

IN THIS ISSUE

Family Focus: Marginalized Families

Both in the United States and across the world, there persists a disproportionate representation of marginalized individuals and families struggling to access or maintain adequate housing, income, education, and/or health care. The purpose of this Family Focus is to share with readers what advances have been made, and what gaps exist in research, practice, and policies that impact marginalized families.

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2023 NCFR Annual Conference

Nov. 8-11, 2023

The way We Are Now: Families and Communities at the Center of the Syndemic

Registration now open!

ncfr.org/ncfr-2023

Congratulations to Our 2023 Elected Officers!

Six 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 2023 NCFR Annual Conference in November:

Board of Directors President-elect (2023-2025, President 2025-2027)

Debra L. Berke, Ph.D., CFLE

Board Members-at-Large (2023-2026)

Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.

Christi R. McGeorge, Ph.D.

Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE

Students and New Professionals Board Representative-elect (2023-2024, Board SNP Representative 2024-2026)

Janeal M. White, Ph.D., CFLE

Affiliate Councils President-elect (2023-2025)

Alisha M. Hardman, Ph.D., CFLE

Turn to page 8 to view other NCFR members who were elected to leadership positions within the organization. ✨

The NCFR Board represents YOU – the members!

NCFR elects 9 board members to represent its members.

- 7 positions serve "at large." They are designated to represent the interests of all members collectively and not any single constituency of members.
- 2 positions serve specific constituencies of NCFR's membership: 1) students and new professionals; and 2) the NCFR state, regional, and student affiliates.

Jessica Oswald Selected as NCFR's Education Manager

NCFR is pleased to announce that member Jessica Oswald, CFLE, CCLS, has joined NCFR staff as the new education manager. Jessica will manage NCFR's Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential, along with associated projects such as the CFLE Academic Program Review, Family Life Education Assessment exam, CFLE Conversations, and support other NCFR education programs.

Jessica will take on the management of these responsibilities from **Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE**, director of Family Life Education, as

she transitions to full retirement, later in 2023. **Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE**, senior director of research, family, and policy education, will guide the transition and oversee all aspects of NCFR's education programming, including Family Life Education.



Jessica Oswald

Jessica Oswald continued on page 16

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: Norma J. Bond Burgess

Board Members: Bethany L. Letiecq, Ruben P. Viramontez Anguiano, Veronica R. Barrios, Lyndal Khaw, Kevin Roy, Roudi Nazarinia Roy, Shelley M. MacDermid Wadsworth, Yan Ruth Xia

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!

Brian G. Ogolsky, Ph.D., and Francesca Adler-Baeder, Ph.D., CFLE, Co-chairs of the NCFR Fellows Committee

Greetings, NCFR Members! The Fellows Committee is seeking nominations for the 2023 Fellows Awards. Please help us by nominating members who have made significant contributions to the organization and the discipline. 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 discipline of Family Science 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 discipline and are enduring over time.

What Are the Criteria for Fellow Status?

- A. Nominees must have made outstanding contributions to the discipline and to NCFR as an organization. Satisfying a combination of these criteria is required. Examples of outstanding contributions include:
 1. Published, refereed scholarship that has shaped or reshaped the discipline of Family Science
 2. A history of innovation in practice or outreach that has transformed the discipline, such as the development and implementation of novel or significant interventions or programs designed to promote healthy family relations.
 3. Recognition of teaching excellence through awards and mentoring
 4. The development and implementation of innovative curricula for training

professionals in the discipline of Family Science

5. The development and implementation of innovative social policy relevant to families
 6. A history of innovation and publication about the methods and measurement strategies used in related Family Science arenas
 7. 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 five years at the time of nomination.

What Is the Procedure for Nominations?

- 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

Fellows continued on page 3



Show Up, Stand Up, Be Ready

Norma J. Bond Burgess, Ph.D., NCFR President, normaburgess1@gmail.com

As seasons change, there are opportunities to be engaged, involved, establish new routines and reexamine ourselves. These seasons are welcome so that we may adjust our lives or simply regroup, rest, and recuperate. Questions that can be answered on the cusp of new seasons allow us to improve and reprioritize just what is important to us and our families. Some say, "it is just as noble to rest as it is to work," yet somehow, our time invested in rest is often overshadowed by work.

Academic burnout is a fact of life for some. In many ways, exhaustion has become normalized when rest is really needed. Our families experience it as well as our friends and colleagues. When traditional semester classes are over and summer comes upon you, take the necessary time to refresh and look forward to being the very best you that you can be.

I will admit that I am challenged by my thoughts as our NCFR staff is working diligently — as they always do — to bring us the very best conference experience for fall 2023 in Orlando. My colleagues and I, who were elected to serve you on the NCFR Board of Directors, have been provided with opportunities to put our heads together to develop the best responses to your questions and concerns.

Our decision to keep the conference site in Orlando was a big one. We carefully

discussed the pros and cons of in-person attendance for the annual meeting. We are very much aware of the challenges facing the state of Florida, due to harmful and discriminatory policies signed into law. The state has become a center for controversy, conflict, and disagreement.

At this time, the NCFR Board and staff are working on options to facilitate presenters being remote and exploring the feasibility of remote attendance. These efforts are intended to support NCFR members for whom travel to Florida is not possible.

If you are able to travel to Florida, please do so. Your presence in Orlando is valuable and appreciated by your colleagues who live and work in Florida.

I encourage you, as members of NCFR, to play an active role in our conference this year; this means to plan to attend as many sessions, meetings, and receptions as your schedule allows. Come with an open mind, an expectation and intention to learn and engage in discourse. Greet newcomers and make them feel welcome. Spread the word! Invite and bring along as many of your colleagues or students as you can. And if you are able to travel to Florida, please do so.

Hundreds of your colleagues live and work in Florida or in neighboring southeastern U.S. states. For many, this might be their only opportunity to present their work, network with others, and immerse themselves in all the great things an NCFR conference offers at an in-person experience; this is especially true for students! Your presence in Orlando is valuable and appreciated by them.

I know that our membership cares deeply about policies that affect families and academic subject matter in states across the nation, including Florida. There are grave concerns about individual freedoms being taken away and curricula being censored. The question for many is, how does NCFR reconcile having its conference site in a place that may be under siege in these ways?

I think our nation of laws, statutes, and customs expects us to face these challenges with courage and dignity. Do we allow others to make the rules that govern our lives and make decisions on our behalf? Somehow, I think not. I have my own reservations about being in Florida. However, given my historical background, I cannot afford to not show up, stand up, and be ready. People have gone before me and have done the same, effecting change.

What would have happened if people had not taken a stand during the Civil Rights era and demanded their equal right to ride at the front of the bus, eat at restaurants, and receive lodging at hotels? Simply imagine (or remember) when laws were passed in the 1960s and certain groups could not do certain things. Because we have not learned from our history, I fear we are destined to repeat it.

Moving forward is important and I truly hope that you will join me in supporting our colleagues and families in Florida in whatever way you can. My very best to you this summer and I hope to see you at this year's conference, in-person or online. ✨

Fellows *continued from page 2*

(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 go to <http://www.ncfr.org/awards/ncfr-fellow-status/how-become-ncfr-fellow>.

