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Family Focus: A New "Normal"

Although the global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have many people worldwide longing for a return to "normal," several questions remain, including, for example: Is a return to normal possible or even desirable? What would a new normal look like? What do families need to thrive in the new normal? In this issue of Family Focus, the contributing authors offer some insight into how Family Science can advance research, practice, and policy that supports families in embracing and thriving in a new "normal."

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2022 NCFR Annual Conference

Nov. 16-19, 2022

Light and Shadow: Shifting Perspectives and Families

Registration opens in April
ncfr.org/ncfr-2022

Karina M. Shreffler Selected as 2024 NCFR Annual Conference Program Chair

The NCFR Board of Directors has appointed **Karina M. Shreffler, Ph.D., CFLE**, to be program chair for the 2024 NCFR Annual Conference, scheduled to be held Nov. 20-23, 2024, in Bellevue, Washington. The program chair's primary duties are to select the theme, identify the plenary speakers, and prepare the call for abstracts for a particular year's conference.

Dr. Shreffler is the Cyndy Ellis-Purgason Chair in child health and professor of nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is trained as a sociologist and demographer, having received both her master's and doctoral degrees from Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Shreffler's research focuses broadly on the areas of maternal and child health, with a primary focus on reproductive and perinatal health and well-being.

Dr. Shreffler is an accomplished and award-winning scholar. She has been awarded over \$2 million in extramural funding for her work and her findings have been used in widespread clinical applications and featured in local and national popular press outlets. Her work has resulted in five invited book chapters and 66 peer-reviewed journal articles published in key research journals in Family Science, health, demography, and social science.

Since 2019, she has served as a visiting scholar at the Vienna Institute of Demography and has received the Oklahoma State University Teaching Fellow Award and

the Oklahoma State University Regents Distinguished Research Award. She also recently participated as a faculty fellow at the HERS Institute, one of the premier leadership development programs for women in higher education in the United States.

Dr. Shreffler is an established leader at NCFR, having held elected positions for over a decade. Most notably, she provided leadership to the Family and Health Section as secretary/treasurer, vice-chair, and then section chair. She also serves on the Conference Improvement Committee and was co-chair of the Administration and Leadership Focus Group. This high level of involvement demonstrates her colleagues' confidence in her leadership abilities and reflects her familiarity with NCFR and its goals.

Dr. Shreffler has proposed the 2024 conference theme **Building Resilience Among Individuals, Families, and Communities**, to focus on healing from lasting implications of the pandemic and societal division—particularly given the timing of the 2024 conference, following a presidential election. The conference will work to bring together expert researchers and practitioners to explore how to foster



Karina M. Shreffler

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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.

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In Memoriam: William C. Nichols, Jr.

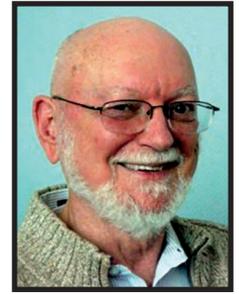
NCFR Past President **William C. Nichols, Jr., Ph.D.**, died on June 19, 2021, at age 92. Dr. Nichols was NCFR's 35th president from 1976-78 and from 1970-75 served as the second editor of NCFR's journal, *The Family Coordinator*, which was renamed *Family Relations* in 1980.

Dr. Nichols was a leader in the fields of marriage and family therapy (MFT) and clinical psychology, and worked to establish standards for practice in organizations that represent MFT. In addition to his roles at NCFR, he was the founding editor of *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), and served twice as president for the International Family Therapy Association. He was a fellow of the American Psychological Association and Division 43 (Family Psychology), the Association for Psychological Science, AAMFT, and the American Orthopsychiatric Association, and Diplomate in Clinical Psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychologists. He received numerous awards for his contributions to

marital and family therapy, family psychology, and mental health organizations.

Dr. Nichols earned his bachelor's from the University of Alabama, and a doctorate in education from Columbia University, New York. He served as a professor at numerous institutions including the University of Alabama-Birmingham, Samford University, the Merrill-Palmer Institute, Florida State University, and the University of Georgia. Dr. Nichols authored four books by himself, published books as a co-author and editor, and was an author or co-author of more than 50 peer-reviewed articles.

*A eulogy was given for Dr. Nichols at the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference as part of the memorial service held at each annual conference. **



William C. Nichols, Jr.

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Are We There Yet?

Norma J. Bond Burgess, Ph.D., NCFR President, norma.burgess@lipscomb.edu

Spring always finds its way to us. Renewals from the snow, cold, and sometimes dreary seasons: One thing I know for sure is that the seasons will show up with or without our permission, consent, or gratitude. These are things that neither our families nor we can control. As we continue to engage with our students and colleagues, our commitment to them as professors, practitioners, and mentors, we must ensure that they are well prepared for the work that is at hand during one of the most challenging times in the history of this nation and the world.

We continue to hold on to what we know to do, learn about what we need to do, and wait patiently for the change that will always come. None of us is certain of what the future holds and cannot predict what it will bring. Philosophically, we must be prepared with “something” as best we can. In your classes, make the assignments that you give to your students challenging to a point that the solution to proposed problems seems like the largest challenge that they have ever faced. Problem solving in every way affects our students and us significantly; one thing, though, is that we

rarely hear students mention the unlikely coronavirus impact in their lives.

Our thought processes lead us to think in significant and sometimes unproductive ways. Raise your hand if you thought we were finished with COVID after the availability of the vaccine. It seems as though we have come a long way within a short time. We continue to have our lives affected with each variant.

Projects that were planned, conferences that were to be attended, and places we were going have all changed.

Setting and reaching goals for your mentees is the stuff of which life is made. It feels like a new world has evolved and we are living in a different place. Projects that were planned, conferences that were to be attended, and places we were going have all changed. It seems as though we must live with whatever is around us. Many organizations, including college campuses,

have done a great job doing what they do best—educate students. Given that many of our students want the traditional *on-the-ground* college experience, students seem to be happier now than when the first semester of the pandemic ended all too soon in spring 2020.

What does that mean for us? First, accepting the fact that viruses and illnesses continue to break out and do their best to run rampant. Many years ago, on a visit to Hong Kong just after the SARS outbreak, I noted that everyone in public places wore masks, even though the crisis was under control. Of course, visitors did not (including us). There were many workers in public spaces, all of whom were “masked” up—this may very well be what we come to and keep it moving if we are to go about our daily lives that have changed tremendously. It forces us to be in kinder spaces with ourselves and with others and add an additional portion of grace to them as well.

