



OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC

ENABLING DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

WELCOME

SPRING 2006

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Welcome back! In recent months, Optimal has made significant strides in expanding its capabilities in education research and logistical support. This expansion includes the hiring of [Lawrence J. Dolan, Ph.D.](#) as Optimal's new Education Research Center Director and Principle

Research Associate. Dr. Dolan brings 25 years of research and evaluation reform, equity analyses and comprehensive school reform and its implementation. He has also authored over 70 publications. Additionally, [Kyle Rondeau](#) has been hired as the Director of Administrative, Logistical and Managerial support services. Ms. Rondeau has more than 20 years of experience in support services. Prior to joining Optimal she worked with the World Bank and the American Red Cross. Please read on for more information on our health, education, housing and workforce development happenings.

Mark D. Turner, Ph.D., President and CEO
Optimal Solutions Group, LLC

Ready to
get started?

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Questions or Comments?

Contact us for more
information:

443-451-7060 or

info@optimalsolutionsgroup.com

SPOTLIGHT

Optimal Designs Randomized Field Trial

Optimal has designed a randomized field trial in validating a risk-based drug testing regime for criminal justice agencies in Washington, D.C. This is one of a series of studies that Optimal is conducting in its efforts to improve drug monitoring practices. [Click here](#) for more information.

Asongwed Examines School Vouchers

The debate on the utilization of school vouchers to fund private and parochial education is one of the most contentious education debates in recent memory. Supporters believe vouchers will be a panacea for students in failing schools in predominately poor black communities, for they would provide those students the opportunity to enroll in another (hopefully better) school of their choice. Critics believe vouchers are a way of jettisoning public schools from the communities while adhering to the recent trend of shifting to a more privatized and marketized form of schooling. [Read More](#)

INNOVATIONS

Customized Database Design for Field Research

Optimal has expanded its services to provide customized database applications that automate a multitude of data collection activities--sample reconnaissance, participant recruitment and survey administration. These customized databases provide flexible and secure platforms for collecting, validating, and analyzing data. [Click here](#) for additional information.

Optimal Supports National Research Conferences

Currently, planning for two major federal research conferences is underway in addition to ongoing seminars, peer review panels, working group meetings and interagency coordination activities. Tracye Turner, Optimal's Vice President oversees the company's Administrative, Logistical, and Management Support Services Department. The department's personnel include event planners, communications specialists, editors, e-grants specialists, certified project managers and research analysts. "We strive to anticipate our clients' needs, stay within budget and on schedule. Most importantly, we maintain consistent and open communications internally and with the client in order to ensure our meetings run smoothly. Being part of a research firm increases our ability to address scientific research meeting needs."



Health Policy Center Examines Recipients' Needs

Towards the end of 2005, Optimal was selected to study the informational needs of Medicare beneficiaries for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This year-long study analyzes the knowledge that Medicare beneficiaries have about the program and how they access health information. [Click here](#) for more information on the Health Policy Research Center.

Optimal Names 2005 Employee of the Year

[Monica Leal](#), a research analyst at Optimal, was awarded the 2005 Employee of the Year Award. Ms. Leal has been an Optimal employee for 3 years. She is involved in many company research projects, primarily within the Education Research Center.

"I was honored to receive the employee of the year award. Optimal has provided me an opportunity to do timely and rigorous research and develop my project management skills. Optimal's growth and success are a tribute to the dedication of the entire team, of which I am fortunate to be a member," Ms. Leal said.

Dr. Turner remarked on Ms. Leal's accomplishments. "Monica stepped up to several challenges during a growth spurt for Optimal. She currently manages three major projects. Our clients and partners are consistently pleased with her efforts and enjoy working with her."

New Carrollton Office Acquires New Space

Optimal's New Carrollton office recently completed a move to a larger facility. The new office space will accommodate more employees and enable the office to comfortably host client meetings. The Baltimore office resides on the campus of Johns Hopkins University.

New Address:

Optimal Solutions Group
8100 Professional Place, Suite 312
New Carrollton, MD 20781

P: 301-306-1170

F: 301-306-1197

Optimal President Appointed to American Red Cross of Central Maryland Board of Directors

Dr. Mark Turner was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross of Central Maryland. As a board member, he will help the American Red Cross of Central Maryland with business-related initiatives, community outreach, development and fundraising efforts.

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