Please send your nomination materials to NCFR at janereilly@ncfr.org. **The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2023.** 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. ✨



NCFR's Impact Upon the World Begins with its Global Ends

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

NCFR's Board of Directors is charged with providing strategic directions to the organization based on a series of policy statements known as the Global Ends.

The key actor who receives the strategic direction of the NCFR Board is the executive director (ED), who guides the NCFR staff in developing programming that results in the fulfillment of the stated Global Ends. For instance, if the ED believes providing a Family Life Education Summit will encourage and facilitate the use of research-and theory-based family practice (Global End #2 A), then it is within the ED's scope to charge the staff with developing such programing.

Each year, the board reviews and, if needed, amends these statements to reflect changes to the organization's strategic direction. For example, if the board wanted NCFR to shape the training of and thereby the expertise held by physicians who practice family medicine, the board could amend the Global Ends Policy #3 to include scholars and professionals in medicine. NCFR programs would then be altered to achieve that end. Similarly, if it was determined that any existing NCFR program was no longer fulfilling a global end, that program could be eliminated. While this is how global ends and governance works in theory, it would be unwise for an executive director to eliminate a deeply embedded traditional program without first seeking board input.

The most recent change to the Global Ends occurred during the Board's meeting at the 2022 NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis. Under Global End #2.C. *NCFR will raise the visibility of family research, theory, and practice to policymakers and the general public*, the Board replaced one of the six criteria for advocacy (criteria for organizational actions). After years of struggling with how to determine whether there was "...a high level of member

consensus regarding the research to the issue," the board eliminated this criterion and replaced it with "...Members will be given an opportunity to provide guidance through broad membership engagement."

What this revision means is that the board intends to seek input from NCFR members when it deliberates on issues. If you receive an invitation from the board to complete a survey in the future — take the survey! Your thoughts on the matter at hand will be considered and assist the Board in its decision making.

NCFR's Global Ends, the NCFR bylaws, and the policies to which the executive director is accountable are available on the NCFR website. For your convenience, the Global Ends are reprinted here.

Global Ends Policy #1

NCFR will provide opportunities for professional development and knowledge development in the areas of family research, theory, education, policy, and practice.

- A. NCFR will provide ongoing education and training in scientific methods to understand families.
- B. NCFR will provide opportunities for members to be on the forefront of research, theory, and practice on families.
- C. NCFR will facilitate networking among members in ways that enhance interdisciplinary dialogues, strategic partnerships, and mentoring relationships.
- D. NCFR will provide information about the policymaking process and the impact of public policies on families.

Global Ends Policy #2

NCFR will support the dissemination and application of research- and theory-based information about the well-being of families.

- A. NCFR will encourage and facilitate the use of research-and theory-based family practice.

- B. NCFR will encourage and facilitate the use of research- and theory-based family pedagogy.
- C. NCFR will raise the visibility of family research, theory, and practice to policymakers and the general public.

Criteria for Advocacy (Criteria for Organizational Actions)

- The issue is important for families and/or NCFR members.
- The issue is informed by research and member expertise.
- Members will be given an opportunity to provide guidance through broad membership engagement
- There is the potential for NCFR to make a timely contribution to the issue as a result of the proposed activity.
- There are resources currently available within NCFR to support the proposed activity.
- The proposed activity must not jeopardize our 501(c)(3) status, or non-profit classification.

Global Ends Policy #3

NCFR will represent the scholars and professionals in Family Science by establishing standards for research, education, and practice and by advocating for the development and advancement of the discipline and the professions of Family Science.

- A. NCFR will develop and monitor standards for Family Science programs and Family Life Educators.
- B. NCFR will infuse inclusion and diversity and international perspectives into all aspects of its mission, governance, programming, and professional practices.
- C. NCFR will advocate for Family Practice professionals.
- D. NCFR will provide information and resources on career options and opportunities to its members. ✨



“I Wish I Could Find an Association That Worked With Families”

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

I grew up in a dysfunctional family with alcoholism and domestic violence. In this same place, fraught with anger and sadness, I felt loved, special, and secure. Families are complicated.

My parents divorced when I was 1 and my brother was 4. Our father was only peripherally involved in our lives (though my brother lived with him as a teenager). My mother struggled as a single mother, but our early home life was happy, and I never had any idea that we didn't have a lot of money. My mother loved music — the stereo was always playing Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Byrd, and others — and art — the family regularly visited Minneapolis Institute of Arts. We had so many adventures including sneaking into the nearby motel swimming pool, my mother directing us to just “act like you belong here.” She was very funny, so we often laughed at and with one another (Anybody out there ever listen to Alan Sherman?). My mother was creative, she would tell us the president was coming and we had only 15 minutes to get the entire house clean. It was very effective as we all scrambled around the house trying to make order so we would “pass inspection.” I have fond memories of her tucking me into bed and covering me with kisses.

When I was 9, she married a charming man who looked like Cary Grant. My older brother and I were thrilled to have a dad and soon we had a little brother. But the marriage was troubled as my stepfather was an angry drunk who would pick on my brother (the reason he later went to live with our dad) and yell at my mother. For some reason, he was never mean to me. Eventually, the yelling turned to hitting. I have memories of fleeing to my mom's friend's home where we would stay for several days. As I got older, I'd stay at my friend's house instead. My stepdad was always super nice when we came home, for a while, at least.

When I was 17, our family went through family counseling at the Hazelden facility here in Minnesota. We were there to address my mother's alcoholism, but she was less than receptive given that her alcoholic husband was sitting right next to her playing the role of the long-suffering spouse. Their marriage lasted nearly 25 years with a few separations along the way and four additional attempts at family counseling and rehabilitation (with at least one round focused on my stepdad). They divorced when I was in my early 30s. They both continued to drink throughout their lives with my mother drinking until her last day in hospice, where she died of emphysema at age 67.

Working at NCFR has provided me with the opportunity to devote my professional life to something in which I truly believe

It was not an idyllic childhood but at the same time, there was a lot of love in our family. I learned firsthand the value and damage that a family can bring. I am grateful to my mother for always telling me that what I saw in their relationship was not normal. It was not good, and it was not how it was supposed to be. That was important for me to know.

Although it was uncomfortable, I was fascinated by the processes carried out in my family's counseling experiences. I recall thinking that I wanted to be a family therapist. Although my parents did not quit drinking entirely, our family benefitted from each counseling experience. I went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in psychology with the intent of getting a master's degree in family therapy; however, I took a break before graduate school and found myself working for the Minnesota Multi Housing

Association (MHA). I worked there for seven years where I administered a certification program for apartment managers and maintenance technicians. I loved association work. Even though I recognized the value and importance of providing quality rental housing, I recall saying to my husband, “I wish I could find an association that worked with families.” A few weeks later, I saw an ad in the newspaper for a certification director for the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). This was MY job.

