ITEST Convening - August 2014
Implementing High Quality Research and Evaluation

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PROJECT EXAMPLES

STEM 3D

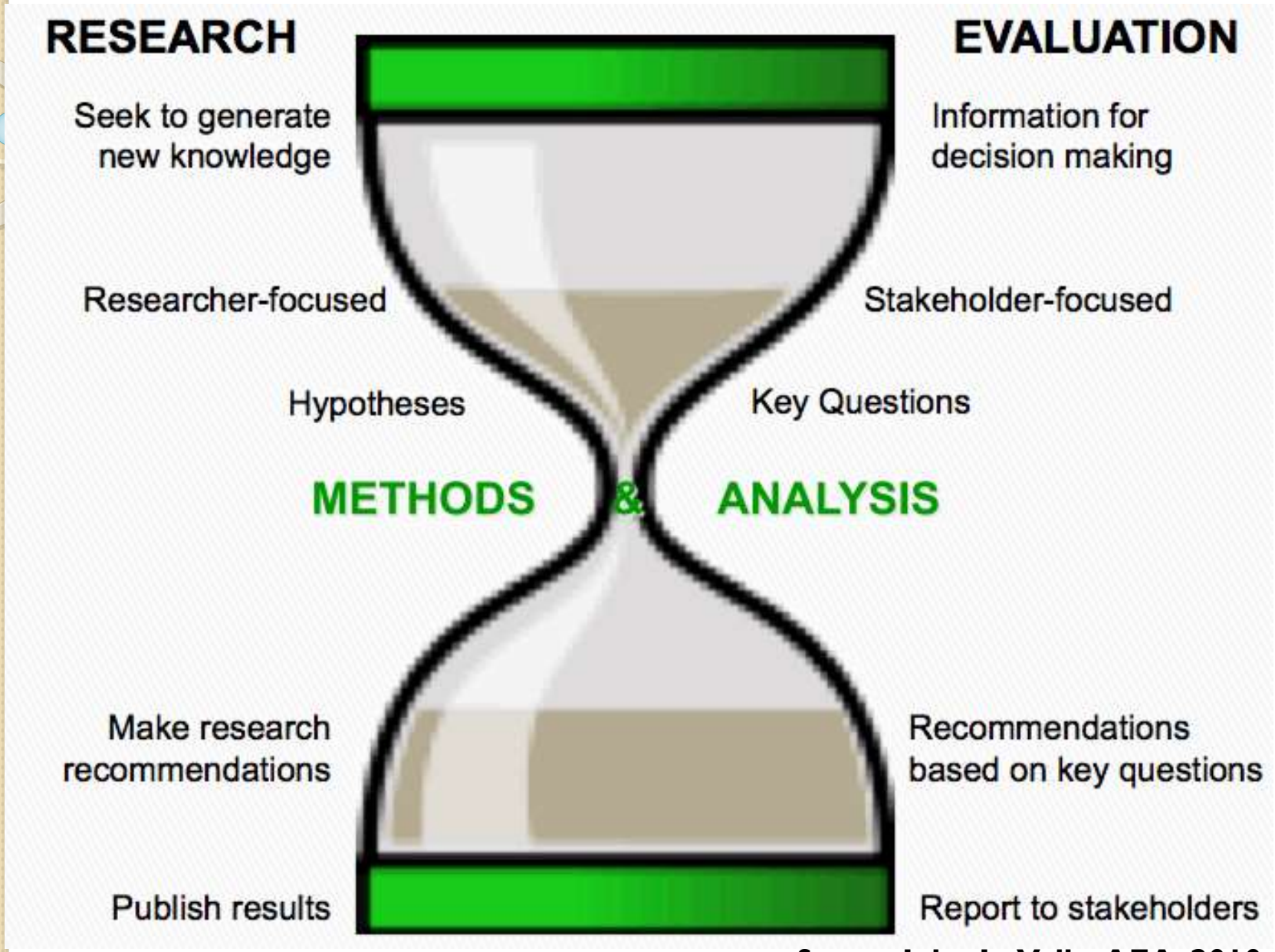
Integrating Science into Afterschool, Home, and Community

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Framing Evaluation and Research

- Each project positions evaluation as critical – both formative and summative.
- Essential role of evaluation in conceptualizing research.
- Theoretical frames used for research.
- Research grew out of commitment to contribute to the field.
- External evaluators played integral role during the proposal and research phases.

Evaluation vs. Research



Source: **John LaVelle, AEA, 2010**

- **Evaluation**: Participation; Implementation issues; Progress towards goals.
- **Research:** *How does a museum program provide opportunities for parents in a low-income, urban community to engage in their child's schooling?*
- **Theoretical Frame:** – Angie Calabrese Barton's Ecologies of Parent Engagement (EPE)

Institute for Learning Innovation: Jessica Luke, Ph.D.

Evaluation:

LEAP Pilot:

- Interest, science attitudes, implementation

LEAP FSD:

- Capacity of individuals and institutions
- Sustainability of program at sites
- Potential for/interest in scale-up

Research:

- Focus on broader LEAP trajectory
- Scale up (Coburn, 2003) defined with four inter-related dimensions (depth, sustainability, spread, & shift in ownership)

STEM 3D

Integrating Science into Afterschool, Home, and Community

Project Goals

- Increase youth engagement in hands' on, inquiry based, science projects
- Cultivate intergenerational/parental support for science learning
- Provide a better understanding of the ways in which community-based-organizations can increase awareness of and access to science learning and STEM careers.

Evaluation: primarily formative

Research originally conceptualized as:

- identifying learning processes and outcomes
- exploring how museums and OST centers could work together to address gaps in STEM experiences in underserved communities

Key evaluation successes:

- Evaluation is seen by all as key to project.
- Evaluation data contributes a different lens on enacted curriculum, site capacities, and family involvement.

A key evaluation challenge:

- Coordination and communication with out-of-school sites (this is true for program staff and for evaluator)

Implications for research questions and research design

- STEM outcomes for youth and adults
- Partnerships to support STEM capacity in out-of-school sites

Research topics/approaches will connect to literature in the field and will build on knowledge built through process of STEM 3D evaluation.