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Afterschool Matters is a national, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to promoting professionalism, scholarship, and consciousness in the field of afterschool education. Published by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time with legacy support from the Robert Browne Foundation, the journal serves those involved in developing and running programs for youth during the out-of-school hours, in addition to those engaged in research and shaping policy. For information on *Afterschool Matters* and the Afterschool Matters Initiative, contact Georgia Hall
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WELCOME

We are so excited to present to you our special summer issue recognizing 40 years (1979–2019) of consultation, training, research, and technical assistance as the National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) at Wellesley College.

After founding NIOST, Micki Seligson (see page 1) published *School-Age Child Care: An Action Manual* in 1982. Ten more editions of this book were produced through 1993. The book, informed by NIOST's research, lays the groundwork for better understanding nationwide of how vulnerable children are if they are not supervised and how much they need quality school-age care.

NIOST's work has had a monumental influence on OST programs and the field. Our staff have worked with afterschool program providers to help them:

- Measure quality outcomes for all
- Assess the effectiveness of policies and practices
- Benchmark against best practices
- Develop in-house evaluation and measurement skills
- Establish standards for program quality and create staffing credentials
- Share their knowledge and exemplary practices with our increasingly professionalized field

We have empowered our partners—from individual programs to system-wide networks—to provide quality OST experiences for all. We are immensely proud to be a leader in shaping and promoting OST as a distinct professional field with evidence-based quality standards.

This issue of *Afterschool Matters* is particularly special! All of the papers were written by OST professionals who participated in our Afterschool Matters Fellowship over the last five years. We were humbled to work with and guide such thoughtful, committed, and dynamic professionals. We are inspired by their commitment to improving the quality of programs and experiences for all children and youth. We are grateful for the legacy gift the Robert Bowne Foundation provided to support the fellowship and the journal.

The first half of 2020 has seen more change than any six-month period I can remember. This time has re-exposed the inequities of our nation's systems and structures. The relationships we have forged and work we have done over 40 years will help show the way toward our part in building a just and equitable world.



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Personal essays on pages 18-30 are not included in the peer review process.