And so, it has been for the past 34 years. I am grateful to Dr. Mary Jo Czaplowski, NCFR then-executive director, who saw something in me and hired me for the position. I truly could not have asked for a better job. People have commented “Wow, you are still in the same job?” But I haven't been. As you can imagine with anything carried out over the course of 30+ years, things were constantly changing. When I started at NCFR in 1989, computers were only beginning. There was no internet, websites, databases, or cellphones smaller than a liter bottle of pop. I managed the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential program, almost from its beginning, as a portfolio review process that required the shipment of inches-thick paper applications to the NCFR office and then out again to each of three reviewers. I was involved in the creation of the Academic Program Review in 1996, which resulted in the CFLE-approved program application (abbreviated) process, as well as the development and launch of the CFLE exam in 2007. I worked with other NCFR staff to move the entire CFLE application process online in 2018 and launch the Family Life Education (FLE) assessment exam in that same year. I am so proud to have seen the Family Life Education Virtual Summit become a reality and represent a successful event specifically focused on FLE practitioners.

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State Legislation Affects Organizations and People Beyond Their Borders

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

2023 has seen a busy legislative season with states introducing bills that could:

- impact the Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) credential;
- impose bans in higher education that affect academic freedom; and
- negatively affects the students and families you serve.

I am often asked why NCFR monitors the legislative sessions across all U.S. states. The answer is because it matters. What happens in one state can affect NCFR, the CFLE credential, and the membership.

NCFR remains a member of the Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) because legislators across the country continue to introduce bills that affect private certifications, like the CFLE credential. The PCC monitored approximately 60 bills during the 2023 legislative session ranging from low to high priority (i.e., risk level). High priority bills have the most potential to negatively impact private certifications. The PCC provides suggested language to the sponsors of these bills to help protect private certifications or offset potential damage. The PCC has been largely successful over the years, and only a few harmful bills have been signed into law. In those cases, the PCC will work with legislative staff during the rulemaking process to lessen the law's potential negative impact on private certifications. To learn more about NCFR's involvement with the PCC, see an article I previously wrote in summer 2019 at ncfr.org/pcc.

A New Legislative Challenge

2023 brought about a new challenge directed at private certifications when some states (e.g., Florida) introduced bills that would restrict the first amendment rights of organizations to establish and define their credentials. Bills were also introduced

across states (e.g., Missouri, North Carolina) that included "viewpoint restrictions." Bills identified as restricting viewpoints or as violating the first amendment rights of organizations offering private certification restrict faculty from teaching content on diversity, equity, and inclusion and on human sexual and gender development.

Laws with these kinds of restrictions can negatively affect academic freedom and the CFLE credential. The CFLE credential demonstrates that the certified professional has knowledge, skills, and abilities in ten content areas, three of which include *Families*

We would love to know what you, our members, are doing in relation to policy, advocacy, or lobbying.

and Individuals in Societal Contexts; Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan; and Human Sexuality Across the Lifespan.

There are approximately 137 approved academic programs whose faculty teach about family diversity and the impacts race, ethnicity, and culture have on families. These same programs include content on gender development, changing gender roles, gender identity, and human sexuality. In addition to the CFLE-approved programs, there are countless Family Science undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs that teach these same topics.

In some cases, the bills could force the removal of course content from a program that is required as part of the CFLE-content areas. Not teaching the content is counter to the expectations of being a CFLE-approved program and thus an infringement on NCFR's first amendment right to define the expectations of being a CFLE-approved program.

In other cases, the bills introduced ban state funds from being spent on diversity, equity, and inclusion education and training. Depending on how content is taught within individual CFLE-approved programs, a bill passed containing this language could potentially ban CFLE-approved programs from paying their APR Annual Fee.

As the 2023 legislative sessions continued, several other states introduced similar viewpoint restriction bills, although they did not specifically mention private certifications. However, these viewpoint restriction bills would have the same impact on the CFLE-approved and Family Science programs across the United States. Should these bills be signed into law, academic freedom could be infringed upon, and the content of approved programs could be negatively affected, putting these programs at risk.

One State's Legislation Can Affect Other States' Legislation

Bills introduced in one state may impact other states and entities outside of the state boundaries. When bills are introduced that affect academic freedom or the CFLE credential, NCFR views these types of bills as negatively impacting the professions of Family Science.

NCFR Global Ends 3.B. says that NCFR will advocate for Family Science professionals. Given this global end, NCFR signed on to three statements condemning the introduction of Florida House Bill 999. Florida passed the companion bill, Senate Bill 266 which was signed into law on May 15, 2023 (see <https://laws.flrules.org/2023/82>).

- **Florida Bill Would Destroy Higher Education as We Know It** — American Association of University Professors
- **AHA Statement Opposing Florida House Bill 999** — American Historical Association

■ **The Effort to Undermine Academic Freedom in Florida House Bill 999** — American Council of Learned Societies

We also released a new Policy Advocacy Toolkit (see <https://www.ncfr.org/policy/advocacy-toolkit>) to help you, our members, get started on policy advocacy or lobbying in your U.S. state or at the federal level. The toolkit can be used with any issue for which you would like to advocate.

The toolkit includes information on how to:

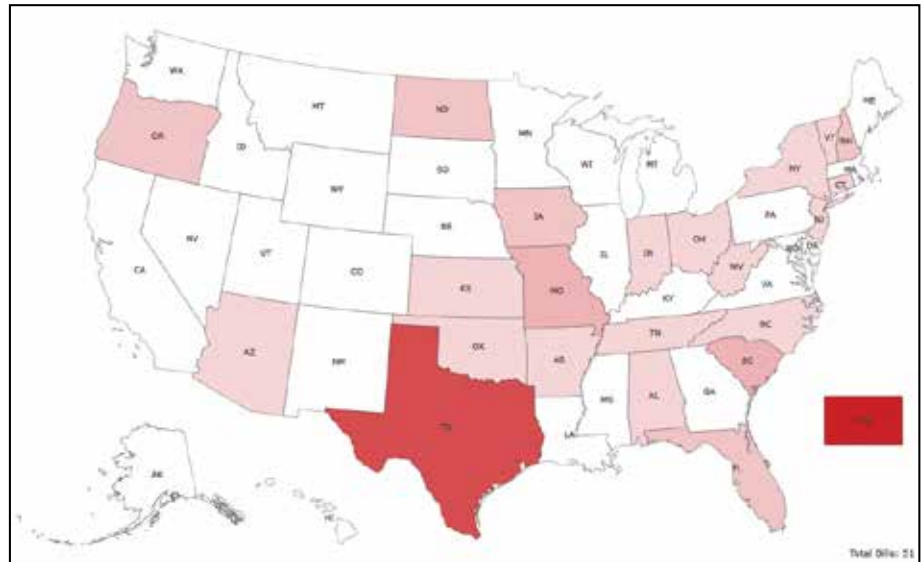
- **Learn About Policy & the Legislative Process**
- **Track Legislation**
- **Find Your Legislator**
- **Write Letters to Legislators**
- **Get Family Policy Recommendations to Share**
- **Communicate Effectively to Policymakers & the Public**
- **Find More Policy Information & NCFR Board of Directors' Statements**

The resources provided in the policy toolkit come in a variety of learning methods:

articles, policy briefs, webinars, interactive legislative trackers, and more. Also included in the policy toolkit is an interactive map that can be used to track state-level legislation on academic freedom. Individuals can click on any state to have a closer look at the legislation being introduced.