Shortly after the vaccine began to be available, I witnessed environments where people were excited and thankful for the vaccine. Others were skeptical or hesitant of medical advice and solutions. I am not sure what the answers will be. The great impacter—virus almost certainly will determine many of the activities in which we get to engage. Many questions about about the directions that we must take. Either way, much work awaits us all, services will be available to those who need them, and we will move forward on the best ideas. Yes, things have changed, and, in many ways, we will adjust and make them work. Societies all settled in and made the appropriate adjustments whether you agreed with them or not. If you want to be free to do what you like (teach research and serve) unfortunately, you will need to adjust as well. We will see what the next steps are. ✨

Program Chair continued from page 1

resilience among families and within communities during a time when most of the world’s population will still be looking for ways to heal from the challenges the pandemic has posed.

Dr. Shreffler’s proposed conference sessions and plenary speakers will highlight the lasting impact of the pandemic on children and families, exploring how healing can buffer the long-term impact of the adversities faced during this global event. Using an equity lens, sessions will highlight community-based solutions that

are successfully promoting family and community well-being and explore how macrolevel political events impact the lived experiences of families and communities.

The NCFR Elections Council was impressed with the timely nature of Dr. Shreffler’s conference theme and her experience in translating her own academic work into evidence-based interventions. In their recommendation of Dr. Shreffler, the council wrote that she will “build a conference that will be thought-provoking, engaging, and inclusive of various perspectives.” ✨



NCFR Conference 2022 Update

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

Just when we thought we were out of the COVID-19 woods, the pandemic took another turn with the Omicron variant, and we witnessed other organizations scrambling back to Zoom and online meetings for their conferences. The best way forward for NCFR at this time is to continue to plan for an in-person conference and be prepared to move online if conditions warrant. Our communication to you will be frequent and frank, and we'll check in with you along the way through short surveys.

Thank you to those who completed a conference attendance survey in early January. About 33% of survey respondents indicated that they plan to attend regardless of conference format; nearly 20% said they would attend only if the conference were virtual; and about 15% indicated they would attend only if the conference were in person. About 20% were uncertain whether they would attend, identifying concerns related to actual or anticipated restrictions in large-group gatherings and travel as the primary reasons for their uncertainty.

Regardless of conference format, NCFR will have another outstanding annual conference this year and we hope you will make every effort to participate.

Advancing Family Science Initiative Update

NCFR's Advancing Family Science (AFS) Initiative has created two key resources designed to strengthen the identity, visibility, and perceived value of Family Science: a guide to giving a Family Science elevator pitch called "How to Explain Family Science to Anyone" (ncfr.org/family-science-elevator-pitch) and the online Toolkit to Promote Family Science (ncfr.org/family-science-toolkit).

If you have ever struggled to explain the essence of Family Science to colleagues across campus, policymakers, or family

members, you'll find the "How to Explain Family Science to Anyone" resource helpful. This step-by-step guide takes you through the process of constructing a persuasive and concise "pitch" that is geared toward your audience, easy to understand, and memorable. The materials can be used by individuals or in classroom settings and can be easily adapted to pertain to your area of research or to pitch yourself professionally in a job interview. Look for more information on this helpful tool in NCFR communications and share your Family Science elevator pitch on social media—use the hashtag #FamilyScience or tag NCFR in your post.

If you have ever struggled to explain the essence of Family Science, you'll find our new "elevator pitch" resource helpful.

Over the past 18 months, more than 75 graphics, posters, articles, and more have been created to promote the identity of Family Science. They have been collected into the online Toolkit to Promote Family Science, and you can download and use any of the resources for free. Files in various formats allow you to select the resources specific to your needs, including graphics for your web, social media, and print projects; career profiles to share; and links to interactive online resources, including NCFR's guides to Family Science degree programs and career exploration.

Both new resources were reviewed and are recommended by NCFR members. If you need something that you are not finding, please send us your request or need at ncfr.org/family-science-feedback.

One of the next projects on the agenda for the AFS Initiative is to explore with members the relationship between Family Science and human development. Over the course of this initiative, questions have arisen about how the two academic disciplines overlap—particularly given the prevalence of the name "Human Development and Family Science" for academic programs—and how NCFR should articulate or represent the connection between the two. In addition, work will continue on career resources, standards for Family Science degree programs, and the creation of resources explaining Family Science to practitioner employers.

Gratitude for the Community NCFR Creates

During these trying times, I am mindful of the many ways NCFR members contribute to the well-being of our shared community. Every day, members share their knowledge and wisdom in myriad ways, such as volunteering through leadership positions in NCFR, presenting webinars, serving on editor search committees, submitting manuscripts to NCFR publications, and reviewing those manuscripts, just to name a few. It is also greatly appreciated when members take the time to provide feedback on NCFR programming or suggest new ways the NCFR community can enhance its support of one another. Your efforts don't go unnoticed. From various conversations over the years, I have witnessed the positive influence many of you have had upon your colleagues. I have also seen firsthand how so many of you step forward—time and time again—to support NCFR in its mission to serve families around the world. Whether you are new to NCFR or you've been with us for a while, please know that your involvement matters, and keeps NCFR moving forward. NCFR doesn't belong to just one person but is a place for all its members. Thank you to everyone who contributes in these ways to the NCFR community. ✨



Second Virtual Family Life Education Summit Scheduled for Spring 2022

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

With the tremendous success of National Council on Family Relations' (NCFR) first **Virtual Family Life Education Summit**, held in 2021, NCFR will hold a second Summit on **Friday, June 24, 2022**. Of respondents who attended the summit, 93% rated it excellent or very good, and evaluation comments indicated that Family Life Education (FLE) practitioners were grateful for the opportunity to connect with one another and to learn and share about best practices specific to FLE. There is clearly interest and support for another summit.

For the first summit, I worked closely with members of the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Advisory Board to plan and carry out the event. Members of the Advisory Board will continue to be involved (especially in the review of submissions), but this year I have created a Virtual FLE Summit task force comprising several attendees of the first summit who expressed interest in helping to plan a future event. The task force will free up the Advisory Board's time to focus on CFLE projects and will help provide an opportunity for more CFLE practitioner members to be involved in the planning and implementation of this important practitioner-focused event. Current task force members include **Anita Armstrong, Deb Berke, Mary Bold, Kelly DaCunha, Chinatu Gladrich, Joyce Mayberry, Karen Shirer, and Barbara Sweeney**.

