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Family Focus: Recovering from COVID-19

As we confront the challenges associated with re-opening schools, re-building the economy, and meeting the health and safety needs of individuals, families, and communities, the long-term repercussions of the global COVID-19 pandemic remain uncertain. This issue aims to shed light on how Family Science theory and research can help inform efforts to support families, schools, and communities during this recovery process.

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Congratulations to Our 2021 Elected Officers!



Bethany Letiecq



Lyndal Khaw



Veronica R. Barrios

Three NCFR members were elected this spring to the NCFR Board of Directors, and many more were voted into other NCFR leadership positions. Here are your incoming NCFR Board representatives, who will take office after the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference in November:

New Board Members

Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D., Board President-Elect

Lyndal Khaw, Ph.D., Affiliate Council President-Elect

Veronica R. Barrios, Ph.D., Students and New Professionals Board Representative-Elect

Turn to page 10 to view other NCFR members who were elected to leadership positions within the organization.

2021 NCFR Annual Conference

Nov. 2-5, 2021

The Science of Families: Nurturing Hope, Happiness, & Health

Registration is open!
ncfr.org/ncfr-2021

NCFR Seeks Racial Justice Resources

As a continuation of its racial justice initiative, the NCFR Board of Directors seeks resources relevant to promoting racial justice in Family Science. These resources will be used to create a new collection on the NCFR website.

Members are asked to submit resources for promoting racial justice in any of the following six areas:

1. Constructing family theories
2. Conducting family research
3. Teaching
4. Mentoring and training others

5. Places of employment (e.g. education, health)

6. Providing services to families

Examples include scholarly articles, books, curriculums, classroom activities, data tools, infographics, videos, webinars, podcasts, research briefs, and websites that serve to either thoroughly explain a subject or be a gateway to more resources on a dedicated subject. Authorship will be credited for each item that is posted.

Submit resources at ncfr.org/form/resources-on-racial-justice ✨

Mission Statement for NCFR Report

NCFR Report, the quarterly newsletter of the National Council on Family Relations, provides timely, useful information to help members succeed in their roles as researchers, educators, and practitioners. Articles address Family Science issues, programs, and trends, including association news.

President: Leigh A. Leslie

Board Members: Norma J. Bond Burgess, Ruben P. Viramontez Anguiano, Jennifer L. Doty, Soyoun Lee, Shelley M. MacDermid Wadsworth, Robert Reyes, Roudi Nazarinia Roy, Joanne A. Roberts

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

News Editor: Trip Sullivan

Family Focus Editor:

Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE

How to contribute to the Family Focus section:

The Family Focus section of *NCFR Report* is member-written. Articles accepted for publication will be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on

- 1) relevance to the Family Focus theme,
- 2) brevity due to space limitations, and
- 3) how articles form a complementary collection.

For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE at reporteditor@ncfr.org.

The contents of articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.

How to advertise in NCFR Report

To advertise in *NCFR Report*, please see the specifications and price list at ncfr.org/about/advertise-ncfr/ncfr-report. NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion.

Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are:

- Spring issue—Jan. 1
- Summer issue—April 1
- Fall issue—July 1
- Winter issue—Oct. 1

Send advertisements to Trip Sullivan at tripsullivan@ncfr.org. For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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Seeking NCFR Fellows!

The Fellows Committee is seeking nominations for the 2021 Fellows Awards. Please help us by nominating members who have made significant contributions to the organization and the field. Below is a description of what it means to be awarded Fellow status in NCFR, the Fellows Award criteria for selection to Fellow status, and the procedure for submitting nominations. The Fellows Committee would greatly appreciate your assistance.

What Is Fellow Status in NCFR?

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to living members of NCFR on the basis of their outstanding contributions to Family Science. Nominations of all family researchers and professionals who have made contributions to the family field are encouraged. Among the recognized areas of contributions are scholarship, teaching, outreach, practice, and professional service, including service to NCFR. By definition, outstanding contributions are those that have broad impact on the field and are enduring over time.

What Are the Criteria for Fellow Status?

- A. Nominees must have made outstanding contributions to the field and to NCFR as an organization. Satisfying a combination of these criteria is required. Examples of outstanding contributions include:
- Published, refereed scholarship that has shaped or reshaped the field of Family Science
 - A history of innovation in practice or outreach that has transformed the field, such as the development and implementation of novel or significant interventions or programs designed to promote healthy family relations
 - Recognition of teaching excellence through awards and mentoring
 - The development and implementation of innovative curricula for training professionals in the area of Family Science
 - The development and implementation of innovative social policy relevant to families
 - A history of innovation and publication about the methods and measurement strategies used in related Family Science arenas
 - Outstanding contributions to NCFR as an organization, which may include

a history of organizing conference symposia, editing or guest editing NCFR journals, or developing nationally distributed products or curricula that bridge Family Science and practice

- B. Nominees must have at least 10 years of professional experience after the receipt of the appropriate graduate or professional degree.
- C. Nominees must have held NCFR membership continuously for the past 5 years at the time of nomination.

What Is the Procedure for Nomination?

- A. Nominees **must be nominated by another NCFR member.***
- B. Nominees **must have the endorsement of two additional individuals**, one of whom must be an NCFR member,** describing the outstanding nature of the nominee's contributions.
- C. In general, nominees should not be aware that they are being considered for fellow status. For this reason, the NCFR office will not contact candidates for Fellow status at the time of their nominations.
- D. Unsuccessful nominees for Fellow status will not be considered eligible again until after a 3-year waiting period.

*Nominations from NCFR members involved in the nominee's academic preparation (e.g., major adviser, administrative head of the program from which the nominee graduated) or who have possible conflicts of interest (e.g., partner or family member) will not be accepted.

**Endorsements from NCFR members with a potential conflict of interest may be included with the nomination packet but cannot be used to satisfy the requirement for endorsement by an NCFR member.

For complete information, NCFR Fellow Status Policies and Procedures, nomination form and sample letter of endorsement, please visit ncfr.org/fellows.

Please send your nomination materials to Rosemary Johnson at rosemaryjohnson@ncfr.org. **The deadline for nominations is Sept. 15, 2021.** We are building this special recognition to further the legacy of outstanding members of NCFR. Let us hear from you! Thank you very much for your consideration. ✨



Reflections on Inclusion and Diversity Committee and the Racial Justice Initiative

Leigh A. Leslie, Ph.D., NCFR President, lleslie@umd.edu (left), and Daphne C. Hernandez, Ph.D., IDC Chair

In the past year, the NCFR Board of Directors has committed itself to pursuing social justice and working to dismantle systemic racism. We thought it would be a good time to reflect on the role of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) in the organization, both historically and as we move forward in this important endeavor. In 2008, the board saw a need for the organization to address “the diversity strengths, issues and challenges of NCFR” (Diversity Task Force Charter, 2008). An inclusion and diversity task force was established with 13 appointed members. In 2010 this task force recommended, and the board approved, the establishment of a permanent board committee whose purpose was to enhance NCFR’s attention to issues of diversity and inclusion. Specifically, the IDC’s role is to examine the “programs, activities, policies, publications, and practices” of the organization; to engage the membership in scholarly dialogues regarding diversity; to raise member concerns regarding diversity to the board; and to make recommendations to the board. The IDC was officially established in 2011; the acceptance of the IDC Policies and Procedures and the first election of members occurred in 2013.

