

NOMINATION SIGNATURE PAGE

2024 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards

Nominations **must** include this as the cover page of the nomination package PDF submission

Name of Applicant:	Evan Lowder
Institution:	George Mason University
Category (choose only one): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baccalaureate Institution• Masters/Comprehensive Institution• Research/Doctoral Institution• Two-Year Institution• Rising Star	Rising Star
Signature of President or Chief Academic Officer:	
Printed Name of President or Chief Academic Officer:	Mark R. Ginsberg
E-mail address of President or Chief Academic Officer:	mginsber@gmu.edu
Telephone number of President or Chief Academic Officer:	703-993-5399

George Mason University's Excerpts from Mission Statement

(<https://president.gmu.edu/initiatives/strategic-direction>)

Our Purpose

Together, we enable your future success through the advancement and sharing of knowledge.

Our Core Beliefs

- We believe in inclusivity over exclusivity.
- We believe in advancing our mission by being willing to take risks, not avoiding them.
- We believe our best work is only possible when we apply our diversity of origin, identity, circumstance, and thought.
- We believe talent is equally distributed among people, but opportunity is not.
- At Mason, education is opportunity's great equalizer.
- We believe we grow wiser and stronger from examining our full truths, no matter how complicated, messy, or discomfoting they might be.
- We believe we are strong enough to work, live, and study together, even when we disagree.
- We believe no problem is unsolvable.

Our Strategic Priorities

- Deliver a distinctive and inclusive student experience that fosters lifelong engagement.
- Expand the impact of Mason's research, scholarship, and creative enterprise.
- Expand partnerships for economic and social impact.
- Exemplify a university culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Invest in faculty and staff success.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Evan Marie Lowder is an applied psychologist whose research on critical criminal justice priorities has already demonstrated tremendous public impact. Dr. Lowder's research agenda is multidisciplinary and highly applied, addressing three issues: the overrepresentation of individuals with behavioral health problems in criminal justice settings; the effectiveness of pretrial reform efforts as strategies to promote decarceration of system-involved individuals; and the prevalence and drivers of racial disparities in the system. Her impacts on the field at this early stage in her career are noteworthy. For example, her pretrial reform research has been referenced in the Council for State Governments "Advancing Fairness and Transparency: National Guidelines for Post-Conviction Risk and Needs Assessment." Her research has been cited by the National Institute of Justice in its Courts Research Portfolio. Moreover, several of Dr. Lowder's studies were cited by the Virginia State Crime Commission in its reconsideration of secured bond. As an early career scholar, Dr. Lowder has already published 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, six book chapters, and 35 technical reports to federal, state, local, and private funding agencies. She has served as an investigator or co-investigator on grants totaling \$4.79 million and has brought \$1.2 million in research funding to Mason. In recognition of her extensive contributions as an early career scholar, President Gregory Washington awarded Dr. Lowder a Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence.

As an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University, Dr. Lowder provides significant leadership as director of the Early Justice Strategies lab, where she trains students in applied research methods and provides hands-on experience in community-engaged research. As her research frequently involves collaborations with local and state criminal justice agencies, she brings her applied training to create impactful student learning experiences.

TEACHING

At Mason, Dr. Lowder practices a philosophy of "high expectations and high support" when it comes to her students and mentees. Her teaching and mentoring impart critical professional skills to students like writing and verbal presentation. Her course design focuses heavily on application of material where students develop critical thinking skills like synthesis of information, evaluation of evidence, argumentation, and problem-solving. Her course repertoire includes applied statistics for doctoral students, a 2-semester "Honors Seminar" intensive research course for undergraduate students, and challenging undergraduate courses like research methods. As Makenna Rold, a recent graduate, states, **"Dr. Lowder was easily one of the best professors I had during my time at Mason. She pushed me to think more critically and ask deeper questions about the problems our criminal legal system faces."**

