CREATING CHANGE THROUGH DATA-DRIVEN RESEARCH

The Center for Research and Evaluation is UC San Diego Extension’s research division. The Center’s mission is to promote positive change in the local community and beyond through data-driven research.

Our team includes Research Scientists, Research Associates, Market Research Analysts, and Research Fellows with diverse backgrounds, professional experience, and expertise in a range of research methodologies and statistical techniques.

AREAS OF FOCUS
The Center for Research at UC San Diego Extension conducts research and evaluation projects in the following 5 areas:

- Youth Services
- Education
- Health
- Arts & Culture
- Workforce Development

RESEARCH METHODS

- Descriptive Statistics
- Inferential Statistics
- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- In-depth Interviews
- Competitive Landscapes
- Labor Market Analysis
- Interactive Visualizations
- Tableau Dashboards
- Collective Impact Studies
RESEARCH SERVICES FOR NON-PROFITS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Does your organization need help measuring the impact of your initiatives? Do you want to apply for a grant, but don’t know where to begin? Does your organization need help collecting, organizing, and making sense of data? The Center for Research can help!

Grant Writing Support & Proposal Development
- Identifying funding opportunities
- Literature reviews
- Grant writing
- Methodology support

Research Design
- Identifying research questions
- Identifying appropriate research design
- Identifying outcome measures

Data Collection, Management & Analysis
- Data collection
- Data cleaning and organization
- Analysis

Evaluation
- Establishing performance metrics
- Tracking performance metrics
- Evaluating impact of initiatives

Presentation of Findings
- Written and interactive presentations
- Articles for publication

RESEARCH TEAM

Mary Walshok, Ph.D.
Dean of UC San Diego Extension, Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Programs and Dean of Extension at UC San Diego

Mary Walshok, Ph.D., is an author, educator, researcher, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Programs and Dean of Extension at UC San Diego. She has done extensive research and writing on women in the economy, including a seminal book, “Blue Collar Women” (1981). She authored more than 100 books, articles, and reports on aligning workforce development with regional economic growth. She is the co-founder of the internationally recognized CONNECT and currently serves on the boards of San Diego CONNECT, the United States-Mexico Foundation for Science, and the Institute of the Americas.

Josh Shapiro, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean of Innovation and Research Affairs

Josh is the Assistant Dean of Research Affairs at UC San Diego Extension. He has worked on evaluation projects covering a wide range of topics including STEM education, health care, and the role of philanthropy in economic development. Dr. Shapiro was one of the core evaluators on the effectiveness of the Department of Labor’s $500 million WIRED initiative. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology, and worked as a public school teacher prior to pursuing his doctoral degree.

Georgia Kovacs, Ph.D.
Associate Director of Research Affairs

Georgia is the Associate Director of Research Affairs at UC San Diego Extension. She holds a doctoral degree in Educational Psychology & Methodology and has professional work experience in curriculum design, assessment, evaluation, and teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has a strong track record of leading successful research and evaluation efforts in the arenas of education and workforce development.