Keep NCFR Posted

We would love to know what you, our members, are doing in relation to policy, advocacy, or lobbying. Feel free to share with us at policy@ncfr.org what you are doing, your challenges, and most importantly, your successes. Let's hear and learn from one another. ✨



Bills Introduced During the 2023 Legislative Session Involving Academic Freedom

Watch Sessions from the 2023 Family Life Education Summit

Available to Purchase for Individual or Classroom Use

"Every session I attended was packed full of useful information and resources!"
 – Summit attendee comment

The 2023 Family Life Education Virtual Summit on June 23 was another resounding success. Attendees enjoyed the variety of session topics, interactive presentations, and opportunities to connect and share their experiences with other practitioners.

Recordings from all 21 sessions are now available to access online. If you were unable to attend on June 23 or just want to catch presentations you missed, now is your chance to soak in all of the great resources and information from these sessions. Recordings are available for purchase online and classroom licenses are available! If you registered to attend the Summit, access to these recordings is included with your registration.

Don't miss this affordable and dynamic opportunity to gain skills to apply to your work immediately.

Session topics include:

- marketing your practice and building your brand,
- supporting military families,
- working with at-risk youth,
- working with immigrant families,
- trauma-informed practices
- diversity, equity, and inclusion,
- and more!



This is a great way for CFLEs to earn continuing education credits. You can earn up to 18 hours when you watch recordings of sessions. See full details at ncfr.org/fle-2023.

Meet Our 2023 Elected Officers

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The membership of the National Council on Family Relations voted in February 2023 and elected NCFR members that will serve them in various leadership positions officers to take beginning in November 2023, following the annual conference.

Further, an amendment to the NCFR Section Bylaws was approved. Article IV, Section 3 had previously stated that: "Candidates for the section office of students and new professionals representative(s) shall have been members of the section for a minimum of one year."

The revised amendment now states (revisions in bold): "Candidates for the section office of students and new professionals representative(s) shall have been members of **NCFR** and the section for a minimum of **six months**."

Thank you to everyone who voted, and congratulations to these members!

National Officers

NCFR Board of Directors

Debra L. Berke, Ph.D., CFLE, Board President-elect

Dr. Berke is director of psychology programs and professor in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Wilmington University, where she also is director of the Center for Prevention Science. She specializes in trauma-informed approaches. Dr. Berke is a leader in bringing recognition to trauma-informed approaches and played a key role in designing and implementing training to develop Delaware as a trauma-informed state. She has also served as a consultant to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Dr. Berke is a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) who earned her doctorate in family studies from the University of Delaware. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in human development and family studies.

At NCFR, she has served in various leadership roles, including program chair for the 2022 NCFR Annual Conference; at-large member of the NCFR Board of Directors; chair of the Family and Community Education Section; chair of the Family Policy Section; and vice president of the Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations. Dr. Berke has also served on numerous committees including the CFLE Application Review Committee and the Public Policy Committee.

With her interests in teaching, research, policy, and Family Life Education, Dr. Berke plans to bring her expertise in translational research and practice to the position of board president-elect and represent a variety of interests within NCFR.

Kari L. Adamsons, Ph.D., Member-at-Large

Dr. Adamsons is an associate professor of human development and Family Sciences



Kari L. Adamsons

at the University of Connecticut. She is a nationally recognized expert on fathers, including father-child relationships, co-parenting, shared parenting, and couple relationships. In addition to fathering, her research also focuses on family theory and couple relationships. Dr. Adamsons is a co-author of *Family Theories: An Introduction*, a widely used university textbook. She was also selected as a co-editor of the 2022 edition of the *Sourcebook on Family Theories and Methodologies*.



Debra L. Berke

Dr. Adamsons is a graduate of the College of William and Mary with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She earned her doctorate and master's degrees in human development and family studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

At NCFR, she has served as chair of the Research and Theory Section; chair and treasurer of the Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop; and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, where she was a guest co-editor for a special issue on midrange theories.

As a board member, her priority will be continuing to improve communication between the NCFR Board, NCFR staff, NCFR sections, and the broader NCFR membership, as well as suggesting strategies for innovating and energizing our annual conference and its membership. In addition, she plans to engage in efforts to centralize and integrate the diversity that enriches NCFR, but that has historically been marginalized.

Christi R. McGeorge, Ph.D., Member-at-Large

Dr. McGeorge is a professor of human development and Family Science (HDFS) at North Dakota State University. Her research interests include the influence of heterosexism, cissexism, and sexual and gender minority prejudice on clinical practice and training, gender equity in therapy, promoting LGBTQ ally behavior in collegiate athletics, gender equity in higher education, and societal perceptions of single parents.

She earned her doctorate in family social science at the University of Minnesota, her master's in HDFS at Colorado State University, and her bachelor's in family studies from the University of Arizona.

At NCFR, Dr. McGeorge has served as the chair of the Family Therapy Section, and a member of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee. She is an active member of the

GLBTSA Focus Group as well as the Feminism and Family Science Section.

In her candidate statement, Dr. McGeorge wrote that “for NCFR to be relevant today, and to future generations of scholars, we must continue to question and challenge societal power structures (e.g., heterosexism, cissexism, racism, sexism, and ableism) that limit our ability to celebrate all families.” Dr. McGeorge plans to work to continue to expand our organizational understanding and inclusion of scholarship that supports marginalized families while seeking to promote equity within NCFR.



Christi R. McGeorge

Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE, Member-at-Large

Dr. Futris is professor of Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) and state extension family life specialist at the University of Georgia. He is a Certified Family Life Educator and an NCFR Fellow.

Since earning his Ph.D. in HDFS from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2000, Dr. Futris has provided statewide and national leadership in creating resources to inform best practices in relationship education program development



Ted G. Futris

and implementation. As the director of the Couples and Relationship Enrichment (CARE) laboratory at UGA, his current work is focused on community capacity building to support healthy couple and marital relationships, youth-focused relationship education, and evaluating the efficacy of educational programming on couple, parenting, and child well-being. Dr. Futris’ work, which integrates research with outreach programming, has

been funded in excess of \$27 million from federal and state grants.

At NCFR, Dr. Futris has served as editor of the Family Focus section of member magazine, *NCFR Report* since 2020. He has made outstanding contributions to NCFR and the discipline of Family Science through a long history of published scholarship in NCFR journals, presentations at the annual conference, and organizing symposia for NCFR. Dr. Futris is notably collaborative in his approach and his work has resulted in nationally distributed products and curricula that bridge family research, teaching, and practice.

As a board member, Dr. Futris will commit to advance NCFR’s mission to provide a forum for family researchers, educators, and practitioners to share in the discovery and translation of research that makes a meaningful difference in the lives of its members and the families we serve.

Janeal M. White, Ph.D., CFLE, Students and New Professionals Board Representative-elect

Dr. White earned her doctorate from the Louisiana State University School of Social Work. Following eight years on faculty at McNeese State University, Dr. White is now the incoming internship coordinator and assistant professor in the Family Studies program at Lamar University. As an educator, Janeal equips students to become professionals who strengthen families through education, service, and advocacy.



