



## Dr. Laura M. Groth, Senior Partner

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703.740.6295

Laura's experience spans from early childhood and K-12 education into higher education and workforce development. Her research and guidance in evidence-based decision making helps clients translate strategy into implementation and outcomes.

### Researcher

Laura advocates for rigorous, qualitative research that drives effective decisions and brings teams together around relevant problems and promising solutions. Her research is grounded in diverse evidence bases and rigorous methodology. Laura's expertise includes:

- Designing and managing custom research projects
- Facilitating interviews, focus groups, surveys, and other data collection methods to secure diverse stakeholder input and real-world evidence that informs understanding of current conditions and untapped opportunities
- Data analysis and production of reports that are relevant and actionable

### Technical Assistance and Sensemaking Provider

Laura helps clients harness the strengths of a team's collective expertise and capacity. She incorporates diverse voices, meets learners where they are, and fosters shared understanding of the vision for success. She helps teams use evidence to build strategies, action plans, and trainings, create resources, and make sense of the stories data tell. Laura's work includes:

- Providing technical assistance, including design and delivery of trainings and facilitations, to mission-driven organizations working to solve problems
- Facilitating use of research and data to drive organizational and systems change
- Analyzing and presenting on research trends, best and promising practices, and policies

## Policy Analyst

Laura leverages her policy research and analysis experience to help design and implement policies that support organizations, communities and constituents. Her work includes:

- Supporting teams and leaders in understanding policy implications
- Conducting policy scans to understand critical context that informs business development, program initiatives or organizational changes
- Incorporating diverse stakeholder voices in policy development and evaluation
- Analyzing policy effectiveness and mitigating potential negative effects

## Leadership, Career, and Publication Coach

Laura combines reflection and creative questioning to support new and aspiring leaders, professionals transitioning between roles, and teams building capacity and practices for effective leadership. Laura also helps others share their learnings and stories, including when they need support in producing or sharing an article, dissertation, academic paper, book, or blog.

## WORK EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO LUMEN IMPACT GROUP

### Manhattan Strategy Group

August 2019 – January 2021

#### Program Associate and Content Specialist

- Managed policy analysis, technical assistance and research reports for a federally funded national resource center
- Served as primary researcher for qualitative case studies on expanding and scaling high-quality charter schools
- Led the research and writing of reports on topics such as school improvement, community partner organizations and family engagement strategies

### National Institute for School Leadership, Washington, DC.

April 2013 – August 2019

#### Field Research Analyst

- Designed and facilitated training programs for district leaders on state policies related to accountability, data use, and formative assessment systems
- Developed and piloted a formative evaluation function related to program impacts on school- and district-level leaders
- Coordinated implementation of an \$11 million, three-state federal grant-funded program focusing on relationship-building and supporting school and district partner recruitment

### The George Washington University

June 2018 – October 2018 and

September 2014 – December 2017

- Supported a five-year qualitative study on charter management organizations and turnaround schools in an urban Midwest district

- Wrote and edited key components of a comprehensive report to education policymakers, published by the Office of the DC Auditor

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## EDUCATION

### **Doctorate of Education, Educational Administration and Policy Studies**

The George Washington University, Washington, DC

### **Master of Science, International Commerce and Policy**

Valparaiso University Graduate School, Valparaiso, IN

### **Bachelor of Arts, Communication Law and Humanities**

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN

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## RECENT PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

American Association of University Women, member and Work Smart facilitator (2013 – 2019)

American Education Research Association, member (2012 – present)

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children DC, volunteer foster youth advocate (2016 – present)