From the beginning, the scope of the IDC’s charge was fluid. Other board committees (Elections, Fellows, and Audit) have very clear tasks that they carry out on behalf of the board. However, the IDC was charged with a somewhat amorphous task: advising the board on how to promote inclusiveness and social justice (although the specific language of social justice was not used in the early document) in the organization. Despite this lack of clear structure, the IDC has risen to the challenge. Over the past 8

years, the IDC has been an invaluable board partner in trying to guarantee that all voices be heard and that NCFR operate in ways that are true to our values of equity and respect for diversity, both within our membership and with the families we serve. The IDC has, as part of its charge from the board, held listening sessions at the annual IDC breakfast at the conference, worked to ensure that the annual conference program is representative

Much of the critical work the IDC has undertaken on behalf of NCFR members over the years will now serve as a road map for NCFR sections and focus groups to more actively address issues of systemic racism and social justice themselves.

and respectful of the diversity in families, helped craft board statements on issues important to families, and regularly challenged the board and organization to institute more inclusive policies and practices (e.g., gender-neutral bathrooms, pronoun preferences at the annual conference). Additionally, the IDC has organized many wonderful sessions at the conference on promoting social justice in our teaching, research, and practice.

In reflecting on the critical work that the IDC has undertaken on behalf of the board and NCFR members over the years, we believe that much of that work is now serving as a road map for other entities in the organization, such as sections and focus groups, that are attempting to more actively address issues of systemic racism

and social justice themselves. Although it is possible that in past years, other NCFR groups have not felt the need to examine their work in light of how minoritized groups are addressed and treated because “that’s the work of the IDC,” we welcome the shift occurring in the organization that makes this the work of all. One of the many things that is exciting about this shift is that groups in the organization are looking inward to the expertise of their own members to proactively address racism and injustice in the discipline and in the places where we work. In fact, this is the focus of the professional work of many of our members, not just those on the IDC, and it is time to learn from those members and celebrate what they can teach us. This will also provide the IDC the time and space to work on specific tasks on behalf of the board. For example, in working collaboratively on the current racial justice initiative, the board has asked the IDC to vet the material for the racial justice resources page that the NCFR staff is constructing and to make recommendations on strategies for promoting pathways to professional development for family scholars and practitioners of color.

Moving forward, the IDC will continue to be an invaluable asset to the board as a board committee that advises and counsels the board on actions the organization can and should be taking, and that also assists in developing programs and policies designed to ensure that NCFR is a more inclusive and equitable organization. It is also exciting to see this work being complemented throughout the organization by all groups and all members acknowledging their ownership and their role in the goal of social justice, which we all seek. ✨

Empowering Families to Navigate Their Children's Early & Middle Years

Family Science Impact highlights how NCFR members are making a difference through their Family Science work and showcases their career journeys.

Name:

Jenell Kelly, Ph.D., CFLE, LCCE

Current Job Titles:

Owner, Blossom Family Life Practice
Adjunct Instructor, Wilmington University

Tell us a bit about your current work and why it's important.

I am the proud owner and creator of Blossom Family Life Practice. I provide pregnancy and childbirth classes as a Lamaze certified childbirth educator. I offer postpartum doula support to families with newborns. The birth work I do is extremely important for reducing adverse maternal and infant health outcomes. I coach individuals and families with children prenatal to preteen.

At the center of my work is social justice. I make targeted efforts to reach African American families and communities of color and with low income, because racial, ethnic, and income disparities within the United States are evident for several indicators of well-being. My goal is to empower individuals and families to make informed decisions. My vision is for everyone to develop optimally and reach their fullest potential.

I also teach, occasionally, as an adjunct instructor. For me, university teaching is one of the highest forms of service to others. I do it to prepare the next generation of scholars

and compassionate practitioners to have a positive impact on families.

What was your professional path to your current role? What shaped or influenced that path?

My career path has not been typical or linear. I experienced changes as a person and a professional over the past 10 years. But one thing remained consistent and led me to my current role: my commitment to doing work that supports families and breaks down barriers of all kinds. I earned my bachelor's, master's, and doctoral

My career path has not been typical or linear. But one thing remained consistent and led me to my current role: my commitment to doing work that supports families and breaks down barriers of all kinds.

degrees consecutively. After graduate school, I landed a job as a family life and human development extension specialist. After three years I transitioned into an assistant professor role for a short time before deciding to change paths again. Before pursuing my current role, I spent a good amount of time writing and reflecting on what I wanted to do with my career—an important step that I missed when I started my journey!

When I attempted to re-enter the workforce I found that my experiences and level of education did not fit neatly within the job descriptions, so I decided to think outside the box. I thought about

how many professionals with advanced degrees have private practices. My education, training, and background in human development, Family Science, and Family Life Education, coupled with my passion for helping families, provided the perfect backdrop for working with families in private practice. To make my practice more coherent and truly reflective of my passions, I retooled by becoming a Lamaze certified childbirth educator. I also participated in postpartum doula and family life coaching training. With these experiences and after learning from others who started their own Family Life Education businesses, I established a limited liability corporation and launched Blossom Family Life Practice.

How do you use Family Science/Family Life Education knowledge or skills in your current work?

All 10 Family Life Education content areas apply to my current work in some way. Most often I draw on human growth and development across the life span, parent education and guidance, interpersonal relationships, and internal dynamics of families. I translate Family Science research and theory into relatable educational series' and coaching conversations. Recently, I started a blog to share research-based and evidence-informed information individuals and families can use as they make decisions about their lives.

What is most rewarding or makes you proudest about the impact of your work?

Witnessing families have "aha" moments is most rewarding. Also, it's priceless when I receive email or texts from people I

work with that share great things that are happening in their lives because they were able to use something I shared with them. Families reaching their goals is a source of pride because I am on a mission to help them thrive!

What do you wish you would have known along your education or career path?

If I could do it over, I would spend less time on academics and more time daydreaming and designing my life early on. In fact,

I want the world to know that Family Science and Family Life Education have the power to be transformative at multiple levels.

I wish I would have taken a year off after completing my bachelor's degree to work while doing in-depth self-exploration, career exploration, and life visioning. I think this would have made me purposeful in seeking out educational and career opportunities that aligned with a vision I had for my life in total (e.g., work, family, leisure, legacy).

What do you want the world to know about your work or about Family Science/Family Life Education?

Right now, my work with families is about changing lives for the better. But changing life for African American families and communities of color also requires changing oppressive social structures and systems. In the future, I want my practice to expand to address and work collaboratively with other groups to dismantle systemic injustice that limits human potential so families and children who have been marginalized can thrive.



Jenell Kelly, Ph.D., CFLE, LCCE

I want the world to know that Family Science and Family Life Education have the power to be transformative at multiple levels—leaders in all sectors of society should get to know who we are and invite us to be on their teams! In the meantime, I do not want Family Science and Family Life Education to wait for those invitations,

but to take up space in academic debates and social movements (worldwide) to spur changes that improve families' lives and positively impact their well-being. ✨



What We'll Keep

Diane Cushman, NCFR Executive Director, dianecushman@ncfr.org

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage worldwide—having caused over 570,000 deaths in the U.S. alone as of this writing—more and more people have been able to receive vaccine protection from the virus. For many, this is a light at the end of a very long tunnel and signals a return to some degree of normalcy. Like many of you in your places of employment, NCFR staff members are beginning to think about what the “new normal” will entail. While the pandemic forces flexibility, it also provides an opportunity to rethink how we approach both our work and family lives. NCFR is currently reviewing the inventive solutions—borne of necessity during the pandemic so that we could better meet the needs of members—and considering which changes to keep.

NCFR had begun to experiment with Zoom video conferencing well before the pandemic began. Notably, we conducted online interviews for the editors of NCFR journals in August—with candidates and interviewers scattered across the country—in order to introduce the new journal editors at the November conference and provide them with opportunities to network with researchers there. Previously, editor candidates were interviewed at the conference itself.

