

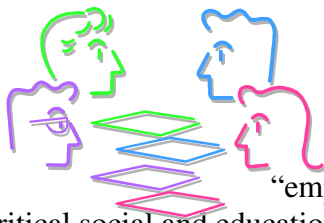
Newsletter

OPEN Conference Welcomes Dr. Greene

By Juna Snow, OPEN student representative

At the Oregon Program Evaluation Network (OPEN) Annual Conference October 7 and 8, participants will have the opportunity to hear not only a Keynote address, but also a breakout session led by the noted evaluation theorist and practitioner, Dr. Jennifer C. Greene. This year's conference theme, "Evaluation's Response to Urgent Public Policy Issues," will be addressed.

As a Professor of Quantitative and Evaluative Research Methodologies in Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Dr. Greene's research interests focus on the intersections of social science and social policy. Working in the domain of educational and social program evaluation, she, "seek[s] to advance the theory and practice of alternative forms of evaluation, including qualitative, participatory, and mixed-method evaluation approaches. Her current work, "emphasizes evaluation as an avenue for democratizing dialogue about critical social and educational issues." Dr. Greene has made many contributions to the field of evaluation, as recognized by her peers naming her Distinguished Senior Scholar at the UIUC College of Education in 2003, and by receiving the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award from the American Evaluation Association in 2003, for contributions to evaluation theory.



Dr. Greene's current research projects involve her role as Principal Investigator of "Developing a Comprehensive Value-Engaged Approach to Evaluation of STEM Educational Programs" for the National Science Foundation (2004) and "An Evaluation of the EPICS K-12 Program at UIUC College of Engineering" (2003). In addition, she is Co-Principal Investigator of "Evaluation of AERA/IES Grants Program" for the American Educational Research Association (2002).

Personally, I am looking forward to the opportunity to see Dr. Greene in Portland this fall. Dr. Greene taught my first evaluation course, Introduction to Evaluation. I also took her Evaluation Theory and Qualitative Methods I and II courses, in addition to an Independent Study that examined the evaluation (performance accountability) of assessment systems. When I think of evaluation, specifically practitioner issues, I think of Dr. Greene. She engrosses and provokes thought as a speaker, and I highly recommend attending the OPEN Annual Conference to listen to her Keynote Address on October 7.

*Thanks to the following individuals who contributed to the completion of this issue:
Kathy Newton, Ellen Konrad, Juna Snow, and Pamela Clark.*

*If you would like to get involved with the OPEN newsletter,
contact OPEN newsletter editor Chari Smith at charismith@comcast.net*



TOP 10 REASONS FOR SERVING IN OPEN'S LEADERSHIP . . .

By Ellen L. Konrad, 1999 OPEN President

As one of the co-founders of OPEN, I have been delighted to watch the organization grow and evolve over the past 5 years. I want to commend and thank everyone who has had a hand in supporting and nurturing its development!

The strength of an organization such as OPEN comes from the contributions of a wide variety of members. Such broad-based support enriches the organization and enhances the entire evaluation community in our region. Please make your contribution by considering service on the OPEN Council in (President-elect, Secretary, Financial Officer, and Program, Communications, and Membership Committee Chairs), or on one of OPEN's 2 standing committees. In fact, isn't it time you became a candidate for OPEN President-elect? Remember, your contribution to the organization is multiplied by your volunteer service!

Here are Ellen's "Top 10" reasons to serve on the 2005 OPEN Council:

10. It's a great way to spend extra "free time."
9. It's a chance to test out creative ideas and organizational skills you have not used before in a friendly, understanding environment.
8. It's a good way to lose sleep (you didn't need it anyway!) during preparations for the annual conference.
7. It's a chance to hone those professional qualities of patience and perseverance.
6. It's a means of increasing equity and distributing responsibility.
(By volunteering to serve, you help increase the pool of resources available to the organization, thus minimizing the effort needed from any one individual or from a small core group.)
5. You become known both locally and through OPEN's national affiliation with the American Evaluation Association.
4. It's a good stepping stone to participation in AEA activities (e.g., committees, annual meeting) and leadership opportunities.
3. It's a good excuse to meet new colleagues and establish new relationships—including interactions with both local and national luminaries!
2. It's an opportunity to have a genuine effect on the organization's direction and operations.
1. It's fun!



I hope you will make a commitment to becoming involved in OPEN leadership in 2005.

President's Message

In the December meeting, OPEN will be recruiting for new officers to serve on the Council and on the standing sub committees (program, membership, etc.). Serving on the Council and committees is a great opportunity to meet other evaluators from across the state, looks great on a CV, and helps keep the evaluation community involved and active via events like social functions, workgroups and the annual conference. The time commitment for serving on the Council and committees can be minimal as the Council meets monthly over lunch, and most committees meet monthly or every other month. We'd love to welcome any interested members to serve.

Following the call for participation in the future, this is a great time to give a huge thanks to those who have helped OPEN out this year. Tanya Ostrogorsky will be completing her multi-year term as Financial Officer at the close of 2004, and her work in all areas of OPEN operation is greatly appreciated and valued. Also in line to receive thanks are Peter Hendrickson (Program Chair) and the rest of the 2004 Program Committee for all of their work in planning OPEN's annual conference. Christina Kakoyannis and Juna Snow have done a wonderful job as OPEN's student representatives, and Elizabeth Bamberger has been great in coordinating the Member Services committee. Chari Smith has been perfect in kindly wrangling newsletter articles out of deadline-challenged authors. Finally, I would also like to make a personal thanks to Juliette Mackin (President Elect) and the rest of the Council for picking up my slack while I was away during the first five months of 2004. Thanks, guys!

~ Pamela Clark, OPEN President