Within the classroom, Dr. Lowder has taught seven sections of five courses across the graduate and undergraduate Criminology curriculums. Most recently, Dr. Lowder led 11 honors students through an independent research experience as part of "Honors Seminar." In this course, students conducted two national surveys of U.S. pretrial professionals and adults in the U.S. general population. With Dr. Lowder's support, students prepared and submitted their own Institutional Review Board applications. They also fundraised for data collection, applying for and receiving \$1,500 in Mini Grants through Mason's Provost's Office. The impact of this course design is evidenced in the sheer number of students who shared their research at the College's Undergraduate Research Symposium in Spring 2023, with one student earning one of two "Excellence in Research" awards among 80 presented posters.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Lowder challenges her mentees to pursue their own research projects while providing intensive training and support on lab-run projects in a collaborative and multidisciplinary environment. As director of the Early Justice Strategies Lab, Dr. Lowder has

supervised 13 undergraduate and graduate students across multiple Departments: Criminology, Statistics, Computer Science, Sociology and Anthropology, and the Business School. Students receive intensive, project-oriented training in secondary data integration and analysis, protocol development, experimental design, survey research methods, and qualitative interviewing. As a former mentee, Dr. Spencer Lawson, describes, **“Dr. Lowder’s enthusiasm for sharing her expertise and investing in students has resulted in a diverse lab that provides research and professional development opportunities for students across multiple academic institutions. She employs mentorship models that prioritize fostering a culture of open and respectful dialogue and emphasize professional growth.”** Dr. Lowder’s mentees are highly productive, having authored 13 peer-reviewed publications, over 20 technical reports to funding agencies, and over 30 conference presentations. Outside of the Lab, Dr. Lowder has served as a committee member on seven dissertations, bringing her methodological skillset to increase the quality of student research.

Through intensive mentoring, Dr. Lowder provides students with hands-on training and professionalization. At the same time, she encourages first generation students and those from underrepresented groups to see their value and contributions in scientific spaces. Dr. Miriam Northcutt-Bohmert, a frequent collaborator of Dr. Lowder’s and a Graduate Program Director at her own University summarizes this approach, **“...it is important to highlight the incredible mentorship Evan provides to junior scholars. The two junior scholars I have witnessed her mentor were both young women from underrepresented groups. Evan taught them the research process and encouraged them in their publication efforts early in their careers. Her level of support and expertise in mentoring is uncommon in our field and especially at her rank. It is truly impressive and is another way she is fostering diversity in criminal justice.”**

DISCOVERY

Dr. Lowder’s research agenda broadly focuses on strategies to reduce individuals’ exposure to the criminal justice system by promoting community stability prior to incarceration, facilitating release from incarceration, and connecting individuals to needed services and supports. As an applied psychologist, Dr. Lowder’s research is highly community-engaged; she works directly with state and local criminal justice and behavioral health agencies to answer key research questions of high policy and practice relevance. These agencies include local jurisdictions such as the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board and statewide agencies such as the Indiana Office of Court Services. As Mary Kay Hudson, Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Court Services, Office of Judicial Administration describes, **“Dr. Lowder’s ability to translate research results to policy and practice considerations is critical as state officials increasingly rely on research to inform policy decisions that promote positive and efficient criminal justice outcomes. She is accessible and responsive to our office staff, state policy makers, and the local criminal justice practitioners participating in past and current studies. Her work has informed Indiana’s approach to implementing legal and evidence based pretrial practices.”**

Adults with Behavioral Health Disorders

Adults with behavioral health disorders are overrepresented in jails and prisons relative to the general population. Limited treatment options in carceral settings contribute to high rates of repeat system involvement. Dr. Lowder’s research evaluates strategies to improve services for these populations, understand the epidemiology of fatal and non-fatal overdose, and promote community-based efforts to intervene for at-risk populations. Her accomplishments in this area include:

- A highly cited meta-analysis on the effectiveness of mental health courts in reducing recidivism relative to traditional case processing

- Co-Investigator on a 3-year, \$500,000 grant from Arnold Ventures in collaboration with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department to conduct one of the first randomized controlled trials of a co-responding police-mental health clinician response team relative to traditional police response
- Collaboration with the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area to evaluate the role of law enforcement interdiction activities on fatal overdose rates in the Washington-Baltimore region, findings of which provided support for the W/B HIDTA's increasing emphasis on treatment and prevention.
Collaboration with Virginia agencies including the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and the Fairfax County-Falls Church Community Services Board to evaluate provision of behavioral health services in jail and in the community.

