WILLIAM (WEI) ZHU

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Education

The University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
MA Computational Social Science, GPA: -/4.0, June 2022 (Expected)
Current Courses: Python Programming, Perspectives on Computational Analysis, Competitive Strategy (Booth)

Haverford College (Haverford, PA)
BA Sociology, Minor in Statistics, GPA: 3.73/4.0, GRE: V:165 Q:167 W:5.0, May 2019
Relevant Courses: Financial and Managerial Accounting, Applied Multivariate Statistical Analysis, Linear Algebra, Probability, Qualitative Methods, Economic Sociology, Econometrics

Work Experience

Westat (Rockville, MD)
Research Assistant (Full-time), July 2019 – June 2020
- Received "Exceptional" (highest rating) at yearly performance review in all 8 education evaluation projects by performing tasks including data analyses (in R and Excel), literature review, interviews, and report writings.

Improving the Use of Research Evidence [funded by William T. Grant Foundation]
- Saved project budget by $30K by compiling datasets 2 months ahead of schedule from the National Center for Education Evaluation (NCEE) restricted-access database.
- Performed data imputation and built machine learning models to predict the effectiveness of school intervention programs on other schools (Project put on hold during covid).

Verizon Innovation Learning Schools (vils) Evaluation [client: Verizon]
- Contributed to the finding that tablets increased student engagement in the classroom by 54% by performing data analyses and visualization of 200+ schools' survey data.

Racial Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Program Evaluation [client: Leadership Montgomery]
- Performed participant observations at a series of monthly workshops where 30+ corporate leaders at Montgomery County (MD) learn and discuss methods to improve racial equity in organizations.
- Found that the workshop program is effective at guiding participants to craft racial equity plan for their companies by organizing 2 focus groups and administering 10 surveys. Co-authored in the final evaluation report that was presented to the client.

Academic & Volunteering Experience

Haverford College (Haverford, PA)
Undergraduate Researcher, Senior Thesis (Advisor: Mark Gould), July 2018 – May 2019
- Received 4.0 (highest grade) by conducting a year-long research project on the impact of Taiwan's semiconductor industry to democratization in the 1980s (literature review). Authored a 21,000+ word research paper.

Undergraduate Researcher & Conference Presenter, January 2017 – May 2017
- Authored a research paper titled "The Skew of Pathways: The Structural Explanation for the Asian American Academic Achievements"; Presented at the 2019 American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting.

International Student Resource Persons (ISRP), 2016-2017 & 2018-2019 academic years
- Honoree for the Class of 2019 Service to Diversity Reception; Organized 10+ workshops and Philly field trips for 120 incoming international students (Class of 2020 and 2022) from 35 different countries around the world.

Skills & Interests

Relevant Skills: R, Python, SQL, Latex, HTML/CSS, Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, PowerPoint, Word)
Interests: Reading books about organizations, strategy, and innovation (finished 50+ business books in 2020)
Languages: English (Fluent); Mandarin Chinese (Native)