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**NATIONAL AFTERSCHOOL ASSOCIATION NAMES UTAH EDUCATION POLICY CENTER
ONE OF ITS
MOST INFLUENTIAL IN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION 2018**

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 25, 2018 – The [National AfterSchool Association](http://www.naaweb.org) (NAA), the lead organization for the advancement of the afterschool professional, has selected the Utah Education Policy Center, at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, as one of NAA's 2018 Most Influential in Research and Evaluation. Honorees are distinguished for their contributions to research and evaluation on youth and adolescent development.

In selecting NAA's Most Influential in Research and Evaluation, the National AfterSchool Association sought 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. Honorees were profiled in the Summer 2018 issue of NAA's *AfterSchool Today* magazine. See the digital issue at <http://www.mydigipub.com/view/serendipity-media/afterschool-today> to view the complete article.

As a research-based center at the University of Utah in the College of Education—whose mission is to bridge research, policy, and practice—we could not be prouder of our partnerships with the Utah Afterschool Network, the Utah State Board of Education, the Department of Workforce Services Office of Childcare, and the other schools, districts and community-based organizations we serve. We are honored to be recognized among other researchers and evaluators across the country who are also contributing to an important body of evidence and research-based practices in support of high quality afterschool programs.

An estimated 10.2 million children participate in afterschool programs each year and the industry employs an estimated 850,000. The National AfterSchool Association is the membership association for professionals who work with children and youth in diverse school and community-based settings to provide a wide variety of extended learning opportunities and care during out-of-school hours.

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