

## Focus Group End of Year Report for 2020

Name of Focus Group **Graduate Directors Focus Group**

---

Chair/Co-chairs **Alan Taylor**

---

Chair/Co-chairs email **tayloral@ecu.edu**

---

### 1. What were your focus groups major activities or accomplishments this year?

At our last focus group meeting in San Diego (2019), our group brainstormed/discussed the possibility of organizing a Graduate Program Symposium for the 2020 annual conference. There seemed to be enthusiasm and interest in developing formal proposal around the area of graduate education. In February, I sent out a formal request for all those graduate directors who might be interested in being part of the possible symposium. I invited any focus group member to submit a formal presentation idea that might revolved around the idea of graduate mentoring and teaching. I received FIVE proposals and they were all deemed appropriate to be part of the symposium proposal I submitted in March 2020. The symposium was officially accepted over the summer and is set to be presented Wednesday November 11 2:30-3:45. It is entitled: *Contemporary and Innovative Approaches for Mentoring/Teaching Graduate Students Enrolled in Family Science Programs.*

We also have discussed the need to be a part of the annual conference each year and provide some type of presentation on the topic of graduate education. We recognize that many attendees are academics and have graduate education as part of their regular jobs. We discussed that our focus group could be a starting point for providing these academic members an opportunity to discuss, learn and share successful teaching, mentoring or program strategies with each us. At our 2020 focus group meeting, we plan to discuss what might be an appropriate graduate education topic for an official proposal for the 2021 conference.

### 2. What has your focus group done during the past year to further NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives?

As part of our upcoming Graduate Programs Symposium (*Contemporary and Innovative Approaches for Mentoring/Teaching Graduate Students Enrolled in Family Science Programs*), the five presenters were specifically instructed to include within their presentations mentoring approaches that involved inclusion practices and diversity awareness. This was stressed as an important feature of our presentations.

### 3. Please list any concerns, questions or suggestions.

None at this time. We appreciate the ability to meet each year at NCFR.

Return by **October 15, 2020** to the membership manager, Maddie Hansen – [maddiehansen@ncfr.org](mailto:maddiehansen@ncfr.org).