Janeal M. White

Dr. White is a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) and has conducted award-winning research on homelessness, resilience, and dignity for more than 15 years. As the coordinator for her local homeless coalition, she brings community members together to strengthen the network of service providers and services for her neighbors experiencing homelessness throughout her 3-county

region. Dr. White also advocates on the state level through involvement with the Texas Homeless Network’s Advocacy Academy.

Dr. White has an extensive history of leadership and service within NCFR at the university, state, regional, and national levels including chairing two academic conferences, serving as regional president of the Southeastern Council on Family Relations, NCFR Mentoring Academy Steering Committee, Digital Scholarship Board of the *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, incoming Student and New Professional (SNP) Representative for the Family Policy Section, and former SNP Rep for the Affiliate Councils Board.

Her professional leadership focuses on removing barriers, creating pathways, and inviting my students and future colleagues into fellowship as they prepare for work strengthening families. Through NCFR’s national Mentoring Academy Steering Committee, the TxCFR MENTORization, and her institution’s endowed professorship program, she has worked to create opportunities for students and emerging family professionals to connect with mentors and to strengthen their professional networks. A priority of her work as a board member is to remove barriers to full participation in the life of NCFR for minoritized and marginalized students and new professionals.

Alisha M. Hardman, Ph.D., CFLE, Affiliate Councils President-elect

Dr. Hardman is associate professor in the School of Human Sciences as well as an Extension Specialist in Family Life and Program Evaluation at Mississippi State University. She has been involved in the evaluation of family life and Extension programming for the past 12 years. She is a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) and particularly



Alisha M. Hardman

interested in using evaluation to inform program development and adaptation as well as using evaluation to identify effective principles of practice that inform Family Life Education methodology.

Dr. Hardman holds a B.S. and M.S. in family studies and human services from Kansas State University and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Minnesota.

At NCFR, she has been particularly active with the CFLE credential program and has served on the CFLE Advisory Board, and CFLE Exam Item Writing Committee. As an NCFR affiliates leader, she has been a board member of the Minnesota Council of Family Relations, and a faculty adviser of the Mississippi State University's student affiliate. She has also

served as the secretary/treasurer and student and new professional representative of NCFR's Family and Community Education Section.

In her candidate statement, Dr. Hardman wrote that "the affiliate councils make a valuable contribution to NCFR through their efforts to fulfill the mission of NCFR at the state, regional, and college/university levels. My goal is to continue strengthening the connection between affiliates. There are opportunities for representatives of affiliates to connect at the conference annually."

Elections Council Member-at-Large (2023-2026)

Shann Hwa (Abraham) Hwang, Ph.D.
Elizabeth G. Olson, Ph.D.

Fellows Committee Member-at-Large

(2023-2026)

Anisa M. Zvonkovic, Ph.D.

Inclusion and Diversity Committee Members-at-Large (2023-2026)

Yoshie Sano, Ph.D.

Meeshay Williams-Wheeler, Ph.D., CFLE

Norma J. Perez-Brena, Ph.D.

Inclusion and Diversity Committee Students and New Professionals Representative (2023-2025)

Genese C. Clark, M.S.

Family Policy Section

Jordan A. Arellanes, Ph.D., Chair-elect

Elizabeth C. Coppola, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

So Young Park, J.D., Students and New Professionals Representative

International Section

Jou-Chen Chen, Ph.D., Chair-elect

Karen Quek, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

Weimiao Zhou, M.A., Students and New Professionals Representative

Research and Theory

Ashley Ermer, Ph.D., Section Chair-elect

Todd Jensen, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

Steph Cooke, M.A., Students and New Professionals Representative

Nathaniel Stekler, B.S., Communications Specialist

Feminism and Family Science Section

Andrea Roach, Ph.D., Chair-elect

Carol Johnston, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

Dane Rivas-Koehl, M.S., Students and New Professionals Representative

Religion, Spirituality, and Family Section

Haley Sherman, M.S., CFLE, Chair-elect

Bobby Kern, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

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

Congratulations to NCFR's Honors Graduates – Spring 2023

NCFR awarded honors to 24 college and university students who completed their academic programs in spring 2023. 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 fall 2023 graduates is Oct. 1.

Colorado State University

Stephanie Rayburn

McNeese State University

Johnathan Ryan Mason

Angelika Salazar

Anna Christine Weikel

Messiah University

Blair Grove

Lynnsi Fulks

Sierra Ann Weaver

Karla Zima-Doyle

Notern Illinois University

Breanna Terry

Ohio State University

Morgan J. Hamilton

Hailey J. Stroup

Samford University

Christa Chery

Heaven Colquiett

Mary Gilbert

Faith Jones

University of Iowa

Alexus Hamilton

Jacob Sandoval

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Kendall Diggs

University of Minnesota

Samantha LeBouef

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Claire Nelson

University of Nevada, Reno

Cristina Lopez

Virginia Tech

Caroline Begley

Weber State University

Laura Calvillo

Winthrop University

Evelyn Barrales

Directions continued from page 5

My responsibilities within NCFR expanded in the early 2000s when I took on additional duties involving production of various NCFR publications including the *Tools for Ethical Thinking and Practice* booklet, the *Internship/Practicum Handbook*, three editions of a very popular *Family Life Education (FLE) Teacher's Kit*, two editions of *Family Life Education*, *Integrating Theory and Practice*, and *Family Life Education: The Practice of Family Science*. I also found myself on the webinar production team.

I'm grateful to Dr. Carol Darling who invited me to contribute to my first journal article and to Dr. Lane Powel, who asked me to be a co-author with her on a Family Life Education textbook. Carol and I would go on to edit two more editions of that book (with Dr. Sharon Ballard on the third). Without

the belief and support of these important women it never would have occurred to me that I could be an author.

I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the United States for NCFR conferences, as well as FLE-related speaking engagements which landed me in countries like Singapore, China, Japan, Germany, and England, even working with the U.S. Airforce to help family support personnel pursue their CFLE credential.

Fairly early on in my tenure at NCFR, I realized that I needed to learn more about FLE—so, I obtained an M.Ed. in family and community education. I loved studying the family from an academic perspective, applying theories and terminology to the circumstances I experienced and witnessed growing up in my own family. I found the

study of families to pair beautifully with my undergraduate degree in psychology. I have always been fascinated by people's behavior, always looking below the surface for why someone acts the way they do. My empathetic nature causes me to look at feelings and motivation. And as I have shared in previous columns, I cling to the words of former NCFR member and CFLE, Dr. Nelwyn Moore who once told me, "Dawn, it all comes down to unmet needs."

Working at NCFR has provided me with the opportunity to devote my professional life to something in which I truly believe. FLE can make a powerful, positive impact on the well-being of individuals and society. It is frustrating to me that it is not more widely utilized and understood. To me, it is a no-brainer. Provide the public with the recognized knowledge and skills people need to live productive, contributing, healthy, meaningful lives and families and individuals will thrive. I believe that when people have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful, i.e., have more of their needs met, they are less likely to get in the way of others doing the same.