We'll replicate much of the 2021 summit's successful format but are considering some modifications to the schedule, with the possible inclusion of shorter sessions and more opportunities for interaction. The theme of the 2021 summit, *Strengthening & Supporting the Work of Family Life Educators*, was intentionally broad to appeal to a wide range of FLE professionals. It drew presentations on such topics as coping with grief, adverse childhood experiences and

corporal punishment, trauma-informed FLE, decentering Whiteness, starting and growing an FLE business, using social media, helping parents find trustworthy information, and a number of sessions focused on developing and implementing FLE programming, moving FLE programs online, and outreach and community engagement. We are planning a similarly broad theme for this year's event in an effort to continue to focus on the foundations of FLE because there is a need for this information. Many FLEs have degrees and training specifically in Family Science, but it is also true that many practitioners

Of respondents who attended the 2021 FLE Summit, 93% rated it excellent or very good.

come to FLE from different disciplines and through winding career paths. This creates a strong need for professional development opportunities focused on the foundations of FLE. Family Life Educators who didn't earn a degree in Family Science, and even those who did a few years ago, can benefit from professional development opportunities focused on the FLE content area topics, including family systems, family dynamics, human development, sexuality, interpersonal relationships, family resource management, parenting education, and family law and public policy, as well as on the knowledge and skills involved in the *practice* of FLE, including conducting a needs assessment, program development, implementation, and evaluation, facilitation skills, group process techniques, marketing, and more.

That isn't to say that there won't be sessions that focus on more specific or timely issues, such as working with diverse audiences or practicing FLE in the time of a global pandemic, or ones that dig deeper into particular topics. The task force and CFLE

Advisory Board members will be reviewing the call for proposals and submission and review process and are considering identifying tracks in the program to ensure that it provides the best opportunity for practitioners to effectively share their knowledge and experiences through summit sessions.

Over the next month or two, we will be finalizing plans for the 2022 summit. Please watch for the call for proposals and consider sharing your knowledge and expertise through a submission. The 2022 Virtual FLE Summit is a great opportunity for practicing FLEs to support one another and advance the field. It will provide a way for new and experienced FLE practitioners to enhance their knowledge and skills in the practice of FLE.

CFLE Conversations Planned for 2022

Another opportunity for CFLEs to network with and support one another is provided through CFLE Conversations. We held six sessions in 2021 directed at CFLEs working with military families, mental illness, parenting education, domestic violence prevention, community partnerships, and substance abuse prevention. These sessions were well received thanks to the facilitators who did a great job of keeping the conversation going: **Ginny Wescott, Mara Briere, Jody Johnston Pawel, Marissa Heim, Joyce Mayberry, and Markell Kunzelman**.

We'll be holding eight CFLE Conversations in 2022. Sessions planned to date include *Marriage and Relationship Education* (**Taliah Ayers**), *Homelessness* (**Janeal White**), *FLE Coaching* (**Lisa Krause**), *Self-Employed CFLEs* (**Susan Meyerle**), and *Foster Care and Adoption* (**Evin Richardson**). Visit CFLE Benefits section of the NCFR website for more information. Please contact me at dawncassidy@ncfr.org if you have a suggestion for a topic and/or are interested in facilitating a session. ✨



2021 NCFR Annual Conference— A Second Successful Virtual Conference

Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Research and Policy Education, jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org; with the help of NCFR's excellent staff: Maddie Hansen, Allison Wickler, Cindy Winter, and Trip Sullivan.

The second virtual NCFR Annual Conference was another success! The annual conference continues to be an amazing experience with fabulous sessions and networking opportunities, whether in person or virtual. The 2021 conference theme, *The Science of Families: Nurturing Hope, Happiness, and Health*, established by the 2021 NCFR Conference Chair Dr. Tammy Henderson, addressed important and timely topics such as systemic racism. The overall quality of the research at the 2021 conference was rated at 4.27 out of 5, with 83.5% of respondents (out of 225) saying the quality of research was very good to excellent. Well done, everyone!

To continue with the series of updating *NCFR Report* readers on planning for a virtual conference, this column shares information on how the awards were presented and how the Annual NCFR Membership meeting and memorial service were held.

Awards Ceremony

When the conference is held in person, awards are presented, and Fellows are inducted at the beginning of the four conference plenary sessions. The new Fellows and awardees receive greater individual recognition by receiving the awards during these highly visible sessions. How Fellows were inducted and awards presented during the past two years was drastically changed for the virtual conference.

NCFR staff, specifically Maddie Hansen, NCFR's membership manager, researched how other organizations were reenvisioning award presentations in the virtual world. The answer was to create a virtual Awards Ceremony and a prerecorded Fellows induction.

In 2020, the Fellows induction was prerecorded by NCFR Board President Leigh Leslie. The recording was played during the Thursday plenary session and the Awards

Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony also was prerecorded, with award committee chairs announcing the award, its history, and the recipient. The awardee's name and picture—both professional and personal—were presented along with the awardee's merits while the award committee chair presented the award. The recipient of the NCFR Olson Grant: Bridging Research, Theory, and Practice was also announced during this recording.

An exciting benefit emerged from this new format: Awardees were able to invite their family, colleagues, and friends to attend the ceremony and see them being presented

A virtual Awards Ceremony provided recipients additional recognition and the ability to share the awards ceremony for those who missed it.

the award. We learned, though, that there was still room to increase engagement among participants. Another benefit of the Awards Ceremony is that each two-minute video segment could be shared in our weekly e-newsletter, *Zippy News*, and

on social media following the conference. This provided award recipients additional recognition and the ability to share the awards ceremony for those who missed it.

The 2021 Fellows induction and Awards Ceremony followed the same concept as in 2020, with an additional focus on engagement. For 2021, Fellows and awardees were asked to be live on camera when being inducted or being presented their award. We saw many excited family members with the honorees this time! Participants were also able to provide congratulatory remarks in the chat feature and respond with Zoom emojis (graphics such as clapping hands, hearts, and thumbs up). Congratulations again to all of our awardees and new Fellows!

The NCFR Annual Member Meeting

Although the pandemic prevented us all from meeting in person for the NCFR Annual Conference over the past two years, one silver lining of the shift to virtual meetings is that NCFR's Annual Member Meeting—which usually takes place in person at the conference—was available for all members to attend online for free. This created the opportunity for many more members to

NCFR Report: A Member Forum

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.

participate, as typically only about one-third of NCFR members attend the annual conference in person. Given the potential for many more members to log on for the virtual member meeting, we elected to use part of the meeting in both years for member feedback and discussions around a key issue for NCFR: advancing and promoting the Family Science discipline. In 2020, more than 70 members attended to offer their feedback and ideas for NCFR's new Advancing Family Science Initiative, an effort to strengthen the identity, visibility, and perceived value of Family Science. The format proved a great way both to hear from a greater number and diversity of members and to allow members to participate in multiple ways—sharing thoughts aloud or using the written chat feature—so it felt fitting to repeat in 2021.

The shift to virtual meetings created the opportunity for many more members to participate.

