



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017 YEAR-END REPORT FORM

Focus Group Family Economics

Chair/Co-Chairs Clinton Gudmunson & Xiaohui Sophie Li

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. We have inaugurated the “Best Family Economics Paper of the Year” award/certificate.
2. We have catalyzed inter-institutional research teams involving a majority of our focus group attendees.
3. We have facilitated sharing of knowledge regarding relevant faculty, post-doc, and graduate program openings.
4. Attendees offering and responding to grant opportunities in the area of family economics have channeled information through the focus group.

II. WHAT HAS THE FOCUS GROUP DONE DURING THE PAST YEAR TO FURTHER NCFR'S INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVES?

1. We are increasing our visibility via our accomplishments and each of these accomplishments has made concerted effort to draw in graduate students and faculty from related fields, conferences, and professional societies.
2. We saw an approximate three-fold increase in attendance at the 2016 conference and hope to maintain or improve upon these numbers again in 2017.
3. Part of the increase in attendance was due to co-author and research collaborator groups that are attending together, instead of merely those who attend as individuals. Often, those are senior-junior scholar arrangements.

III. CONCERNS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

1. We appreciate NCFR's willingness to reschedule our focus group. We will report back whether that was successful for bringing in attendees that previously were not able to attend due to overlapping presenting schedules. We suppose that scheduling at NCFR is a sort of “monster chore” but, on the other hand, projects that are overtly related to economics or finance are usually a relatively small portion of the conference. The processes in place are very good at grouping our posters and papers together, and if there could be a check on when the focus group is scheduled also—so it does not overlap, that is helpful too.
2. NCFR is one of the conferences that is most inclusive and welcoming of diversity. Its considerable efforts in this regard, however, have mainly been focused on ideological, ethnic/racial, and sexual orientation/identity differences. The family economics focus group

Appendix A

challenges the NCFR board to consider how a portion of these efforts could be directed at better understanding socioeconomic diversity and inclusion. Socioeconomic differences are often infused as a subtext of these other forms of diversity, and so their examination need not be a break from past efforts, but rather a continuation.

Reporting Date: October 13, 2017 (Prior to the Annual Conference)

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