Pretrial Reform Efforts

Pretrial reform efforts have proliferated rapidly across the United States in recent years, driven by a growing awareness of the inefficiencies and inequalities of the money bail system. Dr. Lowder's research in this area has examined multiple elements of pretrial reform efforts: the adoption of pretrial risk assessments and use of pretrial supervision as alternatives to pretrial detention. Her accomplishments in this area include:

- Principal Investigator of over \$300,000 in funding from the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration to evaluate Indiana's pretrial reform efforts. The Office of Judicial Administration has leveraged research findings with the Indiana legislature to advocate for resources to support pretrial reform efforts statewide.
- Liaising with 12 county pretrial services agencies to conduct local validations of pretrial risk assessments to support their continued use in practice; this research was cited in an amicus curiae brief filed by the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council in Yeager vs. State of Indiana, No. 20A-CR-121 (Ind. 2020).
- Funding from the National Institute of Justice (2018-R2-CX-0023) to conduct a multi-site study of pretrial risk assessment adoption on pretrial release and community outcomes relative to practice as usual; Presented work in webinar attended by over 200 pretrial professionals and researchers nationwide.
- Co-Investigator on a \$1.7 million grant from the MacArthur Foundation; leading a sub-study to understand how pretrial defendants perceive their own risk and need for services and supports during the pretrial period. Conducted over 200 surveys and nearly 75 in-depth interviews with pretrial defendants to expand understanding of challenges and opportunities on pretrial supervision.

Prevalence and Drivers of Racial Disparities

Racial disparities have been documented at virtually every stage of criminal justice system processing. Yet, what drives disparities and how disparities compound across stages of criminal justice processing remain unclear. Dr. Lowder's research focuses on understanding drivers of disparities at multiple stages. Her research impact includes:

- Participating in Arnold Ventures' Reducing Revocations Challenge with the Monroe County Circuit Court Probation Department to understand drivers of racial disparities in probation revocation; findings from this effort resulted in adoption of several strategies to reduce revocations and disparities, including reducing the number of required probation conditions, enhancing use of incentives, and allowing for early termination of probation.
- Co-developing a study with the Indiana State Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council to understand the prevalence and drivers of racial disparities in Indiana's criminal justice system; led over 50 meetings with state and local agencies in 2022 and 2023 to plan for study implementation; developed and validated a research tool that was broadly adopted by three Indiana jails, including the State's largest and most racially diverse jurisdiction.

KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION

As a faculty member at Mason, Dr. Lowder integrates her specialized and contemporary knowledge on alternative criminal justice responses, including use of diversion and contemporary pretrial reform efforts, to push students to think creatively about the future of the criminal justice system. As Dr. Bradley Ray, Senior Researcher at RTI International states, **“Dr. Lowder is a true interdisciplinary researcher who brings rigorous methodological approaches to the topic areas she investigates...From mental health to mass incarceration to the overdose epidemic, she is not only producing high quality research in top tiered journals but mentoring the next generation of researchers.”**

At the undergraduate level, for example, her “Honors Seminar” course prompted students to consider the success, limits, and potential of modern pretrial reform efforts through applied research projects. Students produced such timely work that several students are now turning their papers into publication for peer review. Another student won a \$350 second place prize in a national Undergraduate Paper Award contest from the American Psychology-Law Society. At the doctoral level, Dr. Lowder developed a new special topics course, “Applied Methods and Statistics in Secondary Data,” to train doctoral students in the Department on of the secondary data analysis skills her own mentees learn in the Early Justice Strategies lab. In this course, students identified a social problem of interest and brought rigorous analysis skills to answer their research questions. Several students presented their papers at national academic conferences, including the American Society of Criminology, and one student received a Student Paper Award from the Study of Social Problems, Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division for her timely work.