In 2021, the virtual member meeting covered what NCFR's role and work should look like in setting standards for Family Science academic programs. More than 120 people attended the meeting! Another excellent discussion was held that focused on standards for Family Science doctoral programs.

The Memorial Service

Every year, NCFR members must say goodbye to cherished colleagues who have passed away. Time is held during each annual conference to recognize any NCFR member or CFLE who died over the previous year. Members who were awarded NCFR Fellow status, served on the Board of Directors, or held the role of NCFR journal editor are eulogized by an NCFR colleague, who might share pictures, stories, and memories. After these eulogies, attendees share memories and stories for any other colleague lost during the year. Cindy Winter ends the service by reading a poem. The memorial service is very personal and full of emotion and support—a beautiful celebration of life.

When the NCFR conference moved virtually, NCFR staff had to determine how to hold an authentic memorial online. It was decided to prerecord eulogies. The memorial was held over Zoom and a video played colleagues eulogizing those who had passed. Family members of the deceased were invited to attend, and more people were able to participate given the virtual format. However, attendees were reluctant to talk and share stories in this format, so there was less emotional connection during the celebration of life.

During the 2021 memorial service, it was especially important to bring back the ability to share memories of our dearly departed. The format of the memorial service was the same as in 2020, but in 2021 the entire service was live. Family members were again invited to attend the memorial

service in a celebration of life. Some of those who participated commented that the memorial service was powerful, emotional, and personal.

Closing

It has been a rough two years around the world, and the pandemic does not seem to be ending anytime soon. Despite all the difficulties, NCFR members and staff rose to the challenge of organizing and participating in two virtual annual conferences. Well done, everyone! As we look to the 2022 NCFR Annual Conference, we are planning for an in-person event. NCFR is committed to creating a safe and healthy environment and is closely monitoring COVID-19 and its variants to ensure the safety of presenters, attendees, and staff during the in-person event. We truly hope to see you again in person! ✨

NCFR's Education Section Updates Its Name and Purpose

NCFR members have the opportunity to connect and communicate through its 10 sections, each formed around professional interest topics. Section participation provides opportunities for conference participation, leadership and service, awards, and more. NCFR's section devoted to the effectiveness of Family Life Education methods, materials, and process has updated its name and renewed its purpose. The section members held a vote and decided that the former Education and Enrichment Section will now be known as the **Family and Community Education Section (FCE)**.

The section supports and unites the members of NCFR who are involved with and interested in the translation of research into effective community education and engagement for individuals, couples, and families. The purpose of the section is to encourage dialogue and share evidence-informed resources about methods, materials,

programs, and processes for enriching and improving the lives of individuals, couples, and families across the life course. Learn more at nconf.org/sections/fce.

NCFR members may add sections to their membership at any time. To add a section to your membership, log in at my.nconf.org, click "Join Additional Sections," check the boxes for the additional sections you wish to join, then continue through checkout. ✨

Reducing Unintended Pregnancy in Teens

Member Q&A With Nina Bates



Nina Bates

Family Science Impact highlights how NCFR members are making a difference through their Family Science work and showcases their career journeys. See more about the many careers and professions of Family Science at nconf.org/family-science-careers

Name:

Nina Bates, Ph.D., CFLE

Job Titles:

- Director of Programs, North Texas Alliance to Reduce Unintended Pregnancy in Teens (NTARUPT)
- Adjunct Faculty Member, University of North Texas (UNT)

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

As director of programs at NTARUPT, I serve as project manager for the federal grant for optimal health from the Office of Population Affairs. I coordinate and collaborate with public and charter educational communities and with other community partners to facilitate sexual education and/or provide technical assistance related to providing sexual education.

Our mission at NTARUPT is all about reducing the incidence of unintended pregnancy in teens; therefore, the mission itself speaks to why my current work is so important. Youth who possess and are empowered by knowledge about how their bodies work, human sexuality, contraception and how to access it, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and the characteristics of a healthy relationship can develop the skills to maintain sexual health and improve decision-making about sexual health.

It is well known that there are disparities across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups regarding mutual access to quality health care, so helping underserved

communities through restorative education efforts makes my work important, too. Considering that many recent policy efforts in Texas have focused on what happens after pregnancy, I would add that my work is especially important because it focuses on prevention and promotes an upstream approach to maintaining optimal health through complete sexual education. If ever there was a time and need to prevent unintended pregnancy among Texas teens, that time is now.

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

My professional path to the present has been colorful and varied in its makeup, but it has all involved education and working with families: educating youth experiencing mental illness; working with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; meeting the housing needs of families as a real estate broker; working as the school-age parent educator and teaching parenting education and human growth and development across the lifespan in public high school districts; facilitating graduate and undergraduate courses; and much more.

My mother, now retired, was an incredible educator who was my teacher twice—once in sixth grade and again my senior year in high school—because of her certifications in multiple subject areas. Mom participated greatly in shaping my path through her demonstration of care and compassion in the classroom while holding herself and her students to the highest standards. Mom earned multiple degrees when I was extremely young, which was not particularly

common for a Black woman at the time; her example certainly influenced my personal educational journey, which has yielded a doctoral degree, three master's degrees, and multiple professional certifications.

Finally, I had some incredible collegiate mentors who shaped and influenced my path, like Dr. Joyce Armstrong, Dr. Gladys Hildreth, and Dr. Arminta Jacobson, all of whom are Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs).

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

Family Science and knowledge about all 10 content areas of Family Life Education are essential components of my current professional work. Improving the lives of individuals and families through education is the cornerstone of everything I do, be it in adolescent education, parental education, collegiate education, or community education. Of course, my work with NTARUPT is about human sexuality, interpersonal relationships, human growth and development across the lifespan, parent education and guidance, and more.

As an adjunct faculty member for UNT, I teach Family Life Education, Family Law and Public Policy, Interpersonal Relationships, and other subjects. My knowledge of professional ethics and practice encourages me to be intentional with modeling a high standard of conduct and integrity with decision-making.

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

As someone currently in the generativity versus stagnation stage of Erikson's stages of psychosocial development, it is very

important to me to positively impact future generations. Imparting knowledge to the people I lead professionally as director of programs at NTARUPT is a fully rewarding experience, and sowing into the next generations while expanding younger people's capacity through mentoring and teaching is so satisfying and worthwhile.

What makes me the proudest, though, is how I have parented my children, who are now young adults. I have poured as much as I could of the knowledge and skills gained being a student of Family Science and Family Life Education into my role as a parent, and I am so proud of that work and the impact of the same.

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

I wish I would have begun some of my educational work earlier and delved more deeply into increasing my understanding about data collection, statistics, and academic research earlier. I would love to have known earlier how much I would come to depend on research and data in every area of my professional work.