The NCFR staff office has utilized flexible work arrangements, including a hybrid work-at-home or telecommuting option for many years. Before March 2020, however, we adhered to a schedule of core days and hours, with some flexibility for start and end times. All staff meetings were held during core hours, and unless there were extenuating circumstances, everyone was required to be present. Occasionally, a staff member would attend a meeting via conference call, but this was more of an exception than the norm. It seems a bit silly when we look back on that now. We have not met face-to-face since March 11, 2020. We've

found Microsoft Teams to be a perfectly suitable and effective alternative in many ways. Although we do miss being together.

Some of our pandemic adaptations have proved very effective at removing barriers to participation. Of the 1,300 members participating virtually at the 2020 NCFR Annual Conference, we know that many preferred meeting in person. Others found conference costs prohibitive and were able to participate only because of no travel costs and drastically reduced registration fees. Indeed, our post-conference survey results confirmed that about equal numbers “hated” meeting virtually as those who would attend the conference if it continued to be offered online, proving once again that no one solution meets everyone's needs.

For years, we have struggled to provide more programming for our community-based Family Life Educators, those whose work takes place outside of academia. This year, we found our footing with webinars and CFLE Conversations (see ncfr.org/events). We will keep offering this type of programming, and in June we'll host our first-ever Family Life Education Summit, a one-day virtual conference on strengthening and supporting the work of Family Life Educators (see ncfr.org/fle-2021).

We will continue to offer staff the option to hold meetings over video indefinitely so they have more flexibility to manage their working hours. This will come in handy for those with long commutes, particularly when Minnesota's winters make travel dangerous. We've also created new systems to electronically present invoices and process payments that are more efficient than our pre-pandemic processes. They will be just as effective whenever we return to the office.

I mentioned earlier that NCFR staff miss one another. Just as we went into lockdown, we hired two new staff members. They have yet to work in our physical office with

their coworkers. While we've made physical distancing work, we've missed out on getting to know one another and sharing in the informal learning that happens in common space. Also, despite the creative efforts of a couple of staff members to gather everyone for virtual lunches, even inviting mystery guests, we still crave the rewarding interactions that occur when meeting in person.

In the 1990s, I was part of a then-innovative effort to redeploy hundreds of employees from employer-provided office space to home offices. While we were able to make this happen, we learned that not everyone thrives in a home-office environment. We've confirmed that once again during this pandemic. So we'll continue to endeavor to find a midpoint that not only allows for better work-life balance but also provides the necessary space needed to focus on individual work. For example, homeschooling grade schoolers proved a tremendous challenge for parents who were also working from home. Many children and families have a renewed love of school and cannot wait to be back in the classroom full-time.

Some major questions loom on the horizon. Will universities return to the classroom? Will funding for travel be reinstated? Will enrollment return to pre-pandemic levels? Whatever comes, I hope our members will continue to meet regularly via Zoom with their focus groups and sections to network and learn from one another. I especially hope that the work they have begun to support the NCFR Board of Directors' racial justice initiative will continue. And in the fall of 2022, I hope we can all meet again at the 2022 NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ✨



Virtual FLE Summit & CFLE Conversations – Expanding Services to Practitioners

Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE, Director of Family Life Education, dawncassidy@ncfr.org

NCFR is making a concerted effort to increase the resources and services provided to Family Life Education practitioners. In 2021 we introduced two new programs specifically designed to increase opportunities for Family Life Educators to learn from and share with one another: a one-day virtual conference this June and an ongoing series of informal virtual conversations on specific topics.

Virtual FLE Summit

The **2021 Family Life Education (FLE) Virtual Summit: Strengthening & Supporting the Work of Family Life Educators** will be NCFR's first foray into hosting a conference focused specifically on Family Life Education and with family practitioners as the intended audience.

The NCFR Annual Conference provides an important venue for discussing Family Life Education within the broader context of Family Science, but the criteria for proposals and the format of the sessions does not always lend itself to detailed discussion of the implications of research or actual application in the field. Practitioners want assurance that information is research or evidence-based, but they may be more interested in learning about and discussing the application of that research than the methodology behind a research study.

The success of the NCFR Education and Enrichment Section's annual resource exchange sessions at the NCFR Conference speaks to the hunger many have for the opportunity to see and discuss programs and resources utilized in the field. NCFR is continually considering other opportunities that can be provided to practitioner members and Certified Family Life Educators (CFLE) to enhance their work with families.

I have dreamed about having NCFR host a conference specifically for Family Life

Educators for years, and NCFR's successful experience in hosting the 2020 conference virtually convinced me that now was the time to make this dream a reality. A virtual format will be more accessible to practitioners who may not have the funds to allow for travel and lodging. As indicated by the theme, *Strengthening & Supporting the Work of Family Life Educators*, this meeting

I have dreamed about a family practitioners' conference for years, and NCFR's success with a virtual 2020 conference convinced me now was the time to make this dream a reality.

will be specifically about Family Life Education and directed toward Family Life Educators. This will enable us to focus sessions on the day-to-day experiences and needs of those working in the field with and for families

To prepare for the FLE Virtual Summit, we surveyed CFLE and other FLE practitioners to assess interest in attending the event and to determine the topics they would be most interested in learning about. Interest in both attending (69%) and presenting (56%) was high. Based on the rankings of potential topics, respondents were very interested in learning more about the following topics: running their own FLE business; trauma-informed practice; program development, implementation, and evaluation; parenting education; relationship and marriage education; promoting equity and addressing racism; adverse childhood experiences; advocating for the practice of FLE; collaboration with other family professionals (the Domains of Family Practice Model); and grant writing. The Call for Proposals encouraged submissions focused on these and other topics of relevance to the practice of FLE. Special thanks to members of the CFLE Advisory Board for their help in planning this important event. The 2021 FLE Virtual Summit will be held on June 25, 2021.

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NCFR Report: A Member Forum For

NCFR Report is a quarterly magazine for members designed to encourage member-to-member dialogue, to inform colleagues about our research, and to discuss research application for practitioners and policy professionals. Through *Report*, NCFR also builds our community by reporting on people, events, and organizational news.

Unlike the content of our scholarly journals, the articles in *NCFR Report* have not been peer-reviewed. In the spirit of open debate and academic freedom, *NCFR Report* is a member forum for exchanging ideas. The opinions or findings expressed are those of the author(s), which may or may not represent the official position of NCFR as an organization nor the prevailing scientific consensus on the topic. Author email addresses are provided to encourage readers to offer comment to writers.



Planning a Virtual Conference: Act II

Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Research and Policy Education, jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org

Happy summer! By now, those of you who submitted a conference proposal should have received your decision letters. Congratulations to those who were accepted to present at the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference—the second virtual conference! The NCFR Conference Program Planning Committee and NCFR staff have been working hard on our second virtual conference.

In a continued effort to document the conference during this historical time for our organization, country, and world, this article details how the virtual planning is currently proceeding. I will share several ways that our first virtual conference was a success and how we plan to build on that success for 2021.

Conference Successes

The annual conference is evaluated each year through surveys sent to attendees. Many questions ask respondents to rate items on a scale of 1 (*poor*) to 5 (*excellent*) and to provide comments about what worked well and what could be improved. There were 233 people who responded to the 2020 survey, with a 94% completion rate.

Overall, 75% of respondents rated their overall experience with the conference as very good or excellent, and 82% of respondents rated their experience with the Whova platform as very good or excellent, with an average rating of 4.07 out of 5.

Respondents rated their overall experience with academic sessions at 4.24 out of 5 and rated new and/or emerging research as very good to excellent (4.23). Respondents were also asked to rate the quality of research presented during the 2021 conference (4.28) and the application of research to practice or policy (4.19). Both results were higher than in the previous 3 years.

