



# THE PAC-INVOLVED EVALUATION

A STEM Education Topical Interest Group *Exemplar Evaluation* for the American Evaluation Association 2015 Conference (Chicago, November 2015)

Evaluation Strategy	Benefit for Program and Students
<p><b>Research review:</b> Howard University reviewed findings from related research on engaging students in STEM (e.g. video games in teaching/"serious games", teachers re-purposing popular media).</p>	<p><b>Informs program design:</b> Howard University used findings from past studies to design an innovative learning model to develop and test, <i>PAC-Involved: Engaging Students in PAC (Physics, Astronomy, Cosmology) Learning through Repurposing of Popular Medi</i>, a National Science Foundation Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) funded project.</p>
<p><b>Collaborative evaluation planning:</b> Reviewed program materials, interviewed project team to get their perspectives on program realities and important questions to ask.</p>	<p><b>Helps shape program development:</b> Conversations between the evaluator and the project team about evaluation questions helped the project team focus the program on what was most important.</p>
<p><b>Mixed methods, real-time evaluation data collection:</b> Collected and analyzed data from multiple methods: student focus group, student pre/post surveys, review of journals and videos, and key person interviews.</p>	<p><b>Supports program improvement:</b> Insights gained from the evaluation were used to make program changes along the way, such as adding more hands-on demos and clarifying student responsibilities. Student engagement increased after these changes. The findings also helped in refining the model for future projects. In addition, students were exposed to evaluation and shown that their opinion matters.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Knowledge Mapping of evaluation findings:</b> Used an innovative method, Integrative Propositional Analysis, to create an integrated visual diagram ("map") of evaluation findings and evaluate the map.</p>	<p><b>Supports program planning and management:</b> The Strategic Knowledge Map of evaluation findings supports collaboration among the project team, strategic planning, evaluation planning, and communicating results to stakeholders and funders.</p>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Download the AEA 2015 presentation materials from the AEA Public eLibrary: [eval.org](http://eval.org)
- View the integrated map of evaluation findings: <https://kumu.io/Meaningful-Evidence>
- Visit the PAC-Involved website: [pacinvolved.com/](http://pacinvolved.com/)

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