

# JAMES M. DEATON, PhD

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## EDUCATION RESEARCH & PROGRAM STRATEGIST

*Results-driven strategist with nearly two decades of experience leading large-scale studies and interagency initiatives. Recognized for advancing programs through data and policy, with a track record of collaboration, engagement, and strategic communication. Expertise spans program management, survey and data design, and the development of accessible, actionable research.*

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### STATISTICIAN

2009 – Mar. 2025

#### U.S. Department of Education

National Center for Education Statistics

*Held multiple leadership roles overseeing national and international education programs, data collections, policy initiatives, and cross-agency collaboration efforts.*

#### Lead, Office of Management & Budget's (OMB) Federal Race/Ethnicity Standards

- **Coordinated implementation** of revised race/ethnicity standards across all agencies at the U.S. Department of Education and across the entire U.S. Education system.
- **Oversaw development of action plan**, presentations, and outreach.
- **Created and chaired agency-wide internal committee** and formed 3 subcommittees with 29 staff.

#### Project Director, National Indian Education Study (NIES)

- **Directed largest national study** of American Indian/Alaska Native students; managed \$1M budget and multi-agency coordination. The last NIES report involved over 15,000 students across 1,400 schools.
- **Co-authored 3 national reports**; led design strategy, subgroup reporting, and data visualization.
- **Guided release of NIES Qualitative Data Companion** the first-ever publicly available guide of its kind, incorporating insights from over 16,000 student and teacher respondents.
- **Spearheaded National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) sampling changes**, ensuring reportable results for American Indian / Alaska Native students across all assessments.

#### Task Leader, NAEP Survey Questions

- **Oversaw lifecycle development** of all surveys including core (non-subject specific) and all subject area assessments. Managed large numbers of respondents (e.g., 2019 NAEP included 1 million students).
- **Advised on reporting priorities**, directed validity checks, and guided statistical metrics to evaluate questions.
- **Directed digital transition and design strategy** for accessibility and user experience across platforms.
- **Led development of socioeconomic status indicator**, providing context for understanding achievement.

#### Approver & Technical Reviewer, NAEP Field Publications

- **Reviewed 750+ documents** in the last 5 years to maximize school participation and subsequent reporting.
- **Provided strategic guidance** on messaging, accessibility, and presentation of findings.

#### U.S. Delegate & Chairperson, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Network on Educational Structures, Policies, and Practices ("NESLI Network")

- **Represented the U.S. in international discussions** of education systems, including developing comparable indicators across countries, evaluating sub-national level data, and reporting priorities.
- **Advocated for and secured greater prioritization** of teacher attrition metrics in global education indicators.
- **Directed U.S. submissions** to OECD; appointed 2025 Chair of the NESLI network (49 countries).

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## OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

2006 – 2009

### American Institutes for Research

- **Directed score report production and quality assurance**, leading a 10-person team to ensure accuracy, clear data presentation, and alignment with assessment goals across multiple states.
- **Resolved complex test administration issues** and provided technical assistance to school-based staff in Hawaii and Ohio, enhancing testing accuracy and minimizing disruptions.
- **Developed and delivered training** for 10 customer service team members, improving responsiveness and consistency in support for district testing coordinators and school leaders.
- **Negotiated and analyzed printing expenditures**, conducting cost-benefit reviews for \$1.7M in reporting expenses and identifying opportunities for optimization.
- **Managed winning proposal (\$200M contract)** with the Ohio Department of Education.

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEES & INTERAGENCY ENGAGEMENT

### Indian Country Data Workgroup

**U.S. Department of the Interior** - *U.S. Department of Education Representative*

- **Supported interagency alignment on American Indian / Alaska Native data priorities** through contributions to the Subcommittee on Economic and Program Research.
- **Advanced Native data strategy** by identifying research gaps (e.g., food access in Native communities).

### Diversity & Inclusion Council

**U.S. Department of Education** - *Chair, Data & Measurements Committee*

- **Led evaluation of workforce profile**, managing 25+ staff across 4 subcommittees; final recommendations for improvements to talent acquisitions and retention of employees were unanimously approved by the Council.

### Interagency Health Equity Collaborative (IHEC)

**U.S. Department of Health & Human Services** - *U.S. Department of Education Representative*

- **Recognized with a Certificate of Outstanding Teamwork** for contributions to the Data Workgroup.
- **Informed community health strategies** as part of the Jobs Plus Initiative subcommittee, focusing on social determinants of health and workforce development.

### Presidential Federal Interagency Working Group on Indian Education

**White House Initiative** - *U.S. Department of Education Representative*

- **Led development of guidance** on data resources needed to serve American Indian / Alaska Native students, informing national policy recommendations.

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## EDUCATION

**PhD, Administration and Supervision (Leadership, Foundations, & Policy)**

*University of Virginia*

**BA, English**

*University of Mary Washington*

**Fellowship:** Partnership for Public Service, Excellence in Government (EIG) Program