**Brian Cesario, PhD**

Research and Evaluation Expert and Leader

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| **Career Summary** |

Accomplished research and evaluation leader with over 20 years of experience directing strategic research initiatives for diverse clients, including government, business, and non-profit organizations. Expertise in designing and implementing culturally responsive and equity-centered approaches to research, with a strong background in quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Proven track record of leading interdisciplinary teams, managing complex projects, and delivering high-quality client deliverables. Committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through innovative research and evaluation practices. Skilled in client communications, relationship management, and business development activities.

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| **Key Skills & Abilities** |
| * Leadership and management
* Project management
* Client communications
* Training and capacity building
* Business development
 | * Culturally responsive research
* Quantitative analysis (SPSS, SAS)
* Qualitative analysis (NVivo)
* Survey research methods
* Data visualization and reporting
 | * Commitment to DEIB
* Mentoring junior research staff
* Innovative problem solving
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| **Experience & Accomplishments** |

**Research & Evaluation Consultant** | *Independent Contractor* | 12/2014-Present

* Lead research initiatives for diverse clients, including nonprofits and mission-driven organizations, utilizing advanced quantitative and qualitative techniques to generate actionable insights.
* Develop and implement customized Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) frameworks, ensuring alignment with client goals and organizational strategy.
* Conduct comprehensive data collection and analysis, providing clients with data-driven recommendations to enhance program effectiveness and strategic decision-making.
* Facilitate client meetings and workshops, promoting collaboration and fostering strong relationships with stakeholders.
* Oversee project assignments, primary data collection activities, and operations to ensure timely delivery of high-quality deliverables.
* Participate in business development activities, including proposal writing, budgeting, and identifying new opportunities for client engagement.

**Associate Research Professor** | *Iona University* | 06/2012-Present

* Direct quantitative and mixed-method studies, specializing in survey development and implementation to optimize data quality and outcomes.
* Provide expert consultation on research methodologies, supporting faculty and students in their research endeavors, and enhancing their research capabilities.
* Deliver presentations and lead workshops on data analysis, survey methods, and evaluation practices to build capacity and knowledge within the academic community.
* Supervise key tasks in the project lifecycle, including research design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination of findings.

**Director of Research & Evaluation** | *Inwood House* | 12/2009-08/2014

* Established and expanded the evaluation department, achieving a 25% improvement in task efficiency and effectiveness.
* Authored white papers and research briefs, fostering collaboration and securing over $10M in sustained revenue for the organization.
* Managed external consultants and research partnerships, ensuring successful project outcomes through effective delegation and oversight.
* Conducted primary data collection and performed rigorous quality assurance checks on client deliverables to maintain high standards.

**Research & Evaluation Coordinator** | *National Health Promotion Associates, Inc.* | 06/2005-12/2009

* Led large-scale randomized controlled field evaluation studies, designing and implementing evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of training curricula.
* Developed and implemented data management protocols, improving efficiency by 10% and reducing errors by 25%, ensuring high-quality data for strategic decision-making.
* Designed and facilitated focus groups and qualitative research protocols, generating actionable insights, and securing over $3M in grant funding through compelling reports to stakeholders.
* Conducted extensive data collection, entry, and analysis, producing detailed reports to inform program improvements.

**Research Support Assistant** | *NYS Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene* | 06/2003-06/2005

* Managed a federally funded quasi-experimental study examining gender and cultural differences in pain perception using signal detection theory.
* Developed strategies for effective participant recruitment, protocol implementation, data collection, entry, and cleaning, ensuring data integrity.
* Contributed to manuscript preparation, poster presentations, and other publication materials, effectively communicating research findings to diverse audiences.

**Research Assistant** | *Columbia University School of Social Work* | 03/2002-10/2002 (internship)

* Assisted with data collection, entry, and cleaning for a research study on youth violence rehabilitation programs.
* Supported the research team in implementing study protocols and contributed to the development of comprehensive evaluation strategies.
* Performed general clerical duties, facilitating smooth project operations and effective coordination among team members.

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| **Education** |

* **PhD in Psychology** | Northcentral University (Prescott Valley, AZ)
* **MA in Experimental Psychology** | Iona College (New Rochelle, NY)
* **BA in Psychology** | Iona College (New Rochelle, NY)