Anecdotally, 2020 conference participants told us that the NCFR virtual conference was the best virtual conference they experienced. People enjoyed the interaction that Zoom sessions provided such as breakout rooms

and the ability to chat during the session. Some participants said they even experienced more interaction than at an in-person conference. Others thoroughly engaged in the Whova discussion platforms—there were over 3,200 posts to the Whova community board, with 58 separate discussion topics!

2021 Conference Changes

One role of NCFR staff is to maintain a high-quality conference experience each year. In response to what we learned from our first virtual conference in 2020, several improvements are already being implemented for the 2021 Annual Conference.

2020 survey respondents indicated they would like to see higher attendance at poster sessions, and engage more deeply with attendees and other poster presenters through Zoom.

Posters. 2020 survey respondents indicated they would like to see higher attendance at poster sessions, engage more deeply with attendees and other poster presenters through Zoom, and have the posters reintegrated with academic sessions during

the day rather than in the evenings (U.S. time). There were also several suggestions on how Zoom's features could be used differently, such as by assigning a single Zoom room to a group of related posters and using the breakout-room capability for individual poster discussions.

To help increase engagement and overall satisfaction for presenters and attendees, the following changes will be made to the poster sessions this year.

- All poster sessions will be scheduled between 10:00 am and 4:30 pm CT on Tuesday, Nov. 2, through Friday, Nov. 5, 2021.
- Half of all poster presentations will be scheduled on Tuesday, Nov. 2, with the remaining posters being scheduled throughout Wednesday through Friday.
- Poster presentations will occur in Zoom to increase engagement among poster presenters and attendees.
- Up to 10 similar posters will be scheduled during each poster session. This mimics other conferences' concurrent session programming.
- Each poster presenter can present an overview of their poster for 3 minutes during their scheduled Zoom time. After all posters have been presented, the presenters will be provided a breakout

We had some amazing sessions during the conference that were rated very highly:

- Kira H. Banks, Ph.D., and Amber Johnson, Ph.D., our opening plenary presenters, were rated as having high-quality content (4.43) and being engaging (4.45).
- Kevin Nadal, Ph.D., our closing plenary, was also rated as having high-quality content (4.24) and being engaging (4.44).

Many other sessions, too many to list here, were also rated as very engaging and as providing high-quality content. Each of these sessions can be viewed again! Don't forget that if you registered for the 2020 conference, you still have access to all the recorded sessions at www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2020/schedule. For those who haven't registered for the conference, you can access the amazing content by purchasing the recordings at www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2020/registration.

room. Attendees can listen to all posters and have live discussions with presenters in the breakout rooms.

- Attendees can come and go as they please to poster sessions.

Just like in 2020, posters will be available to view throughout the full conference week. Poster presenters have the option to upload a short poster video to appear with their poster all week long. Attendees appreciated these two features of our 2020 conference.

The Resource Exchange Session. The resource exchange session was organized similarly to the poster sessions in that resources were provided online for the full conference week and interaction between participants and presenters was through the Whova chat feature. We found that this session experienced similar problems as the poster sessions and that presenters were unsure of how to navigate the session.

During the 2021 virtual conference we will keep Zoom rooms open for a set time following each academic session to encourage continued conversation.

The virtual resource exchange session will use Zoom and its breakout rooms at the 2021 conference to increase engagement between presenters and attendees. The same number of breakout rooms will be created online as the number of roundtables in person. Attendees will be able to choose which breakout room (i.e., table) they would like to attend. Breakout rooms will last for a set time and then attendees will change to another breakout room. This format will mimic more closely the in-person session—presenters will be able to present their resource(s) similarly to an in-person conference and be able to interact with the attendees.

Presenter Instructions. This past year was most definitely an unusual year. The conference had to be reimagined in a way that was never conceived of prior to the pandemic, including rewriting all the

presenter and attendee instructions. People expressed, however, not fully knowing what was expected of them for their presentation or for the conference.

We will provide updated instructions to reflect our learnings from 2020, with the most visible changes to the poster and resource exchange instructions. More important, though, the instructions will be provided in an easier-to-digest, written format and, in some cases, in videos. The instructions will also be made available much earlier so that people can adequately prepare for the conference.

Networking. Conference attendees missed the hallway conversations, impromptu lunches and dinners, and the face-to-face interaction that we all love during the in-person conference. We are working toward new ways to increase networking during the 2021 virtual conference. One noticeable

change is that we will keep Zoom rooms open for a set time following each academic session to encourage continued conversation. Look for more methods of networking as we get closer to the conference.

Conclusion

The first-ever virtual conference in 2020 was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated in the conference and provided us with feedback on ways to improve. Your feedback and specific suggestions are very helpful. We know that the 2021 conference will continue to be a success as we have all learned more about the virtual world since the pandemic began. We are very hopeful to provide increased interaction and engagement among attendees and presenters throughout the conference and specifically within the poster and resource exchange sessions and through networking. *

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CFLE Conversations

Another effort to better support practitioners is **CFLE Conversations**. The diversity of employment settings and roles that fall within the practice of Family Life Education can make it difficult to find and connect with others working in the same area. To provide CFLEs with the opportunity to better connect and network with one another, NCFR has launched CFLE Conversations, a series of one-hour, online networking sessions. Practitioners will discuss their challenges and successes and also share ideas with one another. The first CFLE Conversation, targeted specifically for CFLEs working with military families was held on March 31, 2021. **Ginny Wescott, MA, CFLE**, the director of the Office of Violence Prevention at Spangdahlem Air Force Base, Germany, did a masterful job of facilitating the conversation. Her extensive experience working across four branches of the military proved very helpful to attendees. Attendees were interested in discussing some of the challenges of

military life as well as job opportunities for Family Life Educators within the military and approaches to increase the recognition and value of CFLEs in employment roles. The event provided a great opportunity for CFLEs to connect with and support one another.

The next CFLE Conversation was designed for CFLEs working with families impacted by mental illness, facilitated by **Mara Briere, MA, CFLE**, on April 28. Following that was a conversation on CFLEs working in parenting education, facilitated by **Jody Johnston Pawel, LSW, CFLE**, on May 19. Additional conversations will be scheduled throughout the year. CFLE Conversations is a benefit available only to active CFLEs.

We are excited to have these opportunities to expand the services and resources that NCFR offers to Family Life Education practitioners. Please contact me if you have other ideas for how NCFR can support practitioners at dawncassidy@ncfr.org. *

Meet Our 2021 Elected Officers

continued from page 1

The membership of the National Council on Family Relations voted in February 2021 and elected the following officers to take office beginning in November 2021, following the annual conference. Thank you to everyone who voted, and congratulations to these members!

National Officers

NCFR Board of Directors

Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D., Board President-Elect

Dr. Letiecq is associate professor of human development and Family Science at George Mason University.



Bethany Letiecq

A member of NCFR for over 20 years,

Dr. Letiecq served previously on the board as a member-at-large, treasurer, and liaison to the Inclusion and Diversity Committee. She has also been a past chair of the Family Policy section and secretary/treasurer of the Northwest Council on Family Relations. She also served on the NCFR's policy advisory staff committee, the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award Committee, the editorial board of *Family Relations*, and as a reviewer for the

Journal of Marriage and Family. Dr. Letiecq is the 1998 recipient of the NCFR Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award, given to the best dissertation proposal submitted by a doctoral candidate in Family Science.

"As Board President, I will work to advance a more inclusive, member-driven organization that positions us for the healing, reparative, and justice-based work that lies ahead," Dr. Letiecq pledged in her candidate statement. "Drawing upon our translational family research, policy, and practice expertise, we must ready ourselves and future member-leaders for a multiracial, gender-diverse democracy that represents and serves all families with dignity, free from discrimination and systemic oppression."

Lyndal Khaw, Ph.D.,

Affiliate Council President-Elect

Dr. Khaw is associate professor and department chair of Family Science and human development at Montclair State University.