SERVICE

Within the University and the Department of Criminology, Law and Society in particular, Dr. Lowder has worked to strengthen the graduate program. As Chair of the Graduate Recruitment Committee, she led efforts to increase the quality and diversity of the MA and PhD applicant pools by expanding recruitment events to the virtual environment and providing targeted outreach to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). She has served for multiple years as a member of the Graduate Admissions Committee, where she conducts a holistic review of graduate applications and liaises with other committee members to make acceptance and funding decisions.

Professionally, Dr. Lowder is highly active in the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services. In this capacity, she serves as Chair of the Derek Eaves Research Grant awards committee, where she leads a semi-annual awards disbursement for student research. To date, this committee has disbursed 19 research awards to graduate students, totaling \$9,500. She also coordinates the Mental Health Courts and Diversion Programs Special Interest Group, where she arranges symposia on diversion topics, annual meetings, and off-site visits to diversion programs at the annual conference. Finally, as editor of the “Spotlight on Mental Health Diversion” newsletter section, she provides translation of research to the community of forensic practitioners who are working in psychiatric facilities, carceral settings, and courts.

In the community, Dr. Lowder brings her applied research focus to help practitioners and policymakers see the value of research. Her collaborations with local and state agencies have addressed critical questions about how the criminal justice system can balance goals of public safety with rehabilitation. Dr. Laura Yager, Director of Correctional Health and Human Services for the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office affirms, **“Dr. Lowder encouraged service providers to look beyond their daily work to consider how it fits into a larger community context and longer term health outcomes for individuals. Her research helped build a spirit of discovery and curiosity into the “upstream” efforts of their work, which has impacted their ability to support and offer hope to individuals they serve.”**

PERSONAL STATEMENT

There's a particular shade of orange that brings me back to my pre-teen years. I remember pulling into the A&W fast food parking lot in our family minivan, on our way home after visiting a family member in a psychiatric hospital. I recall thinking the vivid orange contrasted sharply with the sterile walls of the hospital, almost as starkly as that moment of normal family dinner juxtaposed with our emerging family crisis.

Over the next ten years, I would watch as multiple family members cycled in and out of contact with treatment facilities and the criminal justice system. Our family life was filled with repeated psychiatric crises leading to involuntary hospitalization, absconding from treatment facilities, police responses to our home, alcohol-related driving infractions and impounded cars, and substance use. These years gave me a first-hand glimpse into how the system responds to individuals in behavioral health crises. I observed both positive and negative law enforcement responses. I witnessed an officer who successfully approached a family member in active psychosis and convinced them to enter into custody willingly. In other cases, reactionary tactics turned verbal altercations into physical altercations. I also saw the challenges with navigating routine and outpatient services following an emergency response. Limited follow-up and month-long waits for appointments led to treatment disengagement and recurrent crisis episodes.

As I transitioned from high school to college, I sought to create a sense of normalcy for myself. I found new sources of social support in like-minded peers and distanced myself physically and emotionally from my family dysfunction. My studies were a welcome distraction. I began my college career as a Political Science major, set on the pre-law track. As a Sophomore, I took a "Courts, Law, and Policy" class where my professor—and later mentor—introduced me to alternative criminal justice responses to persons with behavioral health disorders. Dr. Kronebusch explained the advent of the modern drug court and alluded to the expansion of problem-solving courts to address other behaviors, such as mental illness. I was hooked, finally finding a nexus between a longstanding interest in the law and my lived experience with family members in behavioral health crisis. I began taking psychology classes, where I learned about the biopsychosocial model of mental illness and the multitude of factors—genetic, behavioral, and environmental—that drive the etiology and prognosis for behavioral health disorders.

The more I learned, the more my attention pivoted outside the university. My junior year, I applied for and received a fellowship to fund a summer internship at the Ramsey County Mental Health Court in St. Paul, MN. This experience laid the foundation for my senior honors thesis, where I requested administrative data from the court to examine its effectiveness on recidivism outcomes. During this time, I went on outreach calls with liaisons between local police departments and the unhoused community, even coordinating a visit to local area homeless shelters for other college students. I found opportunities to observe other problem-solving court operations including Veteran's courts and drug courts and sat in on competency hearings in a commitment court. After graduation, I applied for a position as an AmeriCorps VISTA with a Black-owned vocational training center in North Minneapolis to help the agency with anti-poverty capacity building. My work as a VISTA exposed me to an entirely new set of injustices for people of color in the United States, injustices that I had not witnessed growing up in a predominantly White Minnesota suburb but that struck me profoundly.