I am proud of the work that I have done at NCFR and look forward to watching NCFR and the CFLE program continue to grow. I could not be happier with the selection of Jessica Oswald, CFLE, to be the new NCFR education manager. Her educational and professional background is perfectly suited for the work needed to carry the CFLE credential and NCFR's education programing forward.

NCFR is an amazing place to work with incredible staff, members, and CFLEs. Executive Director Diane Cushman's mastery of strategic thinking and planning, and her understanding and value of the importance of work-life balance has been much appreciated. I am putting that work-life balance into practice by retiring as NCFR's director of Family Life Education, but I am grateful to NCFR for the opportunity to transition to full retirement through some part-time work over the coming months.

It's been quite a ride and I could not be more grateful. Thank you all! ✨

In Memoriam: Michael Sporakowski

NCFR Past President Michael J. Sporakowski, Ph.D., CFLE, passed on June 9, 2023, at the age of 82. Dr. Sporakowski was NCFR's 53rd president from 1995-96, an NCFR Fellow, and a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) for 34 years. He was an NCFR member for 60 years and served as editor of *Family Relations* (FR) from 1982-86. Dr. Sporakowski held several positions on the FR Board and also supported the CFLE credential program. He served NCFR at the state and regional levels as president of the Virginia Council on Family Relations, 1972-76, as well as president of the Southeastern Council on Family Relations, 1979-81.

Dr. Sporakowski earned his bachelor's and master's degree from Penn State University, his doctorate in sociology from Florida State University, and a postdoc at the University of Minnesota as NIMH-post doctoral trainee in marriage counseling. He was an approved supervisor of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). He was assistant professor, family relationships in home economics at the University of Illinois. He then joined Virginia Tech in 1970, as a professor in the Department of

Family and Child Development. He chaired several committees and departments, including the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, as well as graduate studies, and was a Virginia Cooperative Extension Specialist for family and child development. Dr. Sporakowski was named a professor emeritus of Human Development, Virginia Tech.

Dr. Sporakowski was a leader in Family Science and family therapy with a particular interest in the intersection of financial counseling and family therapy, as well as lessons from longtime marital unions. In addition to his dedicated efforts toward NCFR, he was a prolific author of articles, extension curricula, and edited several books. For several consecutive years, he published the *Family Life Education Teachers Kit*, which focused on the 10 content areas of Family Life Education.

Dr. Sporakowski will be eulogized during the annual memorial service at the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference.



Promoting Literacy, Diversity, & Intergenerational Reading to Create Paths to Children's Success

Member Q&A With Jacklyn Milton



Jacklyn Milton

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

Name:

Jacklyn Milton, M.A., CFLE

Current Job Titles:

- Administrative Director and Co-Founder, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute (PPGJLI)

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

I oversee day-to-day operations and support curriculum development for the Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute (PPGJLI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, that works to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach, specifically by promoting literacy and diversity in children's books.

This has helped to define our organizational goals and develop a strategic action plan. In partnership with our local community, we decided to take action when we saw the nation's reading crisis continue to expand. In the U.S., more than 1/3 of fourth graders were reading below a basic level in 2022 (National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2022). Children who are not reading at grade level by fourth grade are 4 times more likely to drop out of high school (U.S. Department of Education, 2016). Children who drop out of high school are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested during their lifetime (National Dropout Prevention Center, n.d.).

PPGJLI seeks to end the school-to-prison pipeline and create new paths for success

for all children. We achieve this goal by promoting literacy and diversity in books. To date, we have donated 17,000 diverse books and reached over 5,000 children through our school visits.

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

This is my encore career. It was a natural progression after decades of service in early childhood education and K-12. It provided a holistic approach to reaching the entire family through the transformative power of reading, literacy, and intercultural dialogue. We are creating intergenerational reading circles where we help the entire family discover joy in reading.

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

I use my Family Life Education knowledge to develop the curriculum and programming at PPGJLI.

This led to the development of our nationally recognized, Leaders are Readers program (ppgjli.org/leaders-are-readers). We bring diverse authors into schools to share about their books, promote literacy, and spark interest in reading.

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

I am proudest when I see children reading books that they enjoy. Reading can be a joyful hobby and a family activity. Yet oftentimes parents state that their children do not like to read. I challenge them to help their children find the books that they want to read.

For instance, my youngest daughter preferred nonfiction books while growing up. This ignited her passion for learning more about history and the leaders who inspire her today. My son enjoyed comic books and books about his favorite baseball heroes. My eldest daughter read every book about beauty and fashion, which supported her future career journey.

If you cannot find the books your child likes to read, this may be an invitation for your children to begin writing. One of my proudest PPGJLI moments was when we honored our first youth writing competition honoree, 10-year-old Zephaniah Martin. He wrote a wonderful book about the history of Kwanzaa (Jaheem's First Kwanzaa). His book has inspired countless other children to learn more about Kwanzaa and celebrate cultural traditions.

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

I wish I would have known the importance of following your passion. This is what led to the creation of PPGJLI. We founded the organization in my living room, and our leadership team brought together other passionate community members who were determined to end the school-to-prison pipeline by planting seeds of social change.

It is tempting to wait and believe change will come at the wheels of inevitability, but what if the change in the world begins with you? I learned this important lesson as we founded PPGJLI. I could no longer afford to wait on the sidelines as the nation's reading crisis persisted. I had to be the change that I wanted to see in the world. ✨

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

Many know me as the “Literary Leader.” This title was earned through my commitment to promoting early childhood education and literacy over the past 30 years.

Our work will continue to grow in partnership with others in the community. Anyone who is interested in working to plant seeds of social change is invited to share

knowledge about the reading crisis, or to follow or get involved with PPGJLI (ppgjli.org) through our mailing list, social media, book drive events, and more.

References

National Assessment of Educational Progress. (2022). *NAEP Report Card: 2022 NAEP Reading Assessment*. <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/highlights/reading/2022/>

U.S. Department of Education. (2016). *Chronic Absenteeism in the Nation's Schools*. <https://www2.ed.gov/datastory/chronicabsenteeism.html>

National Dropout Prevention Center. (n.d.). *Economic Impacts of Dropouts*. <https://dropoutprevention.org/resources/statistics/quick-facts/economic-impacts-of-dropouts/>

Welcome to the Newest Members of NCFR

Please join us in welcoming these members who joined between January 1 and March 31, 2023.

