



**SUE SWANSON, PhD**  
**Rides Over Mountains Consultant**

Contact at: zca8@msn.com

**SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE**

Program evaluation specialist / educational researcher with experience coordinating, conducting, and consulting on national, local, and program level evaluations, applied research, and capacity building projects in public health, education, and social services. Build solid relationships and collaborate effectively on interdisciplinary teams. Possess training and experience in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method research. Teach graduate level educational research. Review research proposals and give technical advice. Develop theoretical frameworks and logic models, indicators, protocols, data collection instruments, report formats, and information dissemination plans. Collect and analyze data. Write and give presentations for technical and non-technical audiences. Write successful funding proposals. Also have experience in educational program development, educational program evaluation, supervising applied and action research, staff development, diagnostic and standardized testing, school accreditation.

**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. in Research, Measurement, and Statistics, Georgia State University
- M.Ed. in Special Education, Georgia State University
- B. S. in Special Education, Ohio University

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

***Program Evaluator / Data Analyst for Race to the Top***  
*Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta, GA* 10/1/2012 - present

Conduct educational research to improve instruction, schools, and student outcomes. Design and implement program evaluations. Provide assistance to Special Education Department around Response to Intervention and to schools in developing Data Teams. Help build capacity of staff to use data systems, computer assisted assessments, and student data. Serve on committee to review, accept, and reject research proposals. Provide training and adult education. Help develop departmental research agenda.

***Research and Program Evaluation Consultant***  
*Rides Over Mountains Consulting, Hightstown, NJ* 7/15/2012 - present

Provide assistance with research and evaluation projects. Assist with the background research and writing of responses to requests for proposals.

***Senior Program Evaluation Specialist***  
*Manila Consulting Group, Inc, McLean, VA* 2/1/1998 – 12/30/11

Planned, designed and conducted evaluation projects for CDC and FMCSA: Expanded Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing for Disproportionately Affected Populations Program Evaluation; African American Youth Project; Modeling and Reinforcement to Combat HIV; Assessing the Effectiveness of Community Based Organizations for the Delivery of HIV Prevention Services; Assessing and Developing Commercial Driving Medical Regulations.



Experience and accomplishments include:

- Collaborating and communicating effectively with diverse stakeholders and team members.
- Conducting background reviews and writing evidence-based synthesis reports.
- Developing evaluation designs, literature reviews, data collection and analysis plans, and tools.
- Creating theoretical and conceptual frameworks, program logic models, causal logic models.
- Identifying staffing needs, hiring staff, planning project schedules, and making budget estimates.
- Writing and coordinating requests for IRB and OMB applications.
- Creating protocols and overseeing qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis.
- Providing day-to-day guidance to research and evaluation team members.
- Planning for and ensuring use of evaluation results and lessons learned.
- Writing/presenting briefs, reviews, and research/evaluation reports for funders/agencies as needed.
- Writing requests for proposals for funding of research and evaluation projects.
- Creating and reviewing evaluation capacity building and training materials and programs.

***Behavioral Scientist, Division of HIV Prevention, Program Evaluation Research Branch***  
*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA* 2/1/1996 – 1/31/1998

Coordinated efforts to develop and implement a national HIV prevention program evaluation technical assistance system for community-based organizations, health departments, and CDC staff. Wrote statements of work, helped select contractors, and managed contracts. Served as project officer and technical monitor for contracts. Provided day-to-day technical guidance to contractors and research team members. Supervised project staff for evaluations, needs assessments, and the provision of technical assistance. Provided technical assistance, conducted presentations, and wrote publications.

***Independent Consultant, Research and Program Evaluation, Atlanta, GA*** 3/1/1994 - 2/15/1996

Consultant for Southeastern Regional Vision for Education, Greensboro, North Carolina; Healthy Mothers: Babies Best Start, Atlanta, Georgia; and the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Roswell, Georgia. Designed research and evaluation studies. Developed implementation plans. Collected and analyzed statistical and qualitative data. Wrote and presented reports for technical and non-technical audiences. Provided training to researchers and non-technical program staff.

***University Instructor, Department of Educational Policy Studies***  
*Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA* 9/1994 – 1/1995 and 9/1995 - 1/1996

Taught graduate level educational research. Assisted students and faculty with proposals and research.

***Research and Staff Development Coordinator, Lower Elementary and Tutoring School Coordinator***  
*Learning Concepts / The New School / Mill Springs Academy, Atlanta, GA* 8/1981 - 1/1995

Identified curriculum and staffing needs; developed and taught staff development courses (approved by GA DOE); conducted program evaluation and applied research for school improvement and program development. Assisted staff with action research/evaluation, program improvement, student educational plans and student learning strategies, and professional presentations. Developed special education day school and tutoring programs for children with learning disabilities and behavior disorders.