I entered graduate school and began to develop a complex understanding of the interplay between social life, privilege, public systems, and factors that predispose individuals to behavioral health problems and poorer outcomes in the criminal justice system. I became acutely aware of these disparities as I watched my family recover from crisis. Buffered by social and financial privilege, my family members stabilized and found their way out of repeated system contact. Family members opened their homes to other family members, providing

immediate housing solutions and financial buffers amid recurrent joblessness. In a parallel world, I saw individuals in the community with few alternatives in times of crisis. These individuals faced exploitation by family members, limited financial resources, recurrent housing instability due to limited family support, and discrimination and poor treatment by public systems. As I reflect on the trajectories that lead individuals to community stability or recurrent system involvement, I can say this: The delimiter is not stark. It is a fuzzy line that can hinge on a single source of support or a complex array of factors.

Today, this contrast is never far from my mind in my professional work. In research, I study strategies to reduce criminal justice system involvement and improve the well-being of individuals who are at risk of involvement in the system. I am most interested in strategies that can divert people from incarceration and help connect them to services and supports in the community. I engage with practitioners in local agencies and state-level policymakers to advance this work. My work is highly applied and frequently involves collaboration with police agencies, jails, courts, pretrial services agencies, and community behavioral health providers. In this way, my research advances questions that are of prime interest to local and state agencies and informs programmatic decision-making and policy.

In my research, I value bringing in the perspectives of individuals who have lived experience in criminal justice and behavioral health systems. In Fairfax County, for example, my research team went into the community to conduct surveys with individuals in recovery who were receiving peer recovery services. These perspectives helped shape our understanding of what peer recovery services mean to people who are in active behavioral health recovery. In another study based in Indiana, my research team is conducting surveys and interviews with pretrial defendants across the state who are currently under pretrial supervision. The goal of this study is to broaden the field's collective understanding of how we think about "risk" and what "needs" if addressed would truly help individuals achieve stability in the community and avoid further criminal justice contact. Remarkably, individuals identify many of the same things I have seen in my own experiences: the power of positive interactions with the criminal justice system, the stabilizing role of material resources, and the tremendous impact of social support.

I bring these perspectives to my teaching and service. In coursework, students adopt multiple perspectives as they learn about how individuals progress through the criminal justice system. I challenge students to consider the fundamental goals of the system, such as the balance of rehabilitation and punishment. As a mentor, I provide graduate students with opportunities for primary data collection so they can hear directly from individuals with lived experience in the system. My students also liaise directly with criminal justice and behavioral health agencies to better understand the practical realities of applied research. Within our Department, I lead efforts to increase access to and diversity of our graduate student application pool. Outside of the University, I maintain several leadership positions in professional associations that are practitioner-friendly, such as the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services and the American Psychology-Law Society, to increase the visibility and impact of my work in professional practice. In turn, practitioners involved in these organizations provide me with valuable insight on current issues facing criminal justice practice and policy.

Now and in the future, my teaching and scholarship will continue to examine how the system responds to individuals in crisis and how it can achieve more equitable outcomes regardless of individual background.

ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor	2019-Pres.
Department of Criminology, Law and Society George Mason University, Fairfax, VA	

SELECTED RESEARCH FUNDING (Total as Principal Investigator = \$1.2 million)