Kpoti Senam Accoh	Doreen A. Georgeson	Kelly Oliver	Kimberly Ruiz
Robert Ackley	Mary Armor Gilbert	Chioma Veronica Opara	Kayla Sellers
Nichole Allen	Blair Grove	Christopher Stephen Ownby	Linda Siebert Rapoport
Lorena Laparra Arredondo	Minel Guler	Ava Pauly	Lawrence Smith
Brooke Balbinot	Katey Halcomb	Tanawan Pitakkochakorn	Aimee M. Snow
Jodi L. Baldwin	Soojin Han	Megan Broussard Pitalo	Kristin Stinson
Laura Beazer	Brian Hannigan	Dale Pracht	Hailey Jean Stroup
Raana Bell	Anna Beth Harman	Symionne Alexandra Quarles	Sisi Maw Takaki
Kayla Biggs	Michael B. Harrison	Martha D. Ravola	Rashida Taylor
Faith Nicole Boudloche	Shannon Elora Hart	Mary Jo Reynolds	Joshua Taylor
Caroline Burns	Chelsey Eileen Hawkes	Rachel Rineman	Laura Tharman
Kristin Nicole Butler	Anarita Ibarra	Jazlyn N. Robinson	Jill Trumbell
Melaina Callahan	Rhonda Jackson	Barbara A. Ruth-Williams	Ashley Sue Tudor
Laura Calvillo	Alexis Jackson		Mariana Lippert Vignoli
Robriana Jeffricia Clark	Amanda Jahnke		
Yamonte Cooper	Mehgan Elizabeth Jones		
Brigitte S. Cypress	Destiny D. Jones		
Kristi Lynn Dalley	Tyler Karges		
Tonja K. Davenport	Paige Kean		
Rochelle Renere Davidson	Monica King		
Mhonde	Tamyra T. LaFrance		
Virginia Myrick Elder	Cherlyn Lane		
Meaghan Ranz Ellenburg	Sadie Virginia Olsen Leidel		
Jo Evans	Johnathan Ryan Mason		
Aaron Thomas Fife	Abigail J. McBride		
Sonya Lynn Fox	Reason Meredith Meyer		
Katherine Freeman	Ashlee N. Moore		
Hilary Ann Gallegos	Nicole Muhs		
Jessie Gentilella	Lauren Musselman		

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. ✨

Families and Health Section Update



Shardé McNeil Smith, Ph.D., Section Chair, snsmith@illinois.edu

Greetings, NCFR members and families and health scholars! We would like to share some information about Families and Health Section awards and about some special sessions to keep in mind for the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference.

We invite you to nominate yourself or a colleague for one of our Section awards. Each year we give awards for a professional paper, a student paper, student poster awards, and a professional/practice award. Paper and professional/clinical practice award nominations were due by June 1st. Student poster nominations are due before October 1. Award winners receive a cash prize, a certificate (and a ribbon in the case of poster awards) and are recognized in the Families and Health Section meeting. See the NCFR website for more details: <https://www.ncfr.org/awards/section-awards/families-and-health>

Below are the names of the **2022 Families and Health Section** awardees:

- Outstanding Professional Paper/Publications Award
Name: Christy R. Rogers, Ph.D., Texas Tech University
Project: The Role of Early Attachment and Parental Presence in Adolescent Behavioral and Neurological Regulation
- Outstanding Doctoral Student and New Professional Paper/Publication Award
Name: M. Rosie Shrout, Ph.D., Purdue University
Project: The Health Consequences of Stress in Couples: A Review and New Integrated Dyadic Biobehavioral Stress Model

Invited Sessions at the 2023 NCFR Conference

The Families and Health Section is excited to co-organize a special session for the 2023

NCFR conference with the Advancing Family Science and Family Therapy Sections.

You Cannot Serve from an Empty Vessel: Trauma Informed Wellness for Faculty and Practitioner Support

Presenter: Julia Bernard, LMFT, Ph.D., CFLE, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Norwich University

When Merrill Singer called attention to the synergistic connection of health problems and social problems in the 1990s, I imagine he could have predicted our current predicament of the Great Resignation and the massive losses our universities and practices have had to endure over the last years of recovery post Covid 19. But I think that our very field may be what has the capacity to help in the healing process and realign health and work/life priorities. In teaching trauma informed care principles over the last decade, I have learned that an environment where wellness and safety are a priority can make the difference in the levels of burnout and effort of faculty and practitioners. Principles like peer support, voice, and choice become critical in the retention of a quality workforce who has the compassion to do this work. These principles build resilience and provide a framework for rebuilding our social capital, both individually and professionally. In this workshop-like special session, we will use these principles to ask ourselves what we need to prioritize in our lives to stay "healthy."

The Families and Health Section is also excited to co-sponsor an invited special session at the 2023 NCFR conference with Issues in Aging Focus Group.

Custodial Grandfamilies Navigating the Syndemic: Risk, Resilience, and Future Directions

Presenter: Megan L. Dolbin-MacNab, Ph.D., LMFT, Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development & Family Science Virginia Tech

Custodial grandparents, or families in which grandparents are raising their grandchildren,

Submit Your Late-Breaking Research to NCFR 2023

NCFR will once again host a **late-breaking poster session** during the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference. This session will be reserved for high-quality research findings that were not available at the time of the general March 1st proposal submission deadline.

This year, late-breaking posters will expand beyond the Research and Theory Section to include 10 other NCFR member groups.

Family scholars from across all disciplines are invited to submit to the following groups:

- Advancing Family Science Section
- Families and Health Section
- Family and Community Education Section
- Family Policy Section

- Family Therapy Section
- Feminism and Family Science Section
- International Section
- Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section
- Religion, Spirituality, and Family Section
- Research and Theory Section
- Students and New Professionals (professional development proposals only)

Please note: Remote presentations are possible. Details on remote presentations are forthcoming.

Submissions are due on Tuesday, Aug. 1 by 11:59 p.m. PT. Visit [ncfr.org/conference](https://www.ncfr.org/conference) for more details. ✨

Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families (REDF)



Shardé McNeil Smith, Ph.D., Section Chair, snsmith@illinois.edu

Reflecting on REDF Section in Orlando, Florida

It is not lost on me that we are holding the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference in Florida – a state with a legislative agenda aimed at ignoring, erasing, and blocking racial history and truth. In particular, the Stop W.O.K.E Act mischaracterizes and challenges critical race theory and silences race and gender issues in classrooms and businesses, including book bans, divesting in diversity programs, and the rejection of AP African American Studies curriculum. Florida HB 1557, which has become known as the “Don’t Say Gay” law, bans instruction of gender and sexual orientation thereby undermining the experiences of LGBTQ families and communities of color. The Anti-Rioting legislation (Florida HB 1) was introduced in response to demonstrations after the murder of George Floyd, attempts to censor the right to protest injustices such as the unarmed police killings of Black people.

As a reminder, the *Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families (REDF) Section unites those members of NCFR who are concerned with issues pertaining to racial and ethnic diversity in families, to help increase their participation in the organization and annual programs of NCFR, and to help create a better understanding of the variations in families from diverse ethnic groups.* Although the future is uncertain, the reality is clear - our section’s values are in direct opposition to the racial ideology found in Florida’s policies. The content we research and teach, the families we serve, and our very identities, are threatened by these current practices.

As chair of REDF, I want to hear from you about how we can best navigate this reality. As a part of the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference Program Planning Committee, I am committed to bringing ideas and suggestions to the committee to help ensure that we are safe to show up as our whole selves and that our commitment to research, theory, policies, and praxis for racial and

ethnic families are not compromised. I look forward to working with you to brainstorm ways that the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference, *The Way We Are Now: Families and Communities at the Center of the Syndemic*, can be a positive, transformative experience for you and the communities you serve. Please e-mail me at snsmith@illinois.edu with any thoughts, questions, or concerns.