A member of NCFR for over 15 years, Dr. Khaw previously served on the board as the Student and New Professional Representative. She



Lyndal Khaw

has also served through NCFR as a Student Affiliate Adviser Representative on the Affiliate Councils Board and still serves as Student Council Advisor for Montclair Student Council on Family Relations. Dr. Khaw is a recipient of the Jessie Bernard Award—Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective and the Cindy Winter Scholarship.

In her candidate statement Dr. Khaw wrote: "As ACB President, my primary goals are to (1) Represent the voices and needs of student and state affiliates as a voting member on the NCFR Board. (2) Enhance the visibility of students and state affiliates and promote affiliates' efforts to engage and impact their communities locally. (3) Build connections and invite collaborations amongst student and state affiliates across the U.S. that would promote engagement and impact on a larger scale."

Veronica R.

Barrios, Ph.D., Students and New Professionals Board Representative-Elect

Dr. Barrios is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Science and Social Work at Miami University. Dr. Barrios

is a co-chair of the NCFR Latino(a) Research Focus Group. She is the 2020 recipient of the Jessie Bernard Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper, which is given to a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to feminist scholarship.

"I hope to offer a voice that represents that of NCFR students and early career members of color, and that of LGBTQ membership as well," Dr. Barrios wrote in her candidate statement. "I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to work within NCFR's leadership in a way that improves inclusivity and equity." ✨



Veronica R. Barrios

Thank You, NCFR Donors

January to March 2021

William D. Allen

Gary Lee Bowen

LaTonya Carter

Marilyn Coleman

Bree E. Cook

Teresa M. Cooney

Thomas J. Durant, Jr.

Judith L. Elkin

Jane H. Hellinghausen

E. Jeffrey Hill

Marguerite Ta'lise Jeffries

Naketta Lowery

Hannah Mudrick

Kathleen Boyce Rodgers

Ronald M. Sabatelli

Bridget Seeley

Rebecca J. Ward

Yvonne A. Williford

2021 ELECTED OFFICERS



Francesca Adler-Baeder



Katia Paz Goldfarb



Brian Ogolsky



Lover LM Chancler



Sarah Mitchell



Sharon M. Ballard



I. Joyce Chang

Fellows Committee

Francesca Adler-Baeder, Ph.D., CFLE

Katia Paz Goldfarb, Ph.D.

Brian Ogolsky, Ph.D.

Inclusion and Diversity Committee

Lover LM Chancler, Ph.D., Member-at-Large

Sarah Mitchell, Ph.D., CFLE, Students and New Professionals Representative

Elections Council

Sharon M. Ballard, Ph.D., CFLE

I. Joyce Chang, Ph.D.

Section Officers (2021–2023)

Family Policy Section

Sharon N. Obasi, Ph.D., Chair-Elect

Jordan A. Arellanes, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

Janeal M. White, M.S., CFLE, Students and New Professionals Representative

Feminism and Family Studies Section

Erin S. Lavender-Stott, Ph.D., Chair-Elect

Nicole E. Conroy, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

Jasmine Routon, M.A., Students and New Professionals Co-Representative

Veronica R. Barrios, Ph.D., Students and New Professionals Co-Representative

International Section

Gizem Erdem, Ph.D., Chair-Elect

Bethany Willis Hepp, Ph.D., CFLE, Secretary/Treasurer

Sarah Almalki, Ph.D., Students and New Professionals Representative

Religion, Spirituality, and Family Section

Andrew Rose, Ph.D., Chair-Elect

Haley Sherman, M.S., CFLE, Secretary/Treasurer

Calvin Bradley, Jr., M.Div., M.S., Students and New Professionals Representative

Research and Theory Section

Isaac J. Washburn, Ph.D., Chair-Elect

Ashley Ermer, Ph.D., CFLE, Secretary/Treasurer

Caroline Sanner, Ph.D., Students and New Professionals Representative

Matthew Ogan, B.S., Communication Specialist ✨

Advertise in NCFR Report

Looking to promote your university's programs to potential students or faculty candidates? Want to advertise an event or workshop you're organizing?

Get the message to your NCFR colleagues by advertising in NCFR Report, NCFR's quarterly member magazine.

Each issue of Report — which includes organizational news and the popular "Family Focus" section made up of translational, research-based articles — goes out to the entire NCFR membership.

Space is available for advertising in every issue of Report. Rates start at \$350 for a quarter-page ad (with volume discounts available).

Interested? Find more details about rates, deadlines, and specs at nconf.org/advertise-nconf-report



Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section Update



Yolanda T. Mitchell, Ph.D., Past Section Chair, yolanda.mitchell@unt.edu

What in the world am I doing? This is a question I think many of us have asked ourselves at some point in our graduate and professional careers—especially as faculty of color. The many ups and downs in academia and professional service to families can have you second-guessing yourself and embracing imposter syndrome with ease. For many of us, when we have questions, experience difficulty, look for guidance, celebrate success, or need a listening ear, we turn to our mentors. The individual(s) who guide and direct us, teach, support, and in many ways become our “friendtors.” For the past 5 years I have been privileged to call on Bertina Hildreth Combes as my mentor, friend, ally, confidante, teacher, and sister-aunty. Bertina is the daughter of longtime Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Families (REDF) Section member Dr. Gladys Hildreth.

Bertina was “called home” on February 19, 2021, due to complications from COVID-19.

I wanted to share a brief tribute to my dear friend because she represents so much of what makes the REDF Section an

important group of people at NCFR. She often commented to me that her visits to the annual conference with her mom were so memorable because of the section and its members.

Bertina Hildreth Combes, Ph.D., began her career in higher education at Texas Tech University and moved to the University of North Texas (UNT) in 1989 as an assistant professor in the College of Education. A consummate and contemplative professional, it wasn't long before she began to blaze trails for Black faculty at UNT. Dr. Combes devoted more than 30 years of her academic career to UNT. She was promoted to associate professor in 1996 and full professor in 2015. She became the associate dean for academic affairs and education in the College of Education in 1998 and took on additional responsibilities as the interim dean of the College of Education between June 2016 and August 2017. Dr. Combes was named the College of Education associate dean for graduate studies and research in 2019. She became UNT's vice provost for faculty success in January 2020.

As a scholar, Dr. Combes was known for a diverse body of research ranging from the effect of parent participation on the performance of students at risk to learning styles of African



Bertina Hildreth Combes

American students and inclusion. At UNT, she helped found what became the Black Faculty Network (BFN) and was a proud member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She earned her B.S. in special education from Oral Roberts University in special education, her master's degree in educational administration from Southern University and A&M College, and her Ph.D. in special education from the University of Texas at Austin.

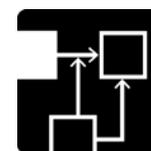
“Always a champion for students, she mentored numerous young students into

Bertina Hildreth Combes

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Research and Theory Section Update

Amy Rauer, Ph.D., Chair, arauer@utk.edu



An exciting opportunity to feature your late-breaking research!

The Research and Theory (RT) Section is excited to announce that we will be hosting a late-breaker poster session during the 2021 conference RT Section meeting. This session will be reserved for high-quality research findings that were not available at the time of the general proposal submission deadline. Submissions are due

on September 1 via email to Amy Rauer, RT Section Chair (arauer@utk.edu).

Submissions must include the following: (1) a title; (2) 2–3 keywords; (3) a 250-word proposal with an emphasis on methods and findings; (4) a 250-word statement of the proposal's timeliness, including why the proposal was not submitted during the traditional NCFR submission period; and (5) author information (name, degree, affiliation, and email address).

