

Heng-Chieh Jamie Wu Honored by the National AfterSchool Association

Wu Named One of the Most Influential in Research and Evaluation 2018

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Heng-Chieh Jamie Wu has been selected as one of the Most Influential in Research and Evaluation 2018 by the National AfterSchool Association (NAA), the lead organization for the advancement of the afterschool professional. Honorees are distinguished for their contributions to research and evaluation on youth and adolescent development.

Dr. Wu is a research academic specialist in the Community Evaluation and Research Collaborative at University Outreach and Engagement, co-principal investigator for the evaluation of [Michigan 21st Century Community Learning Centers](#), and principal investigator for the Michigan evaluation of the [Great Start Readiness Program](#) statewide preschool program.



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“This award reflects Jamie’s unflagging dedication to using data to build capacity that results in high-quality youth programs. Their work supports an entire network of local, state and federal staff who utilize the data to demonstrate impacts of afterschool programming and align it with the Michigan Department of Education’s goals to make Michigan a Top 10 State in 10 Years,” said Laurie Van Egeren, Interim Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement.

Dr. Wu and her team work to support a continuous improvement system for out-of-school time programs. They produce more than 300 program-specific reports each year for local programs across the state and monitor activities to identify the needs for professional development and quality practices. They also use Michigan’s data to enrich the knowledge and best practices of youth programming, and call the nation’s attention to the benefits of out-of-school time programs in transforming youth into well-rounded and engaged citizens.

The NAA's Most Influential in Research and Evaluation seeks to honor individuals and organizations whose contributions to research and evaluation on afterschool and youth and adolescent development result in stronger practices, higher-quality programs and increased positive outcomes for children and youth.

“The university, state government, and local communities are working together, and the data is showing our afterschool programs go beyond providing latchkey services. It is promoting equity and quality learning experiences for all,” said Wu.

Dr. Wu joined University Outreach and Engagement in 2008. She has a Ph.D. in Parks and Recreation from Michigan State University, a Master of Sport and Leisure Management from National Taiwan Normal University, and a Bachelor of Sociology from National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Honorees, including Dr. Wu, were profiled in NAA’s AfterSchool Today [online](#).

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