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

- I would love for the world to know just how essential Family Science and Family

Life Education are to the building of strong families and strong communities.

- I would love to participate in dispelling the myth that providing sexual education makes the learners sexually active.
- I would love for more faith-based communities across Texas to increase their understanding about the need for youth sexual education, and to better understand that sex is not a topic to shy away from—that gaining knowledge will aid in helping their youth to be safer and healthier. ✨

Editor's note: Shortly before publication, Dr. Bates ended her tenure at NTARUPT and had transitioned to a new employer and role. She remains in her adjunct faculty role.

Welcome to the Newest Members of NCFR

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

Carla Adkison-Johnson	Savannah Bayer	Erin Colleen Buffaloe	Michaley Grace Deleon
Atiyeh Aghakeshmiri	Benjamin Bayly	A. Kathleen Burlew	Jaclyn Leigh Desensi
Mehdi Akacem	Jennifer Mendoza Beasley	Brookelyn Taylor Bush	Marietha Destin
Mehdi Akacem	Mariella Angelina Beck	Cheyenne Carmello	Myra Ann DeWet
Mamie Albritton	Rodrigue Bellance	Deborah Carr	Kendall Nikole Diggs
Madeleine R. Allen	Dylan Bellisle	Bianca D. Cervantez	Stephanie L. Dodman
Angelica Alonso	Theresa Marie Benson	Melissa Chacon Villalobos	Susan E. Doughty
Emily Victoria Eleanor Ambs	Jenae Bluhm	Kate Chartrand	Justin DuClos
Christina Yvonne Amen	Cherri Lynn Boller	Xiaowen Chen	Lorna Durrant
Elizabeth Andersen	Rebekah Bondoc	Sabrina I. Clark	Beth Edwards
Travis Roman Anzaldua	Katelynn MaRanda Booker	Savannah Kristin Coble	Maryanne Marie Emery
Kara Ann-Mariah Applegate	Teshayla Dinae Boone	Elizabeth Coleman	Robert Epstein
Juan E. Armijo	Ines Botto	Dawn Collins	Alma Rosa Espinoza
Ashley Nicole Arnold	Kyle L. Bower	Anthony Martin Costa	Lucretia Fairchild
Savanna Ashby	Miko Brickey-DeWald	Christina Cross	Madison Farrer
Gladys Barkey Asiedu	James Brooks	Christina Ray Crowther	Corina Ficzeri
Saeko Kudo Bagley	Haleigh N. Brown	Shuangyue Cui	Natalie Elizabeth Fischer
Elizabeth Banks	Lori Bruner	Elisabeth H. Dainton	Jacob Fitisemanu
Ashley N. Barksdale	Hanna Bruning	Thuy Dang	Jacqueline Florian
Maya Bartel	Cat Buckley	Christina Davis	

New Members continued on page 14

Call for Nominations for 2022 NCFR Awards

Honor Your Distinguished Colleagues

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), the NCFR sections, NCFR focus groups, the Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) Advisory Board, and NCFR Affiliate Councils have established awards to recognize those groups and individuals who further the interests of the organization and/or exemplify the standards to which members aspire. Award recipients are distinguished colleagues who have dedicated themselves to working in the field of Family Science and have given outstanding service.

Members nominate other members for the awards, send supporting evidence, and list other people who can verify the nominee's

qualifications. A selection committee evaluates the applicants or nominees and selects the recipient(s).

The deadline for most major awards is May 1 of the year in which the award will be presented (unless indicated otherwise). Awards with special deadlines include the Jessie Bernard Awards (April 15), affiliate council awards (June 1), and the CFLE Special Recognition Award (Sept. 1).

To view all awards and their criteria, the nomination and application processes, and deadlines, visit ncfr.org/awards. ✨

NCFR-SPONSORED AWARDS

Czaplewski Fellowship Award

Purpose

Past presidents of NCFR established this fellowship in administration in honor of Mary Jo Czaplewski, retired executive director. She served as NCFR's chief executive from 1984 to 1999. The fellowship's purpose is to provide funding to support the efforts of family scholars who want to obtain and make midcareer moves into academic or nonprofit administration.

Award

The fellowship is awarded only when there is a request for the support, but not more often than once every other year, and then after review of application materials. An award of up to \$500 can be given biennially to a qualified applicant.

NCFR Student Award (SNP)

Purpose

This award is given to an NCFR graduate student member who has demonstrated excellence as a student and shows high potential for contributing to the discipline of Family Science.

Award

The recipient receives a \$500 cash award and a plaque, both of which are presented at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference.

AFFILIATE COUNCILS AWARDS

Affiliate Councils Award for Meritorious Service

Purpose

The Affiliate Councils Meritorious Service Award recognizes the outstanding service of affiliate members within their local, state, and regional councils.

Award

The award recipient receives a plaque, which will be presented at the Affiliate Councils business meeting, held at the NCFR Annual Conference. Up to five Meritorious Service Awards are given each year to deserving candidates chosen from nominees who fulfill the criteria (criteria are the same for university faculty members and community members).

Affiliate Grant

Purpose

The Affiliate Grant is designed to support an affiliate's activities and promote involvement in the affiliate and/or NCFR. Student and state or regional affiliates are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$300 to support an activity or project in their community or region. Grant applications will be evaluated on the basis of the grant criteria. Student and state or regional affiliates are evaluated separately, and more than one grant may be awarded. Affiliates may receive this award only once every three years.

Award

The recipient affiliate(s) will receive a grant of up to \$300 and will be recognized during the Affiliate Councils business meeting at the NCFR Annual Conference.

Students and New Professionals President-for-a-Day Award

Purpose

This award recognizes NCFR student or new professionals' commitment, energy, and innovation in service to NCFR and empowers them to continue evolving their leadership role.

Award

In recognition of dedication, the award recipient receives a \$500 conference travel stipend, a President-for-a-Day plaque, and the opportunity to shadow the current president of the NCFR Board of Directors during one day of the NCFR Annual Conference. The award will be presented during the Affiliate Councils business meeting at the NCFR Annual Conference. The recipient will be notified in advance and the date of shadowing the NCFR board president will be predetermined on the basis of the award recipient's and president's schedules.

Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) Award

Certified Family Life Educator Special Recognition Award

Purpose

The intention of the NCFR Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Special Education Award is to recognize an individual or individuals who have demonstrated exceptional effort in promoting the CFLE designation or program. These efforts can be demonstrated through committee involvement, development of related publications or materials, advocacy, or marketing and outreach efforts. Nominees can include individuals (academic or practitioner) or teams of CFLE individuals.

Award

The recipient will be presented with an award at the NCFR Annual Conference's CFLE Reception and recognized in the CFLE Network and via social media and the CFLE discussion group.