Proposals will be rigorously peer-reviewed by RT Section members and a select number will be invited to present during the section meeting. We welcome submissions from all scholars regardless of section membership, as our goal is to ensure the timely dissemination of cutting-edge, family-based research. Please contact Amy Rauer if you have questions about whether your work is suited for submission to the late-breaker poster session. ✨

Families and Health Section Update

Amber J. Seidel, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair, ajs49@psu.edu



Student and New Professional Poster Award

Applications due October 2, 2021

Who Can Apply: Any student or new professional who is the first author on an accepted poster for the Families and Health Section. One award will potentially be presented in each of two categories: (a) undergraduate and master's students, and (b) Ph.D. students and new professionals.

Judging Criteria: Posters will be judged on relevance and clear delivery of research content (background, aims, methods, findings, discussion) as well as visual quality.

How to Apply: Send the following items to the FH Section SNP representative, Myles Maxey, at myles.maxey@aggiemail.usu.edu:

- Two PDF copies of your finished poster (one with author details, one with all

identifying information removed)

- Your current status as an undergraduate, master's, Ph.D. student or new professional
- Information on your designated poster session time at the NCFR annual conference

Award winners receive a \$100 prize, a certificate, and a ribbon on their posters, and recognition at the Families and Health Section meeting.

Additional information is available at www.ncfr.org/awards/section-awards/families-health

Invited Sessions at NCFR 2021

The Families and Health Section is excited to cosponsor an invited symposium at the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference with the Family Therapy Section: **US and International Perspectives of Ways Families Have Been**

Affected by and Adjusted to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Presenters:

Katherine Allen, Ph.D., Professor Emerita Virginia Tech

Aslı Çarkoglu, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Kadir Has University, Turkey

Jerica M. Berge, Ph.D., M.P.H., LMFT, CFLE, Professor, University of Minnesota Medical School

Ulrike Zartler, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Vienna, Austria

Discussant: Kristina S. Brown, Ph.D., LMFT, AAMFT-Approved Supervisor, Professor, Chair of the Couple and Family Therapy Department, Adler University

Session Chair: Jeremy Yorgason, Ph.D., Professor of Family Life, Brigham Young University

Families and Health continued on page 14

The Field of Family Policy Rests on the Visionary Shoulders of Vice President Walter Mondale

Karen Bogenschneider, Ph.D.

The recent passing of Vice President Walter Mondale (on April 19, 2021) reminded me of one of his many contributions to the field of Family Science. The field of family policy was formally conceived in response to U.S. Senate subcommittee hearings held in 1973 to examine the pressures American families were facing and the influence of government policy on family life. Senator Walter Mondale chaired the subcommittee and presided over testimony by distinguished scholars such as Urie Bronfenbrenner, Margaret Mead, and Edward Zigler.

One outcome of the hearings was a call for family impact statements that, like environmental impact statements, would routinely assess the impact of government

policies and programs on family well-being. Members of the subcommittee thought the idea held promise but recommended that it should be researched more thoroughly before requiring its adoption.

In response, the Family Impact Seminar (FIS) was formed at George Washington University in 1976 and charged with conducting a number of studies to examine how to prioritize families in policy decisions. In the recent special issue on family policy in the *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, 11(1), Theodora Ooms, the second director of the Family Impact Seminar, describes the evolution of family policy and acknowledges the contributions of Vice President Walter Mondale (doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12316). I

describe the subsequent history of family impact analysis in my book, *Family Policy Matters: How Policymaking Affects Families and What Professionals Can Do* (Routledge, 2014). *

Karen Bogenschneider, Ph.D., is a NCFR Fellow and former NCFR Board member. She is a Rothermel-Bascom professor emerita of human ecology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

A second edition of Dr. Bogenschneider's book *Evidence-Based Policymaking: Envisioning a New Era of Theory, Research, and Practice* is now available from Routledge.



Karen Bogenschneider

Families and Health continued from page 13

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected families in numerous ways, including by changing daily routines and schooling, altering access to resources, and causing social isolation. In this session, papers address national and international patterns in family responses to the pandemic. In the first paper, Dr. Allen and colleagues use a national U.S. sample to explore intergenerational communication patterns using technology during the pandemic. In the second paper, Dr. Çarkoglu explores family patterns among a national sample of families in Turkey, finding that reducing caregiving burden, supporting direct and open family communication, and encouraging more equitable home care responsibility sharing among couples were associated with improved individual well-being for men and women. In the third paper, Dr. Berge explores ways that family meals during COVID-19 have provided protective associations with dietary and emotional well-being for young adults and their children. Last, Dr. Zartler and colleagues explored ways that mothers in Australia optimized their roles during the pandemic.

The Families and Health Section is also excited to cosponsor an invited session at the 2021 NCFR conference with the Issues in Aging Focus Group: **Lighter as We Go: Learning**

and Teaching Through Life Experience

Presenter:

Amy Lorek, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, Center for Healthy Aging, College of Health and Human Development, Penn State University

Facilitators:

Amber J. Seidel, Ph.D., CFLE, Associate Professor, Penn State York

Kelly Munly, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Penn State Altoona

In this session, we discuss innovative educational strategies for intergenerational experiences that strive to bolster cultivation of happiness and well-being among undergraduate students and older adults. Life course theory is used as a framework for developing these intergenerational course-based experiences. We will describe several program models used by communities and universities that feature age inclusion and age-friendly practices. Finally, we will offer tools for participants to apply age inclusion and age friendly practices to their own contexts.

2020 Families and Health Section Award Recipients

Below are the names of the individuals and the awards they received at the 2020 NCFR conference.

Excellence in Professional/Clinical Practice Award

Tia Mendenhall, Ph.D., LMFT

Projects: Family Education Diabetes Series, East Metro American Indian Diabetes Initiative

Outstanding Professional Paper/Publications Award

Antoinette Landor, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Missouri

“Skin-Tone Trauma: Historical and Contemporary Influences on the Health and Interpersonal Outcomes of African Americans”

Outstanding Student and New Professional Paper Award

Christine E. McCall, MS, Purdue University
“How Are Couples Impacted by Veterans’ PTSD Service Dogs?”

Outstanding Ph.D./NP Poster Award

Darcy Sullivan, MA, University of Kansas

“Women With Disabilities: Attitudes, Desires, and Intentions Regarding Children”

Outstanding Undergrad/Master’s Student Poster Award

Theresa Schinkowitch, BS, Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin–Madison

“Girls vs. Boys With Autism: Differences in the Parent–Child Relationship Quality” ✨

Latest NCFR Policy Brief

Transforming Child Welfare: Prioritizing Prevention, Racial Equity, and Advancing Child and Family Well-Being

Krista Thomas, Ph.D., and Charlotte Halbert, M.Pub.Pol.

A substantial transformation of the child welfare system is needed that prioritizes prevention of child maltreatment, racial equity, and improves and sustains child and family well-being. The Family First Prevention Services Act is an important step in this effort, although its scope falls short of the significant changes that are needed

to effectively serve children and families. Transformation requires intentional efforts to disentangle poverty and child neglect, and investments in communities to build robust, accessible continua of prevention services.

The latest NCFR Policy Brief suggests recommendations for federal, state, and local policymakers. Decision makers at

all levels of government have the ability to advance a child and family well-being agenda within their sphere of influence.

A two-page executive summary and a six-page policy brief are available for you to download and share with your legislators and networks. Find all NCFR Policy Briefs at nconf.org/policy-briefs. ✨

Bertina Hildreth Combes continued from page 12

their professional roles as educators. As recent as this past fall, despite the new and active and busy role she assumed as vice provost for faculty success, she met with undergraduate students and regularly checked in to provide support and nurturing into their profession," said Chandra Carey, co-chair of the UNT Black Faculty Network. "Her mentorship didn't stop with students. Bertina worked diligently within her college and across the university to increase the number of Black faculty at UNT. Her work focused not just on bringing them to UNT but also on keeping them here. She did this almost daily in informal ways and formally through faculty mentoring initiatives like the Black Women's Initiative, La Colectiva, and the Black Faculty Network. Even within these formal structures, her calm, kind, and thoughtful spirit yielded mentorships and friendships with students, faculty and staff alike."

