

PROGRAM EVALUATION AND EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

WWW.PEERASSOCIATES.NET

PEER Associates is a small but diverse team of evaluators that provides customized, highly-responsive program evaluation and educational research services to place-based or environmental projects.

PHILOSOPHY OF EVALUATION

PEER Associates is committed to using a multiple-methods, utilization-focused, participatory evaluation process. It is our intention to help organizations better articulate their vision, align their resources and their rhetoric accordingly, and improve their programs based on evidence of program functioning and outcomes. We also seek to help organizations build their own capacity to reflect on and internally evaluate programs.

EVALUATION SERVICES

PEER Associates provides a range of services, including:

- Facilitation of Logic model creation and associated “theory of change”
- Qualitative evaluation services
- Quantitative evaluation services
- Design of evaluation instruments and strategies
- Literature review to support program design
- Meeting facilitation
- Building organizational capacity for understanding and using evaluation
- Organizational development
- Supporting the work of an organization’s internal evaluator

ABOUT OUR CLIENTS

Our clients include large and small non-profit organizations, grant-making foundations, institutions of higher learning, universities, and government agencies. While many of our clients’ programs take place in the Northeast, we work with several programs running nationally, and in the Midwest, Mountain, and West Coast regions.

Currently, one of our primary areas of focus is on evaluating and developing new methods for jointly evaluating a grouping of programs known as the Place-based Education Evaluation Collaborative (PEEC). Many of the reports and tools that PEER Associates has developed are available on the web site of the Place-based Education Evaluation Collaborative at <http://www.PEECworks.org>

WHO WE ARE

Principal

Michael Duffin, Ph.D., is a co-founder of PEER Associates. He specialized in program evaluation and environmental sustainability in Antioch University's Ph.D. in Leadership and Organizational Change program. Prior to starting PEER Associates he was the project director of the Program Evaluation Team in the Craiglow Center for Applied Research and Policy of Antioch New England Institute. Michael has over 15 years experience as an educator and/or administrator in environmental education programs in New England and the Pacific Northwest.

Principal

Amy Powers, M.S., is a co-founder of PEER Associates. Prior to founding PEER Associates, Amy worked under an Environmental Protection Agency fellowship conducting research, and directed the program evaluation endeavors at Shelburne Farms, in Shelburne, Vermont. In addition to her specialization in program evaluation, Amy has over 10 years of experience educating and developing environmental and place-based education programs for students and education professionals.

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Senior Research Associate

George Tremblay, Ph.D., has worked closely with PEER Associates since its inception. As core faculty in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program at Antioch New England Graduate School, George serves as the Director of Research for the program and teaches courses in research methods and statistics, clinical interventions with children and families, and social psychology. George has authored numerous peer reviewed publications, including a recent book chapter on research in prevention and wellness promotion.

Finance Director and Research Associate

Andrew Powers, B.S., brings a broad perspective to PEER from his diverse background which includes engineering, international development, construction management, and yes, even massage therapy. He manages PEER Associates' administrative functions, and conducts all aspects of evaluation work. Andrew is also one of the founding owner/partners of PEER Associates.

Senior Research Associate

Rachel Becker-Klein, Ph.D., began working for PEER Associates in 2005. In addition to her evaluation consulting work, Rachel teaches courses on Human Development and Research and Evaluation as adjunct faculty at Antioch New England Graduate School. Before moving to Keene, NH, Rachel completed her doctoral work in Community and Developmental Psychology from New York University in May, 2003. Rachel's dissertation was a program evaluation of an educational program designed for children and families living in poverty

Research Associate

Sharon Plumb, M.S., began working for PEER Associates in 2006. Prior to joining PEER, she worked as a program director and educator for numerous environmental, agricultural, and outdoor education organizations in the Northeast.

Graduate Research Assistant team

Doctoral and Master's level students from Antioch New England Graduate School conduct and support many aspects of evaluation work as part of their advanced studies. This small team is supervised by Senior Research Associate, George Tremblay.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Tremblay, G. C. & *Landon, B. (2003). Research in prevention and promotion (adults & children). In M. Roberts & S. Ilardi (Eds.), *Methods of research in clinical psychology: A handbook* (pp. 354-373). Oxford, U.K.: Blackwell Publishers.

Peterson, L., Tremblay, G. C., Ewigman, B., & *Saldana, L. (2003). Multi-level selected primary prevention of child maltreatment. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 71*, 601-612.

Powers, A. L. (2004). Evaluation of One- and Two-Day Forestry Field Programs for Elementary School Children. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication, 3*(1), 39-46.

Powers, A. L. (2004). Teacher Preparation for Environmental Education: Faculty Perspectives on the Infusion of Environmental Education Into Preservice Methods Courses. *The Journal of Environmental Education. 35*(3), 3-11.

Powers, A. L. (2004). An Evaluation of Four Place-based Education Programs. *The Journal of Environmental Education. 5*(4), 17-32.

Please refer to www.PEERassociates.net for a complete listing of publicly available reports and products.