PUBLISHER-SPONSORED AWARDS

Cognella

Cognella Innovation in Teaching Award for Family Science

Purpose

Cognella and the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) have partnered to recognize outstanding Family Science teachers through the Cognella Innovation in Teaching Award for Family Science. We are looking for those teaching in higher education who have gone above and beyond within the past year to introduce cutting-edge teaching practices to their courses that better engage students and advance scholarship in the discipline.

Award (Plaque, Money, Recognition, etc.)

The first-place recipient will receive:

- \$1,000 cash
- An award plaque
- Public award announcements through Cognella and NCFR

The second-place recipient will receive:

- \$500 in Cognella book credit
- An award plaque
- Public award announcements through Cognella and NCFR

SECTION AWARDS

Advancing Family Science Section

Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring

Purpose

The Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring is given in honor of Dr. Felix Berardo, a well-known and beloved professor from the University of Florida who went above and beyond expectations in mentoring many students to become outstanding leaders in the family field. The award recognizes an NCFR member for excellence in mentoring junior colleagues, graduate students, or undergraduates. Outstanding mentoring goes beyond classroom teaching and includes the provision of support, guidance, and opportunities for professional development.

Award

The annual award is recognized with a plaque and a \$500 stipend, both of which are presented at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference.

Families and Health Section

Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award

Purpose

This award is given in honor of Ruth Hathaway Jewson, NCFR's second executive director. It funds the best dissertation proposal submitted by a doctoral candidate in the field of Family Science. Dr. Jewson was responsible for expanding NCFR's membership from a small organization to more than 4,000 members when she retired. When Dr. Jewson was in her 60s and working full-time at NCFR, she took courses and earned her master's degree and went on to complete her doctorate, with her dissertation "The Retired Professional Woman." In the 1970s, when she wrote her dissertation, there were very few retired professional women.

Award

The award recipient receives a \$500 cash award and a plaque, which will be presented at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference. This award is presented biennially (even years). Administration of the award is managed by the Families and Health Section.

Family and Community Education Section

Margret E. Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award

Purpose

The Family Life Educator award honors Margaret E. Arcus, who made a remarkable contribution to family life education (FLE) during her long, productive career. Margaret Arcus helped create the NCFR Certified Family Life Education program, setting standards for the field. A prolific author and dedicated teacher, Dr. Arcus is widely recognized as one of the best Family Life Educators the world will ever see. This award is meant to

- encourage a tradition of excellence and scholarship by recognizing family life education scholars and practitioners who advance the field; and
- increase the visibility and credibility of family life education scholarship and practice.

Award

The recipient receives a \$1,000 cash award, up to \$500 in travel allowance, and a plaque. The award is presented biennially (even years) at the beginning of a plenary session. The award recipient is invited to present a Family Life Education update for practitioners during a special session at the NCFR Annual Conference in the year in which the award is presented.

Family Policy Section

Feldman Outstanding Research Proposal for Research in Family Policy

Purpose

The award is presented in memory of Harold Feldman and Margaret Feldman, who were NCFR members and pioneers in the field of family policy. The award recognizes a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to family policy studies, particularly in the areas of gender and/or women's issues or poverty.

Award

The recipient receives a \$250 cash award and a plaque. The recipient is expected to present a brief report on the project and related findings at the following year's NCFR Annual Conference.

Feminism and Family Studies Section

Jessie Bernard Outstanding Research Proposal From a Feminist Perspective (SNP)

Purpose

This award is presented in memory of Jessie Bernard, a former member of the NCFR Board of Directors and a pioneer in the field of feminist family studies. Dr. Bernard declared herself a feminist in 1970 and is known for her celebrated description of "his" and "her" marriages. She was a board member of the American Sociological Association, the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family, and NCFR. The award recognizes a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to feminist scholarship.

Award

The recipient receives a \$750 cash award to fund feminist research, up to \$350 in travel allowance, up to \$95 toward the NCFR Annual Conference registration to accept the award, and a plaque. Recipients are expected to present a report of their project and findings at the next NCFR Annual Conference. The award is presented at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference.

Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award (SNP)

Purpose

This award is presented in memory of Jessie Bernard, a former member of the NCFR Board of Directors and a pioneer in the field of feminist family studies. Dr. Bernard declared herself a feminist in 1970 and is known for her celebrated description of "his" and "her" marriages. She was a board member

of the American Sociological Association, the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family, and NCFR. This award recognizes a graduate student or new professional who has published or is about to publish a paper using feminist frameworks and methodologies in research.

Award

The award recipient receives up to \$350 in travel allowance, up to \$95 toward the NCFR Annual Conference registration to accept the award, and a plaque. The award is presented at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section

John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo Dissertation Award

Purpose

As eminent scholars and educators, Drs. John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo made significant contributions to the scholarship on ethnic minority families, especially to the understanding of African American's familial experiences. John L. McAdoo was a founding member of the Ethnic Minorities Section. Harriette P. McAdoo was the first recipient of the Marie Peters Award and became president of NCFR in 1993. This award is named in their honor.

The purpose of this award is to provide support for the completion of an approved doctoral dissertation with a focus on issues that affect ethnic minority families.

Award

The recipient receives a plaque and \$450 cash award (presented over two years in allotments of \$225).

The award is presented biennially (even years) at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference. Recipients are expected to give an address that, among other things, provides a description of the dissertation research and its implications at a concurrent session at the following NCFR Annual Conference (odd years).

Research and Theory Section

Reuben Hill Award

Purpose

The award is given in memory of Reuben Hill, Ph.D., who had a distinguished career as a university professor and pioneered the scholarly study of family. Dr. Hill is remembered for his determination to promote high-quality research and to advance theory about families with the intent of producing practical benefits for families. The award is presented to the author(s) of the best research article for the year prior to the award. It is given in recognition of an outstanding article, book, or monograph that combines theory and methodology in the analysis and interpretation of a significant family issue.

Award

A plaque is given to the authors of the award-winning contribution. Also, a cash award of \$1,000 and a \$750 travel allowance is divided equally if there is more than one author. The award is presented at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference.

Ernest W. Burgess Award

Purpose

The award is given in memory of Ernest W. Burgess, University of Chicago, NCFR cofounder and fourth president. Dr. Burgess was a pioneer in his contributions to marriage and family research in America.

The award recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement during the course of a career in the study of families. The recipient is chosen in recognition of continuous and meritorious contributions to theory and research in the family field.

