

Focus Group End of Year Report for 2020

Name of Focus Group: **Military Families and Children**

Chair/Co-chairs: **Christina Marini and Kayla Reed Fitzke with Christine McCall as Communication Specialist**

Chair/Co-chairs email: cmarini@adelphi.edu; kayla-fitzke@uiowa.edu; cemccall@purdue.edu

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

This year our focus group developed a partnership with the *Military Family Learning Network*. We had representatives from their group present at our annual meeting and built connections between their group and ours. This resulted in some of our members participating in a webinar for the network. We also continued our tradition of awarding top NCFR conference proposals, one at the student/new-professional level and one at the professional level. We worked with NCFR staff to revise this process so that our group members do not have to re-review proposals. We coordinated reviewing efforts at the conference-level so that we advised section chairs on which reviewers should score military family-related proposals. This partnership helped ensure that the fit between proposals and reviewers was optimal, and thereby benefited not only the focus group award process, but also NCFR as a whole. We also collaborated with Military REACH. REACH now puts together an accessible infographic that highlights all military-connected research that is taking place at the conference in one place for our members to refer to.

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

We continue to promote diversity and inclusion by considering all proposals for our awards (thereby eliminating a nomination process) to ensure that all members' work is represented.

3. Please list any concerns, questions or suggestions.

Question: We pre-recorded interviews with our award winners and would like them to be available to our members before our live focus group time slot. We will use that time to have a live Q&A session with our winners, but would like members to have watched the interviews before the meeting. Is there a way/place for us to upload those interviews to be included on NCFR's conference platform? Also, is there a way for the conference program to tell focus group participants how we will be using the allotted time during the meeting? Since the program will only be electronic, is there more flexibility with space this year? In years past, we have been told that we could not do this because of space constraints.

Suggestion: We would like to have an award that recognizes the effort that goes into a symposium and encouraging SNPs and professionals to work together. In our experience, it is difficult to decide how symposiums fit in the award process, especially as to "who" the winner should be. We would like to pitch an idea to you to see what NCFR admin might think about creating a *Best Symposium Proposal Award*. Given that there are fewer symposiums submitted than individual proposals, it would be challenging to have an individual focus group or section award for best symposium, but we feel that is an important contribution that should be recognized. If admin were interested, this is something we would be willing to spearhead. If this would not be possible/of interest, we will likely create a focus group specific symposium award that would only be granted biennially/every 5 years.

Return by **October 15, 2020** to the membership manager, Maddie Hansen – maddiehansen@ncfr.org.