Indiana Office of Court Services (\$91,000; PI) <i>Indiana Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council Racial Equity Project</i>	2023-2024
MacArthur Foundation (\$1,700,000; Drs. John Monahan, Sarah Desmarais; PI of \$350,000 subaward). <i>Pretrial Risk Assessment: The Confounding Effects of Mental Illness, Substance Use and Race</i>	2022-2023
Arnold Ventures (\$500,000; PI: Dr. Brad Ray; Co-I). <i>Outcomes from a Randomized Controlled Trial of a Co-Response Police Model</i>	2019-2023
Fairfax County Community Services Board (\$83,017; PI). <i>Fairfax County Peer Recovery Services Evaluability Assessment</i>	2022-2023
Indiana Office of Court Services (\$250,000; PI). <i>Indiana Pretrial Project Evaluation: Phase V</i>	2020-2022
Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and Washington/Baltimore HIDTA (\$46,000; PI). <i>Evaluation of STAR 360</i> .	2021-2022
National Institute of Justice W.E.B. Du Bois Award (\$77,767; Co-PI). <i>Improving the Accuracy and Fairness of Pretrial Release Decisions: A Multi-Site Study of Risk Assessments Implemented in Four Counties</i>	2019-2020

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (Total = 40; 20 first-authored)

*Indicates co-authors who are current or former undergraduate or graduate mentees.

Lowder, E. M., *Zhou, W., Peppard, L., Bates, R., & Carr, T. (2022). Supply-side predictors of fatal drug overdose in the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA region: 2016–2020. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 110, 103902.

Lowder, E. M., *Diaz, C. L., Grommon, E., & Ray, B. R. (2022). Differential prediction and disparate impact of pretrial risk assessments in practice: A multi-site evaluation. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*.

Bailey, K., **Lowder**, E. M., Grommon, E., Rising, S., & Ray, B. R. (2021). Evaluation of a police–mental health co-response team relative to traditional police response in Indianapolis. *Psychiatric Services*, *appi.ps.202000864*.

Lowder, E. M., *Lawson, S. G., O'Donnell, D., Sights, E., & Ray, B. R. (2020). Two-year outcomes following naloxone administration by police first responders or emergency medical services. *Criminology and Public Policy*.

Lowder, E. M., Ray, B. R., & Gruenewald, J. A. (2019). Criminal justice professionals' attitudes toward mental illness and substance use. *Community Mental Health Journal*.

Lowder, E. M., Ray, B. R., Huynh, P., Ballew, A. & Watson, D. P. (2018). Identifying unreported opioid deaths through toxicology data and vital records linkage: Case study in Marion County, Indiana. *American Journal of Public Health*.

Lowder, E. M., Rade, C. B., & Desmarais, S. L. (2018). Effectiveness of mental health courts in reducing recidivism: A meta-analysis. *Psychiatric Services*, 69(1), 15-22.

SELECTED INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Lowder, E. M. (2023, June). *Defendant perspectives on risks and needs*. Presentation to the California Association of Pretrial Services, San Diego, CA.

Lowder, E. M. (2022, May). *Data-driven racial equity metrics: Substantive and methodological considerations*. Web presentation to Indiana Commission on Equity and Access in the Court System, Data Collection and Interpretation Workgroup.

Spitzer, M., Ruggles, S., Hatfield, T., & **Lowder**, E. M. (2020, Sep). *Pretrial reform efforts in Indiana: A state and local partnership*. Web presentation sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections, National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.

Lowder, E. M., Watson, D. P., Greene, M. S., & Leech, T. G. J. (2020, May). *Patterns of stressors and their associations with alcohol use in college-aged young adults*. Web presentation to Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

TEACHING AT GMU

CRIM 492 “Honors Seminar II” (Spring 2023)
 CRIM 491 “Honors Seminar I” (Fall 2022)
 CRIM 795 “Applied Methods and Statistics in Secondary Data” (Fall 2021)
 CRIM 315 “Research Methods and Analysis” (Fall 2020; Spring 2021)
 CRIM 408 “Criminal Courts” (Fall 2019; Spring 2020)

MENTORING AND SUPERVISION

Graduate Research Assistants and Wage Positions 2019-Pres.
 1. Peyton Frye (Post-Bacc.); 2. Deja Redding (MBA; Business School); 3. Jae-lynn Tavarez Brown (MA; Sociology and Anthropology); 4. Hayley Carlisle (PhD; Crim.); 5. Mindy Thai (PhD; Crim.); 6. Sydney Ingel (PhD; Crim.); 7. Autumn Kent (BA; Crim.); 8. Elizabeth Bigham (BA; Psych.); 9. Zainab Kamara (PhD; Crim.); 10. Hrishi Vibhute (MS; Comp. Sci.); 11. Weiyu Zhou (PhD; Stats); 12. Madeline McPherson (PhD; Crim.); 13. Ashley Rodriguez (BS; Crim.); 14. Chelsea Foudray (PhD; Crim.)