Award

The recipient receives a \$750 cash award and a plaque. The award is presented biennially (even years) at the beginning of a plenary session at the NCFR Annual Conference. The award recipient is invited to present the Ernest Burgess Award Address during a special session at the NCFR Annual Conference (even years). This address

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

typically focuses retrospectively on the contributions from the award recipient over the course of their career. If a new article results from the award address, the award recipient commits first publication rights to the *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

ADDITIONAL SECTION AWARDS AND FOCUS GROUP AWARDS

The sections and focus groups offer additional awards (nondesignated). See links at ncfr.org/about/awards:

Advancing Family Science Section

- Emerging Mentor/Teacher Award
- Legacy Award
- Outstanding Administrator Award
- Outstanding Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Paper Award
- Wesley Burr Student Scholarship Awards (one undergraduate award and one graduate award)

Families and Health Section

- Outstanding Professional Paper/Publications Award
- Outstanding Student and New Professional Paper Award
- Outstanding Ph.D./New Professional Poster Award
- Outstanding Undergraduate/Graduate Student Poster Award
- Excellence in Professional/Clinical Practice Award

Family and Community Education Section

- Student Proposal Awards (3 awards given)

Family Policy

- Feldman Best Conference Proposal Award (SNP)
- Feldman Internship Award (SNP)

Family Therapy Section

- Best New Professional Research Paper Award
 - Best Student Research Paper Award
 - Best Student Poster Award
 - Best New Professional Poster Award
- Feminism and Family Studies Section
- Alexis J. Walker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Feminist Family Studies

International Section

- Jan Trost Award
- Annual Conference Travel Scholarship
- Student and New Professional Annual Conference Travel Scholarship (two awards given)

Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section

- Student and New Professional Best Paper Awards (one student award and one new professional award)

Religion, Spirituality, and Family Section

- Outstanding Paper Award
- Student and New Professional Outstanding Paper Award

Research and Theory Section

- Best Abstract by a Student or New Professional Award

Family Financial Well-Being Focus Group

- Best Family Financial Well-Being Paper of the Year
- Best Student Paper Award

Issues in Aging Focus Group

- Student and New Professional Issues in Aging Award
- Professional Issues in Aging Award

Latino(a) Research Focus Group

- Best Student Paper Award
- Best Student Poster Award

Men in Families Focus Group

- Best Research Article Award
- Best New Professional Research Article Award
- Diversity and Inclusion Research Article Award

Military Families and Children Focus Group

- Outstanding Student and New Professional Proposal Award
- Outstanding Professional Proposal Award

Qualitative Family Research Network Focus Group (QFRN)

- Anselm Strauss Award for Qualitative Family Research

Sibling Relationships Focus Group

- Best Student Paper Award
- Best Student Poster Award

Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC)

- Social Justice Award

Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM)

- Best Student/Early Career Presentation Award

Contact NCFR with questions about awards
Maddie Hansen
Membership Manager
telephone 763-231-2890
email: maddiehansen@ncfr.org
ncfr.org/awards

NCFR Fellow Status

ncfr.org/awards/ncfr-fellow-status

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few living members on the basis of their outstanding contributions to Family Science. Nominations of all family researchers and professionals who have made contributions to the family discipline are encouraged. Among the recognized areas of contribution are scholarship, teaching, outreach, practice, and professional service—including service to NCFR. By definition, outstanding contributions are those that have broad impact on the discipline and are enduring over time. Deadline is Sept. 15.

Instructions

1. Please include a cover letter or use the cover form available online at ncfr.org/awards. Complete one letter or form for each person or organization you wish to nominate. Include the nominee's name, employer or school, address, phone, and email. Include your name, phone, and email.
2. Enclose or attach all documentation, including letters of recommendation, nominee vita, and other supporting materials with the application form.
3. Send electronically to rosemaryjohnson@ncfr.org or by mail to NCFR Awards, 661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200, Saint Paul, MN, 55114

Contact NCFR with questions about NCFR Fellow status
telephone 763-781-9331
toll-free: 888-781-9331
email: rosemaryjohnson@ncfr.org
ncfr.org/about/awards ✨

NEW MEMBERS

new Members continued from page 9

Keely Maelynn Fox	Kristen Marie Kelly	Jeni Morales	Daye Son
Samantha Agnes Fromet	Kacie Kelly	Kimberly Mosley	Je'Kylynn Shauntrell Steen
Nick Frye	Danielle Aleece Kess	Samantha Moulton	Abigail Stephan
Lynnsi Fulks	Thomas G. Kimball	Natalia Munoz	Colleen Steward
Courtney Anne Furlong	Kirsten Knox	Ijeoma Evangeline Muolete	Julie Marie Stovall
Daisy Jazmin Gallegos	Yanzhen Kuang	Jaden Briana Murrin	Karen Elizabeth Talley
Kimberly Garcia	Anahi Isabel Lagarda	Megan Leslie Nelson	Doyle Payne Tate
Elizabeth Gillan	Nicola R. Lavan	Ashlyn Neppi	Bill Taverner
Raquel Gonzalez	Samantha Lawrence	Tyler Nesbit	Lacey Angelle Thomas
Sydney Gordon	Sarah Nicole Leary	Sandy Nguyen	Addell Elizabeth Thornhill
Kristina Coop Gordon	Eunkyung Lee	Hector M. Nolasco	Makayla Dawn Thornsberry
Ashley Lauren Green	Woon Kyung Lee	Kumiko Okada	Sabrina May Torres
Sarah E. Griffin	Mary Grace Lee	Rachel M. Okamoto	Alexa Nicole Vega
Raquel Griffin	Jiwon Lee	Svea Olsen	Eileen Frances Venditte
Jazmin Alexis Grine	Monique Giselle Lee-Coleman	Adam Orton	Diana J. Vergaray
Heidi Hackney	Selva Lewin-Bizan	Keith Vakafutu Osai	Orlon Vincent
George Merlin Hayward	Qing Li	Elizabeth A. Oxley	Denese Ashbaugh Vlosky
Caverna Headley	Mickensie Lee Libberton	Sungmin Pearl Park	Jennefer Flynn Walden
Yusef Henderson	Junsheng Liu	Tamara Passey	Sabine Walper
Xaria Lenae Hicks	Qingyang Liu	Kelly Patrick	Virginia Mardell-Clark Warren
Barbara T. Hodgdon	Claudine Lucena	Jessica Phelps	Evan Warren
Ebony M. Hogan	Chloe Ludden	Kiana L. Pipkins	Molly Elizabeth Waters
Julianna Michelle Holguin	Lorenzo Xavier Luna	Destiny Megan Pritchard	Bethany Ann Webster
Suzanne Elizabeth Holland	Kevin Lyness	Kaitlyn Pritzl	Anna Christine Weikel
Peipei Hong	Mitzi K. Mabry	Keisha Ragoobir	Abbey Welsh
Makala Hooten	Tammie Lynn Manchester	Chélynn Renay Randolph	Tisha Leigh White
Madison Hoppe	Marrium Mansoor	Cassie Marie Rebeor	Ajeye White
Staci Hoskins	Merranda Romero Marin	Sydney Alexis Revell	McKenna Shae'Lynn Wilkins
LaDoris Raquell Howie	Jessica Marmolejos	Tyla Chanelle Ricks	Julia Williams
Tawanda Lynette Hubbard	Rakesh Kumar Maurya	Courtney A. Rieman	Valeria Williams
Joycelyn Rena Hutton, Jr.	Cristina McAllister	Patricia Rivera	Hannah E Windhorn
Megan B. Irby	Shaunon Laniece McClellan	Ellen Roche	Lontage D. Woods
Valentina Iturriaga Silva	Kara McElvaine	Katelyn Rodriguez	Lisa Woolsey
Linghua Jiang	Lori A. McGraw	Michelle Roth	Alexis Noelle Workman
Erin Marie Johnston	Kayley Davis McMahan	Karina Ruiz	LaWanda Wright
Keliah Nikita Jolly	Douglas Poulton McPhee	Samantha Salamanca	Ying Xu
Cynthia Johnson Jones	Caitlin McRae	Nathalie Saltikoff	Chelsea Noelani Garcia
Ethel G. Jones	Muriel Elizabeth Mendez	Cecelia Samuels	Yanuaría
Brittney Christine Joseph	Danieli Mercado Ramos	Demetria Serfas	Latiyera Yeargin
Victor Joel Juarez	Madison Midyett	Sevilla H. Setliff	Cahya Haniva Yunizar
Hailey Soleil Juniel	Michelle Miller	Jodie Coy Simpson	Rabia Zahid
Kriston Leighanne Kapan	Erica A. Mitchell	Nicole Charise Smith	Xingmiao Zhou
	Jessica Moore-Solorzano		

