Oklahoma State University’s Center for Educational Research and Evaluation (CERE) was established to support a diverse range of educators as well as businesses, industry and government.

The Need
There is a great need for those in education, business, and government to have access to methodological expertise in research, evaluation, statistics, and psychometrics. In particular, many Oklahoma school districts need technical assistance and leadership in the development of effective evaluation models for K-12 education.

Schools continually need teacher and administrator professional development and in-service training in research-based accountability models, and assistance interpreting standardized test data. Also, there are expressed needs of state education agencies for conducting educational assessment and evaluation research, and using resultant data to make decisions about students, programs and policies at the state level.

Benefits
CERE provides methodological expertise in the areas of need noted above to support the research, teaching, and outreach missions of the university. Consistent with OSU’s land-grant mission, a major focus of CERE is to provide support to programs and initiatives that benefit our citizens. CERE assists Oklahoma schools in evaluation, professional development training, and grant development, all areas that improve our state’s public schools, the educational experience of children and the preparation for higher education and careers.

The center also works with business, industry, and government sectors to provide evaluation services. Thus, the center is multidisciplinary and focuses on service to the university, state, and nation. CERE supports grant evaluation activity by assisting OSU principal investigators in developing technically-sound evaluation plans to enhance the competitiveness of grants developed and submitted, and to help investigators develop, implement, and staff evaluation activities during the conduct of funded programs.

Project Information
Currently, the center is staffed with faculty and graduate students from the Research, Evaluation, and Measurement Program area in the College of Education. With limited resources, the center has been engaged in a number of initial projects, including assisting with evaluating activities at the Learning and Student Success Opportunity (LASSO) Center at OSU; working with the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) programs; and providing assistance to the Center for Learning and Student Success Opportunities (LASSO) at OSU.
Bridge to Doctorate program at OSU; assisting with projects at the Western Heights School District in Oklahoma City and the Broken Arrow School District; and working on projects with the Oklahoma State School Boards Association and the Cooperative Council for School Administrators in Oklahoma City, and the OSU Center for Information Centric Engineering.

Recently, OSU CERE and the University of Oklahoma policy teams have been asked to serve the Oklahoma School Superintendent in an ongoing capacity to provide pre-policy research to inform future proposals to the legislature and State Board of Education, as well as evaluation research to inform policy retention, implementation, and policy replacement.

While these projects have provided a measure of support for the ongoing activities of the center, additional resources are needed to meet the demands of the center. Additional support will:

- Provide staff, including additional support for the center director and graduate research assistants.
- Fund activities related to the Oklahoma State Department of Education initiatives for school evaluation
- Support the dissemination of research through local and national organizations
- Fund travel for networking within the state and meetings with other leaders in university-community partnerships

For More Information
- The Center for Educational Research and Evaluation: https://education.okstate.edu/cere

CERE is directed by Dr. Mwarumba Mwavita, OSU assistant professor of educational studies.