This quote from Dr. Carey captures the fact that Bertina was an amazing daughter, sister, mother, aunt, educator, trailblazing scholar, higher education administrator, and wonderful friend. Those who knew Bertina knew that her faith was an important aspect of her life and she embodied servant leadership. Her membership in her church home and in her sorority represent just a bit of her dedication outside academia.

It is her tireless work in the academy that has transcended and touched many who knew her.

While Bertina may not have personally known or touched all of us, I see so much of her dedication and grace in the actions of past and present REDF members. Members who may not even know they are a mentor to others—through their tireless communication, behind-the-scenes support, and smiling faces at conferences. Showing leadership and dedication like Norma Burgess, Tammy Henderson, and Katia Paz Goldfarb; providing knowledge on direct client services like Curtis Fox and Bill Allen; publishing guidance like Anthony James Jr. and Roudi Roy; ardent student supporters like Farrell Webb and Ani Yazedjin; revolutionaries like Ouida Westney, Leonor Boulin Johnson, and Gladys Hildreth—all while standing on the shoulders of the section greats who came before us like Marie F. Peters, John and Harriet McAdoo, Bob Staples, David Baptiste, and countless others.

Through her acceptance, grace, support, care, love, challenges, and everyday uplifting spirit, Bertina continually taught and guided me. Bertina had a great love for shoes, a love that I share. We shared a passion for boots, often comparing notes on comfort and styles—

and even had some "twin" pairs! Today, and each day forward, I will wear my boots and strive to walk like her following the path she blazed. We are all better for having great mentors in our lives, and by walking Bertina's walk, I don't have to ask myself, What am I doing? Bertina has shown me.

So, although the tears may flow when I remember her, I write this not as a sad tribute or a goodbye to Bertina—her legacy will never die. She is a part of my spirit and the work of those she touched, and we strive to embody her abilities every day. Instead, this is a hello, we see you, we are blessed by your presence, we love you, and we thank you, our mentors of color. May the spirit of the ancestors continue to guide and comfort you as you lead us in supporting the next generation of scholars.

Members of the University of North Texas Black Faculty Network and NCFR Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section would like to extend our condolences to the family of our beloved Dr. Bertina Hildreth Combes. The Bertina H. Combes Scholarship has been established in her honor through UNT University Advancement.

Rest in Heaven Bertina,
Yolanda Mitchell, REDF Past Chair
with REDF and UNT BFN Leadership Teams ✨

Find Family Science Academic Programs on NCFR's New Interactive Map CFLE-Approved Programs Map Also Available

Looking for Family Science academic programs in a certain geographic area? Check out two new interactive maps for quick-reference visuals of program locations in the U.S. and Canada:

- **All Family Science Degree Programs (undergraduate, master's, doctoral)**
- **CFLE-Approved Programs**

Graduates of programs approved for the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential can apply through an abbreviated process for the CFLE credential offered by NCFR, to help increase their professional credibility as they navigate the job market.

Dive deeper into Family Science program options — including minors and certificates — in NCFR's main guide to Degree Programs in Family Science.

Visit nconf.org/degree-programs.



Welcome to the Newest Members of NCFR

Please join us in welcoming these members who joined between January 1 and March 31, 2021.

Adisu Obse Abdissa	Morgan Shae Canterbury	Paula Gregory	Modesta Juarez-Jacinto	Rachel McGovern
Britni Adams	Nakita M. Carroll	Allison Gress	Hyeungok Kang	Michaela Ann McMillan
Banafsheh Aghayeeabianeh	LaTonya Carter	Mialauni Griggs	Julianna Karhan	Eunice Wamuyu Menja
Gabriela Alvarado	Rosa Cenicerros	Jazmin Alexis Grine	Amber Kelley	Meghan Merkley
Lubna Anis	April Clark	Nahide Gungordu	Eunbea Kim	Shela Michel-Alouidor
Lianne May Christy Backstrom	Wendy Cozzens	Linda Isabel Gutierrez	Hye Jin Kim	Janelle Marie Miller
Karen Bateman	Kelly V. DaCunha	Taylor Kathleen Hale	Michael Q. King	Hannah Mills Mechler
Tonia Rochelle Beasley	Jennifer De Santiago	Clara Yang Haubold	Seulki Ku	Christiana Arlene Mitchell
Theresa Marie Benson	Darcey Kathryn deSouza	Morgan Hebensperger	Kaoru Kuroiwa	Qshequilla Parham Mitchell
Angela Black	Julie C. Dunsmore	Kennie Lorenzo Hicks III	Mary Lamas	Angelina Marie Mojica
Maddie Bland	Katie Lynn Edmondson	Adrene Siesta Hill	Mary Katherine Lance	Kristen Baker Mouton
Cherri Lynn Boller	Carly Evich	Dawn Marie Holmes	Sophia Anne Leung	Melinda Regine Murdock
Catherine Boomer	Emily Eylon	Kellie Hood	Yujun Liu	Brenda Lee Norton
Darby Kay Brackett	Ann Feldblum	Curlene C. Howell	Cristina Lopez	Kayla Jan O'Malley
Susan Brown	Queen Szanice Calaguas Flores	Heather Hubert	Carrie Lynn Louch	Alexandra Isabel O'Brien
Morgan Christine Bumgarner	Ronald Joseph Flores	Khadija Jackson	Chloe Lundabolt	Christine McCauley Ohannessian
Kenzi Jae Callaway	Abigail Anne Fontana	Emily Elizabeth Janes	Tricia Martinez	Cheolwoo Park
Yamilet Campos	Joyce Gautier	LaQuanda Jefferson	Velinka Marton	<i>Newest Members</i>
	Alicia Noel Gebhard	Nicole Johnson	Rebekah Ruth Maue	<i>continued on page 18</i>
		Emily Elizabeth Jordan	Talicia McCall	

Congratulations to NCFR's Honors Graduates for Spring 2021

NCFR awarded honors to 40 college and university students who completed their academic programs in spring 2020. Thank you to our members who reviewed applications!

NCFR Honors Student Recognition is awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding achievements in academics, leadership, and community service in the discipline of Family Science.

Graduating soon? The deadline to **apply for honors** for summer 2021 graduates is June 1.

Spring 2021 Recipients

Baylor University

Tisa L. Berry

Florida State University

Peipei Hong

Illinois State University

Jennifer Rose Versaskas
Rosamar K. Perez

Indiana State University

Kayli M. Worthey
Rebekah R. Maue
Sloane Rose

Loma Linda University

Natalie Wei-Mun Hsieh

McNeese State University

Kathryn Jane Rozas
Kristen B. Mouton

Messiah University

Beth Hockenberry
Danna Ramirez-Gomez
Janelle Miller
Julianna (Jewel) Karhan

Miami University

Emily H. Eylon
Morgan C. Bumgarner

Michigan State University

Matthew A. Beck

Honors Graduates continued on page 17

Congratulations to Our New Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs) designated between January 1 and March 31, 2021.
Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alabama

