

## Department of Educational Psychology

**Jade Heffern, Ph.D.**

Doctoral Graduate  
Admission Year: 2017  
Graduated Year: 2020

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### **Professional Bio**

Jade Heffern earned her Combined Counseling/School Psychology PhD from Northern Arizona University (NAU) in August 2021. She earned her Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from The University of Arizona in 2014 and her Master's of Counseling in 2017 from NAU. She completed a graduate certificate in Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health from The University of South Florida in 2019. She completed her dissertation research on the psychological factors of pre-service teachers including personality, self-efficacy, and commitment to the profession. She successfully completed an APA approved internship as part of the Hawaii Internship Psychology Consortium (HIPIC). Jade received the NAU Presidential Fellowship award

Clinically, she has a pediatric focus and is passionate about working with diverse populations in rural and underserved areas. During her graduate career, she conducted psychoeducational evaluations with Native American children through the university department's interdisciplinary clinic and during training trips to the Navajo Nation Reservation. She also gained experience conducting counseling in Spanish and completing bilingual psychoeducational evaluations with Latino children. As a graduate of a combined doctoral program, she values utilizing both her counseling and school psychology skills to effectively serve children and families. Her career goal is to become a licensed psychologist working in the school setting. Currently she is employed as a school psychologist in Kauai, HI where she is completing her postdoctoral training

### **Areas of Teaching Interest**

- Counselor self-care and wellness

### **Areas of Research & Clinical Interest**

- Explore psychological factors of pre-service teachers including personality, dispositions, grit, self-efficacy, and commitment to the profession
- Effectiveness of Native American substance abuse prevention programs for elementary and middle school students
- Identify evidence-based therapeutic interventions and best-practices to assess children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental disabilities

## Recent Publications

- de Heer, B., **Heffern, J. K.**, Cheney, J. S., Secakuku, A., & Baldwin, J. (2020). A Community-Based Evaluation of a Culturally Grounded, American Indian After-School Prevention Program: The Value of Practitioner-Researcher Collaboration. *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research (Online)*, 27(1), 1-20
- Mastergeorge, A. Paschall, K., Dixon, D. & Martinez, C., Mills, A. & **Heffern, J.** (2015). The Strengthening Families Program for High-Risk Families of Young Children: Preliminary Intervention Findings for Rural Sites. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*

## Recent Presentations

- Lee, J., **Heffern, J.**, Woodward, M., & Mergenthaler, E. (2020, April). *Academically Challenging Freshmen's Academic Possible Selves and Strategies*. Poster accepted for presentation at the meeting of American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA but virtual meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19
- Calderon, C., Rodriguez, L., **Heffern, J.**, & Pepic, V. (2020, February). *Poverty Impact on Achievement and Wellbeing among Mexican American Students*. Paper presented at the meeting of National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD
- Rodriguez, L., Pepic, V., **Heffern, J.**, & Calderon, C. (2020, February). *Understanding Poverty, Stigmatization, and Multiple Identities: An Intersectional Framework*. Paper presented at the meeting of National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD
- Bilyeu, D., Cheney, J., & **Heffern, J.** (2019, March). *A Needs Assessment for Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) Pathways Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Program*. Paper presented at the meeting of 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Research and Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health, Tampa, FL
- Carrero Pinedo, A., **Heffern, J.**, Pepic, V., Rodriguez, L., & Garcia, E. (2018, August). *Discussion: Dreaming of a Better Community: Latinx Immigrant Social Justice and Action in the Age of Trump*. Symposium presented at the meeting of American Psychological Association Convention, San Francisco, CA
- Heffern, J.**, Vader, V., Belhekar, V., & Melott, R. (2018, August). *Using Factor Analytic Techniques to Delineate Personality Structures Among Indian College Students*. Poster presented at the meeting of American Psychological Association Convention, San Francisco, CA

## Professional & Leadership Activities

- Graduate Research Assistant, NAU Combined Counseling/School Psychology Doctoral Program under Dean Ramona Mellott
- ArizonaLEND fellow, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Maternal and Child Health Training Program, University of Arizona, 2019-2020

## **Professional Memberships**

- American Psychological Association (APA)
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- Arizona Association of School Psychologists (AASP)

\*CV available upon direct request to student at [jkh99@nau.edu](mailto:jkh99@nau.edu)

\*Bios and CVs are updated during the fall term of each year and may not include the most recent information