

# PRESENTERS

## Transforming Technical Assistance: Using Evidence to Enrich the Experience

Center for Improving Research Evidence  
Forum and Webinar  
January 22, 2015

### WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS



**Ann Person**, Mathematica Policy Research

Ann Person, senior researcher and director of the Center for Improving Research Evidence (CIRE) at Mathematica, is an expert in postsecondary education and the school-to-work transition. She has a decade of experience designing approaches to produce and apply evidence for program improvement, particularly in postsecondary and workforce education. She has worked as a teacher and administrator and from 2009 to 2012, she served as senior program officer for research and data on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success strategy. Dr. Person has a Ph.D. in human development and social policy from Northwestern University.

### MODERATOR



**Val Uccellani**, Global Learning Partners

Val Uccellani, owner and senior partner at Global Learning Partners, specializes in designing events and programs to best engage individuals and organizations in productive and practical learning. Ms. Uccellani has managed a wide range of projects in the United States and in 17 other countries. She examines the needs and strengths of a group, draws on what has worked well in the past, and creates new programs to best suit each unique group and situation. Ms. Uccellani has been designing and facilitating learning events for more than 30 years. Recent clients include the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, USAID, Farm Radio International, and Mathematica.

### PANELISTS



**Michelle Derr**, Mathematica Policy Research

Michelle Derr is well-known for her ability to translate research findings into workable recommendations to improve public policy and practice. She specializes in assessing job and training initiatives targeted to public assistance clients, ex-offenders, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged populations. Putting her knowledge into practice, she provides evidence-based technical assistance to states and local communities to help strengthen their initiatives. Dr. Derr has more than 15 years of experience studying public welfare programs, mostly focusing on quick-turnaround research on promising practices and policy implementation. She holds a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Utah.



**Len Finocchio, Mathematica Policy Research**

Len Finocchio is a senior health researcher with extensive experience in health care reform, Medicaid administration, philanthropy, health services research, and advocacy. Dr. Finocchio came to Mathematica in 2014 from the California Department of Health Care Services, where he served as associate director, managing the implementation of the Affordable Care Act for California's Medicaid agency. He currently directs the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Oral Health Initiative, an effort to improve access to quality dental care for children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Dr. Finocchio has a Dr.P.H. in health management and policy from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health.



**LaDonna Pavetti, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**

As vice president of family income support policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, LaDonna Pavetti oversees the center's work analyzing poverty trends and assessing the nation's income support programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Before joining the center in 2009, Dr. Pavetti spent 12 years as a researcher at Mathematica, where she directed numerous projects examining various aspects of TANF implementation and strategies to address the needs of the hard-to-employ. Dr. Pavetti has an A.M. in social work from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

