**Research 360 Updates**

**January 2017**

***What’s new & exciting in research?***

1. Research 360 is the name we are using to represent ACA’s new focused approach to research and evaluation.

* The goals of Research 360 include:
  + To increase camp professionals’ **use of evidence** in everyday practice.
  + To understand and **reduce the research-practice gap**.
  + To increase **value and visibility** of camp among non-camp communities.
* We have two primary foci: the **5-Year Impact Study** and **expanding local camps’ evaluation capacity**. Read more on the [Research 360 blog](http://www.acacamps.org/staff-professionals/news-publications/blogs/research-360), posted bi-monthly in *ACA Now*.

1. The 5-Year Impact Study is underway! Under the direction of the volunteer [Research Advisory Committee](http://www.acacamps.org/news-publications/blogs/research-360/research-360-introducing-cast-characters-part-1) and the [Research Team](http://www.acacamps.org/news-publications/blogs/research-360/research-360-cast-characters-part-2) at the University of Utah, the project team will begin collecting data in Spring 2017. The 3-phase project will include:
   * An **exploratory phase** in which emerging adults will be interviewed about their childhood camp experiences. This phase will help the researchers identify key outcomes, and the camp experience and the specific things that happen at camp that foster those outcomes. This phase will also explore how people applied what they gained at camp in school and other non-camp settings.
   * A **mapping phase** in which a larger sample of emerging adults will complete a survey about their childhood camp experiences. This survey will help researchers create a map of key camp outcomes and the most important things that camps do to promote those outcomes. This phase will also help identify how camp is unique from other settings, such as school, sports, etc.
   * A **longitudinal phase** in which campers and their families will complete surveys and participate in interview over the course of three years. This phase will allow researchers to identify how camper outcomes develop over time, and how those outcomes are used in school, work, and beyond.
2. Spencer Foundation **research partnership grant** begins January 2017.
   * This [three year $400,00 award](http://www.spencer.org/career-and-college-readiness-through-summer-camp-leadership-opportunities) will allow Deb Bialeschki, Senior Researcher at ACA, and Dr. Jim Sibthorp (University of Utah) to continue to capitalize on the strong partnership between U of UT and ACA.
   * The research project is focused on CITs and young staff, specifically how best to support emerging adults in their camp work experiences and how working at camp prepares emerging adults for college, career, and lifelong success.
   * While separate from the Impact Study, this research parallels and compliments that work and hopefully results in a research agenda with potential for sustainable efforts.

***What are we working on?***

* Research Symposium at National Conference- we have 19 research papers that will be presented orally and/or in the poster session and available in the [2017 ACA Research Forum Book of Abstracts](http://www.acacamps.org/sites/default/files/resource_library/2017_ACA_Book_of_Abstracts.pdf).
* Doctoral student Ryan Gagnon (Clemson University) will be awarded the Scanlin Award for Outstanding Student Research.
* Two programs will be awarded the Eleanor P. Eells Research in Practice Award: Sanborn Western Camps and Roundup River Ranch. These programs demonstrated exemplary use of evaluation to improve their camp programs. Three other programs submitted highly competitive applications, which is very exciting for this young award!
* The Committee for the Advancement of Research and Evaluation will meet in the spring, where we will welcome a new Chair (Mary Rogers, Sherwood Forest) and two new members: Dr. Cass Morgan (Weber State University, Utah) and one member who is yet to be selected.
* We are working on several of our major industry surveys and reports. The Site, Facilities, and Programs Survey had a record number of responses (39%) thanks in part to the new partnership with NY/NJ and NE. Data are being analyzed now and will be reported in January. The [2016 Enrollment Report](http://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/research/camper-enrollmentstaff-recruitment-reports) is complete and available for free on the ACA website. Finally, the 2017 Emerging Issues Survey will go out to the membership in January and reported in mid-March.
* We are analyzing the first year of YOB 2.0- ACA’s first online camper outcomes tool and working one-on-one with existing subscribers to support their use of the tool.