The Benefits of the NCFR Mentoring Academy

Amber Allen, M.A. (Mentee), Human Development & Family Science Field Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, and Mara Briere, M.A., CFLE (Mentor), Founder, Grow a Strong Family, Inc.

The NCFR Mentoring Academy began as a two-year pilot program in 2019, with one mentoring term per year. A mentoring term starts at that year's NCFR Annual Conference and ends at the following NCFR Annual Conference.

Amber Allen and Mara Briere are a pair from the 2020-2021 class of the Mentoring Academy and were asked to share some of their experiences here in *NCFR Report*.

What is one thing from the mentoring program that has made a positive impact on your work or career?

Amber Allen (Mentee): If I could pick two words to summarize the positive impact that the Mentorship Academy has done for me as a mentee, they would be growing and sowing. This program grew my confidence to take a risk and complete a project that had been left in the idea phase. By completing this project, it has led to additional speaking opportunities. The other word that comes to mind with the program is sowing. My mentor helped sow my project by providing invaluable feedback. The relationship that was sewn between my mentor and I allowed me to grow both personal and professionally.

Mara Briere (Mentor): My two words that best summarize the positive impact that

the Mentorship Academy has done for me as a mentor are sharing and growing. The mentorship relationship is a reciprocal one in which the teacher becomes the student, and the student becomes the teacher. Listening to the excitement in what my mentee was interested in buoyed my understanding of my work in a whole new way. Doors opened that I had not even been aware of and has increased my effectiveness as a professional. Together we created a new way of understanding and working with family systems. The relationship between my mentee and I is a mutually beneficial one in both personal and professional ways.

Mentoring is one of the most satisfying experiences I have had.

What is one thing from this experience that has surprised you?

Allen: One thing that surprised me about this experience was the rejuvenation our monthly mentoring meetings gave me. In a time of social isolation being able to be innovative and creative with someone from another state helped me build confidence as a provider in the Family Science discipline.

Briere: One thing that surprised me through this experience is how much I looked forward to the meetings with my mentee. The exchange of ideas was quick, and we were able to discuss them easily. Her willingness to implement, to experiment, and share the process with me inspired me to apply myself more completely in my own innovative work. I had not expected this. It was one of the best gifts of the relationship.

What would you tell someone thinking about being a mentor or mentee in this program?

Allen: I would tell someone thinking about becoming a mentee to come in with an idea of what you want to do but be willing to change your goals once you talk with your mentor. The best part of the mentor/mentee relationship is the unexpected conversations which can lead your goals and ideas in a completely different direction.

Briere: I would tell a prospective mentor to keep an open mind, be willing to be willing, and really listen to what the mentee wants to do. What skills do you have that apply to the goals that the mentee has? How helpful is your communication style? How does your experience match up with the mentee's? How much time do you have to guide? What level of accountability is important to you? How well do you manage your time so that you can add this role to your other commitments?

Mentoring is one of the most satisfying experiences I have had. I believe that it is incumbent on those of us who have experience and knowledge to share to engage with up-and-coming professionals to strengthen the profession. Sharing your expertise as a Family Life Educator grows exponentially through this experience.

*Applications for the next class of mentees and mentors are due May 16, 2022. Any NCFR member is eligible to apply. Learn more at nconf.org/mentoring-academy. **

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



in this issue:

A New "Normal"

Congratulations to Our New Certified Family Life Educators

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

Alabama

Madison Midyett

California

Staci Hoskins
Elizabeth A. Oxley

Colorado

Kristen Marie Kelly

Connecticut

Molly Elizabeth Waters

Delaware

Theresa Marie Benson

Florida

Tyler Nesbit FULL
Alexis Noelle Workman

Georgia

Samantha Moulton
Nicole Charise Smith FULL

Idaho

Erin Colleen Buffaloe

Illinois

Keliah Nikita Jolly
Hailey Soleil Juniel
Courtney A. Rieman FULL
Alexa Nicole Vega

Michigan

Kara Ann-Mariah Applegate

Minnesota

Mitzi K. Mabry FULL

Mississippi

Mamie Albritton
Katelynn MaRanda Booker

North Carolina

Raquel Griffin FULL
Nevada
Joycelyn Rena Hutton, Jr. FULL

Ohio

Kriston Leighanne Kapan

Oklahoma

Evan Warren
Pennsylvania
Julia Williams

South Carolina

Cherri Lynn Boller FULL
Susan E. Dought FULL

Tennessee

Jazmin Alexis Grine
Makala Hooten
Mary Grace Lee

Texas

Kate Chartrand
Mickensie Lee Libberton FULL
Patricia Rivera FULL
Lontage D. Woods FULL

Utah

Rebekah Bondoc
Megan Leslie Nelson
Bethany Ann Webster

Washington

Ashley Nicole Arnold
Diana J. Vergaray

Wyoming

Christina Ray Crowther