Learning and doing social science through teamwork and technology

The Center for Social Research prepares its team members for leadership and community collaboration through innovative social-scientific research, technical excellence, and entrepreneurial drive. Our intentional, learning-oriented culture of teamwork has driven us to become a leading center of research and development in West Michigan and beyond. CSR aims to be a valued learning partner for academic, public-sector, nonprofit, religious, and business organizations seeking wisdom-driven social research and development. We strive to be welcoming, inclusive, diverse, anti-racist, and affirming. Our partners thrive and our best work is done when we embody these values.

Supporting wisdom-driven communities and organizations

CSR serves clients with a variety of interests, including pure research, nonprofit program evaluation, business intelligence, and predictive analytics. We have the broad expertise and client focus to be your valued learning partners. Our engagements range from brief advisory consultations to full-service projects, including research design, data collection, analytics, and reporting. We invite our clients to learn and grow with us in our space and our systems.

CSR is committed to modeling technical and methodological excellence in our work, while helping your team discover ideas that empower and equip you. We stand ready to learn alongside you and help you make informed, wisdom-driven decisions based on sound research.

“Data-driven” is the low-value end of a continuum. “Wisdom-driven” work makes more careful use of data. Wisdom comes from a patient, collaborative culture.

The Colossian Forum provides congregational resources that foster cultural transformation and spiritual growth in the face of conflict. CSR has worked with the Colossian Forum to develop an evaluation system for their events, tools, and curricula to assess which resources are moving their mission forward. Our team has successfully integrated Qualtrics and Salesforce for this project.

Wisdom comes from a patient, collaborative culture.

—Jordan Daley, Psychology ‘16, PhD student at Northwestern University

A sample of CSR clients and projects, 2019–20

Steelcase

Since 2013, Steelcase, the world’s leading manufacturer of office, education, and healthcare furniture, has collaborated with CSR on innovative analytics projects to aid development of new products and workplaces. Using visual data, CSR has provided Steelcase with outputs that help define and refine the usability of new furniture and workplaces.

Steelcase

The Colossian Forum

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Gateways for Growth

Gateways for Growth is a national initiative for communities to develop multi-sector plans with the goal to better integrate immigrants and refugees in their local community. CSR administered a survey in seven languages, and following data collection from respondents representing 64 countries, our team created an interactive visualization highlighting key focus areas.

Gateways for Growth

With the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, CSR is evaluating Michigan’s naloxone standing order policy, which allows people to get naloxone without a prescription. Naloxone can prevent death during an opioid overdose. CSR is conducting interviews, designing policy evaluation tools, and creating data visualizations around the use and prescription of opioids and naloxone.