Chaired Theses, Preliminary Exams, and Dissertations 2021-Pres.
 1. Mindy Thai (Master of Arts – Crim.); 2. Hayley Carlisle (Preliminary Exam – Crim.); 3. Chelsea Foudray (Preliminary Exam; Dissertation – Crim.).

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence in Research 2023
 George Mason University

Christopher Webster Early Career Award 2019
 International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services

SELECTED SERVICE

University
 Writing Facilitator – Writing Across the Curriculum; 2. Research Services Assessment Focus Group; 3. PhD Recruitment Committee (Chair); 4. Graduate Admissions Committee; 5. Mentoring Committee; 6. Social Life Committee; 7. Library Liaison

Academic Community
 1. Mental Health Courts and Diversion Programs Special Interest Group, International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services (Coordinator and Newsletter Editor); 2. Corrections Committee, American Psychology-Law Society; 3. Outreach Committee – American Society of Criminology Division of Corrections and Sentencing; 4. Peer Reviewer (28 journals, National Science Foundation, and National Institute of Justice)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Postdoctoral Research Associate 2017-2019
 School of Public and Environmental Affairs, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN

M.S. and Ph.D. in Psychology (Applied Social and Community) 2015; 2017
 North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

B.A. in Psychology and Political Science 2012
 College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, *summa cum laude*; Honors

LETTERS OF SUPPORT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

“Dr. Lowder is an exemplar early career faculty member whose multidisciplinary research on strategies to reduce criminal justice system contact and improve behavioral health outcomes is already having exceptional public impact. She is a prolific scholar, she has an exceptional record of extramural funding, she has a strong reputation as a teacher and mentor, and she is already providing leadership as Director of the Early Justice Strategies lab. Dr. Lowder represents the best of Mason's young talent, and I was ecstatic to recognize her with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Research this past spring.” *Gregory Washington, President, George Mason University*

“Dr. Lowder’s scholarship integrates theoretical and applied research and ties both to the needs of communities at risk within the United States. Her work responds to the urgent needs of multiple stakeholders in addressing the prevalence of adults with behavioral health disorders in the criminal legal system, the impact of the opioid epidemic among US communities, and the interface between such communities and the legal and carceral systems that govern them. Dr. Lowder is a rising star in the field of Criminology, Law, and Society, and she is putting herself on the map as a well-trusted scholar who combines quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to combat racial disparities and set the course for an equitable and just society. I know without a doubt that Evan is worthy of this award.” *Ann Ardis, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, George Mason University*

“Mason’s mission is focused on learning together to transform the world. Dr. Lowder’s outstanding accomplishments as a scholar, teacher, mentor, and collaborator embody these aspirations...[she] has significantly advanced knowledge that pushes policy-makers and scholars to conceive of and test fairer and more effective treatments for justice-involved individuals...She is a truly a rising star and already well on her way to being an exceptional leader in the field.” *James Willis, Chair and Professor, Department of Criminology, Law and Society, George Mason University*

STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY LEADERS

“Dr. Lowder encouraged us to fearlessly share ideas and ask questions, without judgment helped us with a shared vision of discovery...To partner with an excellent researcher and an institution of higher learning and help us learn about local impact created a level of community engagement and interest that was farther-reaching than we ever anticipated. Her work and partnership made a difference and demonstrated we were on the right track.” *Laura Yager, Director, Correctional Health and Human Services, Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office*

“Dr. Lowder’s work and insight have helped us as we create policies for pretrial, advocate for legislative change, and continuously improve our pretrial efforts...Dr. Lowder’s work already has influenced the national conversation on pretrial reform as we identify pretrial practices that maximize release of the accused while also maximizing public safety and court appearance.” *Judge Mark Spitzer, Grant County Circuit Court and Chair, Indiana Pretrial Committee*

