Notes from FITW Webinar on “Evidence Criteria”

Session speakers:
- Dr. Ralph Hines – introduction
- Dr. Marsha Silverberg – session discussant

The goals of this round of FITW are twofold:

1. Strengthen student outcomes
2. Build research base of what works or is promising (or what does not work).

Applications will have to provide two bodies of evidence:

1. “Up Front Evidence” – one or two studies from What Works Criteria Database that provide the rationale of our intervention strategy. Indicated in the abstract:
   a. Strong Theory
   b. Moderate Evidence
   c. Meets WWC standards with or without reservations.

2. “Back-end Evidence” – This is the project evaluation.

Identifying studies that meet WWC standards WITH reservations (these can be found on the WWC web site under the “Resources tab”):

- Quasi-experimental study with non-randomized comparison groups.
- Large (n=350), multi-site sample.
- Statistically significant positive results
- Relevant population

The project needs specific, measurable goals, with evaluation methods that can meet WWC standards of either: Moderate Evidence With reservations, or Moderate Evidence Without reservations.

- Intervention vs. comparison group
- Clear definition of the intervention:
  o What services will be provided?
  o Who will get these services?
  o Non-random quasi-experimental design (QED)
    ▪ Convenience sample
    ▪ Matching
    ▪ Retrospective
  o Pre-intervention – equilibrium between the groups at the beginning of the study. Take a look at the WWC Postsecondary Education Protocols.
• The sample CANNOT introduce confounding factors, e.g.
  o Study takes place at single unit (school, classroom, teacher, mentor)
  o The intervention is bundled with other services that are not studied.
  o Using cross-cohort comparisons (e.g., 2015 vs. 2016).

• The outcomes must meet the test of face validity and reliability. Data must be collected in a similar manner across groups.

• Must have sufficient sample size.

• Minimal attrition and limited missing values. Specify in proposal how we will address attrition.

• See https://FITW.Grads360.Org/#program