

# Distinguished Achievement Citation

William Hsiao

Class of 1959

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored and privileged to recognize William Hsiao and his career as a public administrator, humanitarian, and professor. He is considered one of the world's foremost experts on health care economics and financing. His advice to leaders of state and government both here and abroad has changed the lives of millions of people across the world.

A native of Beijing, Dr. Hsiao graduated from OWU in 1959 with a degree in Physics and Math. Following graduation, he worked as an actuary for the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. In 1968, Dr. Hsiao became Deputy Chief Actuary for the Social Security Administration where he led two blue-ribbon panels regarding the actuarial viability of the Social Security System.

He left government service in 1971 and entered the graduate program at Harvard University where he obtained a Master of Public Administration, Master of Arts, and Ph.D. in Economics in 1982. During his studies, he served as a consultant to the U.S. House and Senate on Social Security. Dr. Hsiao was appointed to the faculty of the Harvard School of Public Health as an Assistant Professor in 1979 and became a full professor in 1986. He currently serves as the K.T. Li Professor of Economics at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Hsiao regularly advises U.S. government agencies, foreign governments, and non-governmental organizations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization. Comparing health systems across industrialized nations, he applies political and economic theories to develop a structural framework of essential elements of health systems. Employing his systemic framework, Dr. Hsiao is assisting Taiwan, Cyprus, Mexico, Colombia, China, and Sweden in their health systems reforms.

In developing nations, his research focuses on the development of sustainable financing mechanisms to provide health care for the poor, rural population, and urban workers. With UNICEF's support, Dr. Hsiao collaborates with seven universities in China conducting a nationwide study on health care financing and provision for 100 million poor Chinese. Meanwhile, with the support of the World Bank, he is launching a large-scale social experiment on community financing for the rural Chinese population involving 100 communities and two million people.



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Dr. Hsiao is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and was named “Man of the Year in Medicine and Health” by the Editorial Board of McGraw-Hill Publications. He has served as a Fellow with both the Johnson and Carnegie Foundations and is an honorary professor at Beijing and Fudan Universities in honor of his work in assisting rural health care in China.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Hsiao as we present him with Ohio Wesleyan University’s Distinguished Achievement Citation.

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