluation, organizational development, and technical assistance services in the areas of adult and postsecondary education access and success.
 - Clients and projects include:
 - *Promising Practices for Retention and Completion Initiatives* research (ICUT Foundation)
 - *Institutional Strategies for Increasing Postsecondary Student Success* research (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
 - *Promoting Reentry Success through Continuity of Educational Opportunities* evaluation (U.S. Dept. of Education)
 - *STEM-Prep Math Pathway* evaluation (Charles A. Dana Center)
 - *New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability* evaluation
 - *Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative* evaluation (Southern Regional Education Board)
 - *College Goal Sunday* evaluation (YMCA of the USA)
 - *Minority Student Success Initiative* evaluation (Walmart Foundation)
 - *Accelerate Texas/Developmental Education Demonstration Projects* evaluation support (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
 - *Pathways to Postsecondary Success* program development (Communities in Schools of Central Texas)
 - *Collective Impact for College Access and Success* program development (YMCA of the USA)
 - *University Centers for Exemplary Mentoring* evaluation RFP development (Alfred P. Sloan Foundation)
 - *Excel Program* review (Metropolitan State University of Denver)

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.

PUBLICATIONS

Persevering to Completion: Understanding the Experiences of Adults Who Successfully Returned to College.

Tashera Gale, Wendy Erisman and Alisa Cunningham. Washington, DC: Higher Ed Insight, 2022

Improving Your Workforce Through Educational Attainment. Wendy Erisman. Washington, DC: Higher Ed Insight, 2019.

Recent State Efforts to Better Support Adult Postsecondary Learners. Wendy Erisman. Washington, DC: Higher Ed Insight, 2019.

Money Doesn't Grow on Trees: How 22 Cities Helped High School Students Complete More FAFSAs and Get More Financial Aid Dollars. Wendy Erisman and Patricia Steele. Washington, DC: Higher Ed Insight, 2018.

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.

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: Higher Ed 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: Higher Ed Insight, 2013.

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

Institutional Strategies for Increasing Postsecondary Student Success. Kristen Kramer and Wendy Erisman. Austin, TX: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2010.

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)

- * **FAFSA Challenge Results.** College Knowing and Going Summit, Phoenix, AZ, February 2018.
- * **Effective FAFSA Completion Strategies: Lessons from the Field.** National College Access Network, San Diego, CA, September 2017.
- * **Planning for Cross-Agency Referrals and Collaboration.** Gulf Coast Adult Education and Literacy Consortium, Houston-Galveston Area Workforce Solutions, Houston, TX, August 2016.
- * **Implementing Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) to Achieve Institutional and Student Success.** PLA Portal Project Day Conference for Advising Personnel, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX, February 2016.
- * **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.