The Community Evaluation and Research Collaborative (CERC) at Michigan State University is pleased to announce the fourth year of *The Evaluation Circle*, a series of workshops on evaluation theory and practice for members of the MSU community. All Evaluation Circle workshops are free and open to MSU students, faculty and staff.

Participants are asked to register in advance for these free workshops at:  
www.outreach.msu.edu/cerc

**November 9, 2012**
Kellogg Center | Room 61  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Writing Evaluation Plans for National Science Foundation Grants**
Laurie Van Egeren  
University Outreach and Engagement  
Michigan State University  
The National Science Foundation requires that most proposals include an evaluation plan. Depending on the type of project being proposed, these evaluation plans can take a variety of forms. This session addresses how to write the evaluation plan section for NSF proposals.

**January 18, 2013**
Kellogg Center | Room 61  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Writing Evaluation Reports That Get Used**
Laura Bates, Laurie Van Egeren, Miles McNall, and Celeste Sturdevant Reed  
University Outreach and Engagement  
Michigan State University  
The underutilization of evaluation findings has been a challenge for evaluators as long as evaluation has been a field of professional practice. In this session, the presenters discuss key features of evaluation reports that facilitate use, including utility, credibility, relevance, timeliness, clarity, concision, and completeness.

**February 1, 2013**
Kellogg Center | Room 61  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Exemplary Evaluation Practice: How Do You Know When It’s There, How Do You Figure Out Why It’s Not, and What Can Evaluators Do to Make It Happen?**
Melanie Hwalek  
SPEC Associates  
Much of the research and theorizing about evaluation practice focuses on issues of evaluation theory and methods. Not much has been discussed in the evaluation literature about the day-to-day, on-the-ground work that an evaluator does. Research on stakeholder involvement, evaluator competencies, and evaluation anxiety touch on the actual evaluation experience; this session focuses on the evaluation experience. It explores what an “exemplary” evaluation experience means for the evaluator and the client as well as the factors that promote exemplary evaluation practice.
February 15, 2013
RS&GIS Training Lab
Geography Building, Room 219
673 Auditorium Road
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

ASSESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS USING GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)
Justin M. Booth
Remote Sensing & Geographical Information Systems
Michigan State University
This workshop gives an introduction to GIS and explores tools used in community assessments and analysis. Data resources are explored and participants get hands on experience using GIS in the RS&GIS training lab.

March 22, 2013
Kellogg Center | Room 61
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

META-EVALUATION: ASSESSING THE QUALITY OF EVALUATIONS
Robin Miller
Department of Psychology
Michigan State University
Meta-evaluation is a process for assessing and improving the quality of evaluations. Meta-evaluations hold evaluators and their evaluations accountable for meeting evaluation standards. In this session, we address why evaluation accountability is important. We consider internal and external meta-evaluations and discuss how each is conducted, with primary emphasis on external meta-evaluations. As evaluation quality standards guide meta-evaluation judgments, we review the most commonly used domestic and international evaluation standards. Throughout the session, we draw on examples from external meta-evaluations, including two recent meta-evaluations conducted on evaluations of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) efforts in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean.

April 12, 2013
Kellogg Center | Room 61
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

EVALUATIONS THAT IMPACT PUBLIC POLICY: THE WIRED EVALUATION
Nancy Hewat
Public Policy Associates, Inc.
This session provides a real-world example of how governmental agencies rely on external evaluators to assess the effectiveness of their grant-making efforts and discusses how the findings of the WIRED evaluation have influenced continuing efforts of the Employment & Training Administration (ETA) to stimulate public sector innovation. In early 2007 the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration launched the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative to promote the formation of regional partnerships and the use of innovative strategies to address the needs of companies in selected industry sectors. A total of $350 million in grants was made to 39 regions across the U.S. Public Policy Associates, Inc., a Lansing-based research firm, was selected to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of two groups of WIRED grants in a total of 26 regions. The comprehensive evaluation was designed to assess the overall effectiveness of ETA’s strategy and to capture lessons and insights from the field to inform the workforce development system.

Visit the CERC website for presenter bios at outreach.msu.edu/cerc/evaluationcircle.aspx

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