Erin Marie Cooper FULL

California

Erin Ann Thompson FULL
Paula Galindo
April V. Martinez

Colorado

Jennifer (Jenn) E. Greiving

Delaware

Andrea Gross FULL
Emily Davis Grabowski

Florida

Sarah Grace Kidney

Georgia

Azariah Gabrielle Partridge

Guam

Toni Van Orman

Idaho

Lauryn Elizabeth Howell

Illinois

Taylor Elaine Swiderski

Indiana

Ruth Kemunto Nyabeta

Kansas

Renée Elizabeth Wilkins-Clark FULL

Louisiana

Mary David
Mary Elizabeth Poe

Massachusetts

Aashi Chhabra

Michigan

Christi Demitz FULL

Jenna Rachel Berry

Kayla Caroline Boye

Ashtyn Lyn Hare

Sydney McKay Herman

Rowshon A. Jahan

Rhonda Lynn McKay

McKenna Smith

Sarah Ashley Vandewege

Minnesota

December Kathryn Brakefield

FULL

Emily Kalia Vang

FULL

Kelly M. Engebretson

Missouri

Abigail Beauregard

Clarisse Ferree Gregory

LeeAnna Terri Linton

Tarae Deaira Thibeaux

Ashley Vosse

Chelsea Nicole Wehmeyer

Mississippi

Linda Vail Perkes

North Carolina

Dawn Marie Holmes

Jakira Tanae Miller

New Mexico

Kellie Hood

Samantha Marquez

Camberlee Payne

Nevada

Elizabeth Leeanne Davis

Karla Dominguez

Elizabeth Miller

Shelby Jolene Peterson

Natalie Servellon

Ohio

Alice C. Long FULL

Jocelyn Benita Smith FULL

Katie Lynn Almendinger

Elizabeth Helms

Oklahoma

Darla K Kilhoffer FULL

Pennsylvania

Sarah LH Brown FULL

Anna Eleanor D'Alesandro

Quebec

Claudia Cristina MacLean

South Carolina

Sydney Gordon

Tennessee

Elizabeth Nicole Saylor FULL

Caitlyn Deanna Coley

Bethany Grace Easterling

Rachel Anne Rooker

Texas

Keyerra Hale FULL

Michelle Aino Elisabeth Larva

FULL

Mariah Nicole Goodspeed

Amber Monson

Stephanie Wesson

Utah

Maddison Bryant

Zachary Hill Davis

Journey Greenwell

Olivia Erin Gruwell

Damia Raylene Shimmin

Virginia

Madeleine C. Kay

Natalie Jane Sweet

Honors Graduates continued from page 16

Mississippi University for Women

Kennie L. Hicks

Northern Illinois University

Lauren C. Rice

Oklahoma Baptist University

Mackenzie J. Camp

Southeast Missouri State University

Yamilet Campos

Stephen F. Austin State University

Lindsey G. Lightfoot

Texas Tech University

Matthew M. Rivas-Koehl

Michael Dane Rivas-Koehl

Rosa Cenicerros

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Jingchen Zhang

University of Central Oklahoma

Salena Maria King

University of Connecticut

Abigail L. Horton

University of Florida

Katherine B. Vasquez

University of Kentucky

Morgan M. Kidwell

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Bailey Reigle

University of New Mexico

Holly N. Mayer

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Ireti Adegbesan

University of North Texas at Dallas

Ivrisha D. Neal

Linda Isabel Gutierrez

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Jenae Bluhm

Colton T. Kilpatrick

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Theresa Schinkowitch

University of Wisconsin–Stout

Caroline Allaback

Weber State University

Melinda Watson

New: Resources to Support ‘Family Science’ in Department Names

Join All the Institutions Making the Change!

Get support from NCFR to get the term “Family Science” into the names of your majors/minors, degree programs, departments, and more.

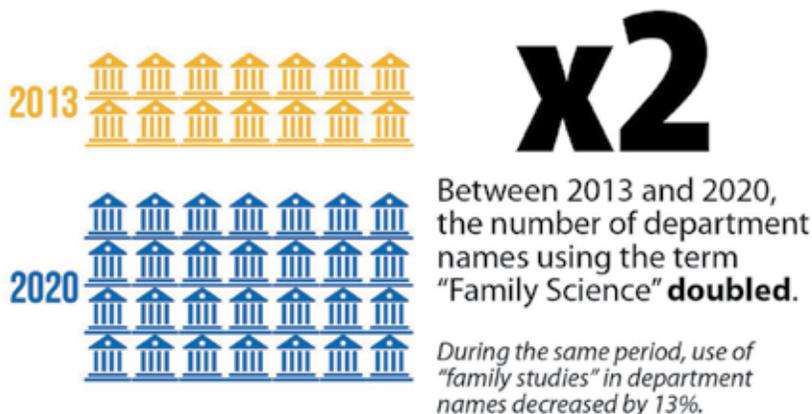
Resources available for download:

- customizable NCFR letter of support
- bibliography of Family Science as a discipline
- narrative fact sheet
- data fact sheet showing numbers of programs using “Family Science”
- sample text other institutions have successfully used

Get these resources at
ncfr.org/fs-name-change-form

Why the Term ‘Family Science’?

- Expand **Visibility**
- Strengthen **Credibility**
- Support **History**
- Deliver **Accuracy**
- Boost Professional **Identity**
- Increase **Impact**



Learn more from our resources and join the growing list of institutions using “Family Science” to represent the discipline!

New Members continued from page 16

Somin Park,	Lauren C. Rice	Tiffany J. Shewmake	Anna E. Turner	Jennifer Whelan
Anthony G. Pennant	Kimberly Rogers	Bailey E. Smith	Toni Van Orman	Schlyer W. Wiecek
Rosamar Karina Perez	Susan Ruddock	Joanna Lynn Smith	Claudia Vega	Anne Williams Wengerd
Hannah Radcliff-Hoy	Yeonji Ryou	Maggie Smith	Cindy Veldhuis	Yvonne A. Williford
Danna Ramirez Gomez	Michelle Salazar	Kristine Stanik	Heidi Waters	Tin Yat Wong
Stephanie R. Rayburn	Mamta Saxena	Jennette Stanley	Chelsea Webb	Corrie Wright
Karen Lea Redding	Lindye Kaye Schmechel	Pam Jane Sward	Sara Elizabeth Wendling	Cathy A. Wyatt
Bailey Reigle	Melissa Dawn Shamburger	Debra Tomasino		Melissa Marie Yzaguirre

National Council on Family Relations

Journal Editor Position

Call for nominations and applications for the position of
Editor of *Journal of Family Theory & Review*

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is seeking nominations and applications for the position of editor of *Journal of Family Theory & Review* (JFTR). The term of the current editor, Mark A. Fine, Ph.D., (University of North Carolina at Greensboro), will be completed with the publication of the December 2022 issue.

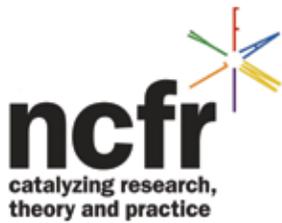
The five-year term of the new editor will begin with the publication of the March 2023 issue. Editorial responsibilities will begin to transfer to the new editor beginning January 2022. The JFTR Search Committee anticipates selecting the new editor by Oct. 1, 2021, and announcing the new editor at the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference in November.

A detailed description of the editor's responsibilities may be obtained from: Search Committee for Editor of *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, National Council on Family Relations, Rosemary Johnson at rosemaryjohnson@ncfr.org.

Nominations and applications, including a letter of application and a curriculum vitae, should be sent before Aug. 1, 2021, to **National Council on Family Relations**, 661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55114.

Or, send electronically at any time to rosemaryjohnson@ncfr.org. The JFTR Search Committee will review application materials beginning Aug. 1, 2021. Nominees and applicants must be members of the National Council on Family Relations.





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in this issue:
Mending Relationships

2021 NCFR Annual Conference Nov. 2-5, 2021

Register this Spring! *Early Bird Rates Thru June 14*

Plenary Presenters

- Andrea G. Hunter, Ph.D.
- Patricia Matthews-Juarez, Ph.D.
- Camara P. Jones, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.




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