“Dr. Lowder’s work has helped us identify key data, to understand what can be drawn from the data and what cannot. She has also helped us map potential next steps we need to dive deeper and move forward. She is excellent at translating very challenging data ideas to common understanding for us. Her reports are thorough and unassailable. She has inexhaustible patience when answering questions and efforts to challenges.” *Bernice Corley, Executive Director, Indiana Public Defender Council*

“Evan provided the guidance and direction we needed as the first step to understanding the relationships among some of our data...She was a true joy to work with, keeping us grounded every step of the way, asking important questions, and exploring all angles. We will be reaching out to her again soon!” *Tom Carr, Executive Director, and Lora Peppard, Deputy Director for Treatment & Prevention, Washington/Baltimore HIDTA*

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATORS AND MENTORS

"I have been in numerous meetings with Dr. Lowder, justice system practitioners, and elected officials... Dr. Lowder thrives in these environments...attendees wait to hear what she has to say before an action or discussion item moves forward. This takes exceptional skill to quickly process deliberations, arrive to core questions, and provide an honest, insightful response that...helps to translate research knowledge into policy and practice matters." *Eric Grommon, Paul H. O'Neill Professor, O'Neill SPEA, IUPUI*

"I had met a colleague for lunch one day who was adamant that we needed Evan on our research team. After reaching out to Evan, I quickly saw why. Her work is careful and methodical, following all the best practices in the field. But her work is also innovative and creative; she provides solutions and new ways to approach old issues." *Miriam Northcutt-Bohmer, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, Indiana University*

"I have conducted research on the use of risk assessment in justice settings for decades and can attest...that Dr. Lowder is the first researcher to design a study that incorporates the voice of individuals with lived-justice experience in this space." *Gina Vincent, Professor of Psychiatry, UMass Chan Medical School*

"I am struck by how she has kept a focus on how academic research can inform and improve public policymaking decisions. For our criminal justice system to accomplish its goals, we need better tools to assess...who may benefit from alternate paths of adjudication. I find impressive Evan's eagerness to connect academic study to real-life policy challenges. In my thirty-two years of college teaching, I have known no other student who has built such an impressive record at this point in their career." *Dr. Philip Kronebusch, Political Science, College of Saint Benedict and St. John's University*

"Evan's projects tend to be large, multi-site efforts that involve students...and colleagues across disciplines...Applied, multi-disciplinary, collaborative, and community-engaged work is incredibly challenging and time consuming. And yet, somehow, Evan is one of the most productive scholars I know, early career or otherwise!" *Dr. Sarah Desmarais, President, Policy Research Associates*

STUDENTS AND MENTEES

"Dr. Lowder engage[s] meaningfully with her students, inquiring about mental health, and offering support beyond the scope of the classroom...Dr. Lowder has not only taught me what is required for research but made the process exciting for someone who is just getting into research." *Autumn Kent, Class of 2023, George Mason University*

"My acceptance to The Pennsylvania State University's Department of Sociology and Criminology doctoral program is the culmination of all the dedication Dr. Lowder put into developing my career. Dr. Lowder is the best mentor I have ever had, and I want to continue to collaborate with her in the future." *Ashley Rodriguez, Doctoral Student, Sociology and Criminology, The Pennsylvania State University*

"As a master's student, I felt unsure about my future and my potential. Today I am a doctoral candidate nearing the job market and I feel confident about my prospects because of her dedication...Dr. Lowder is always busy; but she also always makes time for me when I need her support. Dr. Lowder's expert guidance has helped me stand out from my peers...I have often wondered how I can thank Dr. Lowder for her invaluable mentorship. I hope that supporting her in this nomination can be a start." *Carmen Diaz, Doctoral Student, Criminal Justice, Indiana University*

"Dr. Lowder provides a welcoming and encouraging environment to learn, has excellent motivational skills, and brings out the best in each of her students. Thanks to [her], I have been able to accomplish goals I never thought were possible." *Chelsea Foudray, Doctoral Candidate, Criminology, Law and Society, George Mason University*