Special Session on Radical Healing for BIPOC Families and Communities

To give you a preview of what is in store, I am excited to announce that REDF will be hosting a special session with Dr. Hector A. Adames in collaboration with the Feminism and Family Science and Religion, Spirituality, and Family Sections. Dr. Adames will introduce and describe the psychology of the radical healing framework and invite participants to explore how radical healing can shift our collective thinking in research, theory, and praxis with families and communities of color. We hope that you can attend! ✨

are critical sources of support for their families, communities, and society (Administration for Community Living, 2022). Yet, grandfamilies continue to experience significant challenges and limited resources and supports (Hayslip et al., 2017). Informed by the perspective of intersectionality (Dolbin-MacNab & Few-Demo, 2018) and conceptualized within the context of the syndemic, the first goal of this presentation is to critically examine the challenges experienced by custodial grandfamilies. In fact, the very formation of grandfamilies reflects the intersecting influences of economic, educational, and health disparities, as well as the impacts of trauma, drug epidemics, and mass incarceration. Once formed, custodial grandfamilies continue to face these challenges, but must also navigate difficulties related to community violence, lack of

affordable housing and childcare, poverty, food insecurity, poor access to services, and structural inequalities within social programs, including the child welfare system. The recent COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated challenges for custodial grandfamilies, with the most vulnerable grandfamilies experiencing the most harmful impacts (Generations United, 2020). It is therefore no surprise that custodial grandparents and grandchildren are consistently found to experience negative physical and mental health outcomes, at rates higher than comparable populations (Hayslip et al., 2017). While understanding the challenges experienced by custodial grandfamilies is important, it is also necessary to understand factors that increase or decrease grandfamilies’ risk for negative outcomes and to consider the ways in which grandfamilies demonstrate resilience in

the face of challenging circumstances. As such, the second goal of the presentation is to consolidate existing research to identify key individual, relational, and contextual factors that shape well-being in custodial grandfamilies and could serve as potential targets for intervention. Finally, to facilitate improving outcomes for custodial grandfamilies, the presentation will conclude by examining promising psychoeducational interventions and public policy initiatives designed to promote the health and well-being of grandfamilies, particularly those that are the most marginalized and vulnerable (Dolbin-MacNab, 2020a; Dolbin-MacNab, 2020b). Recommendations for future research, practice, and policy will provide, in hopes of providing an action plan that can be used to benefit all members of the grandfamily system. ✨

Sibling Relationships Focus Group



Are you interested in research about sibling relationships? Join the Sibling Relationships Focus Group! Check out our website at ncfr.org/sibling to learn more about sibling relations and get involved in related research! We facilitate networking and mentoring opportunities, provide access to data, and promote student research and development. Our group is made up of a diverse group of researchers at different professional stages and research expertise. Check out our leadership team's brief biographies below.

Dr. Gabrielle Kline, Current Co-Chair

Dr. Kline is an assistant professor in the School of Counseling and Well-Being at

Jessica Oswald continued from page 1

Jessica earned her bachelor's degree in human development and family studies from Bowling Green State University, is a Certified Child Life Specialist, and has been a CFLE since 2016. She has a thorough understanding of Family Life Education, its content areas, and the pathways to becoming certified through NCFR. Jessica has experience working as a CFLE in the community, where she worked directly with families and developed a child life program. She previously worked at the Association of Child Life Professionals as a manager of program operations, in a role similar to her new NCFR position.

Jessica's background experience as a practicing CFLE and in association work makes her ideal for this position. She comes with an understanding of association work, including the database and software that NCFR uses. As a practicing CFLE, she understands the needs of those who work as CFLEs immediately after achieving their college degree.

We are excited to leverage Jessica's expertise to bolster CFLE benefits, especially for those working in the community. We hope to further increase the number of CFLEs practicing in the community. Please join us in welcoming Jessica to NCFR. She will be at the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference where you can meet her in person. ✨

West Virginia University. Her research focuses on sibling and parent-child relationships during adolescence and young adulthood using family systems and cultural-ecological perspectives. Her recent work focuses on how sibling caregiving may impact individual development and family relationships.

Dr. Christy Rogers, Current Co-Chair

Dr. Rogers is an assistant professor in Human Development and Family Sciences at Texas Tech University. They use an interdisciplinary approach to identify how siblings and parents support adolescent development through perceptual, behavioral, and neural processes. Of note, Dr. Rogers received the Professional Paper Award for the Families and Health Section at the 2022 NCFR Conference for their paper titled, "The role of early attachment and parental presence in adolescent behavioral and neurobiological regulation."

Derek Morgan, Current Social Media and Communications Specialist

Mr. Morgan is a doctoral student in Human Development and Family Sciences at Texas

Tech University. His research focuses on the effect that sibling and parent-child relationships have on psychopathology and externalizing behaviors during adolescence and emerging adulthood. Of note, Mr. Morgan received the Sibling Relationships Focus Group Student Poster Award at the 2022 NCFR Conference based on his research titled, "Younger sibling warmth as a buffer between emerging adult prospective uncertainty and substance use."

Dr. Sarah Killoren, Previous Chair

Dr. Killoren is an associate professor in Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Missouri. Her research interests include the processes of sibling influence and associations between interpersonal relationships, and adolescent and young adult well-being. Her work specializes in Latina/o/x families, and the role and influence of sisters on development.

Be on the lookout for great sibling research at NCFR 2023! ✨

Latest NCFR Policy Brief

Tackling Housing Concerns at the State-Level: Lessons From Family Impact Seminars

Nayantara Nair, Ph.D., Lauren Bellamy, B.A., B.S., Robert Duncan, Ph.D., Richard A. Settersten, Jr., Ph.D., Heidi Normandin, M.P.A., and Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, Ph.D.

Suboptimal housing severely interferes with individual and family well-being, including children and caregivers. This is of concern because housing instability among families with children in the United States has risen since the 2008 recession, and it increased markedly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Oregon, Wisconsin, and Indiana, housing legislation that affects families who are homeless, who are renters, or who are buying homes has demonstrated that states can create affordable housing options, protect low-income renters and

homeowners, and prevent homelessness through housing trust funds and tax credits for individuals and developers, local fair housing laws, and permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing programs.

This brief includes several promising policy options at the state and local levels that can help to address housing instability concerns for families.

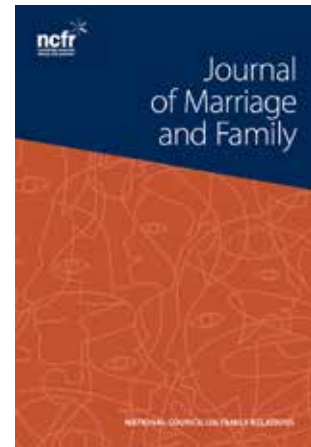
A two-page executive summary and an eight-page policy brief are available for you to download and share with your legislators and networks. **Find all NCFR Policy Briefs at ncfr.org/policy-briefs.**

Call for Nominations and Applications

Journal Editor Position

Journal of Marriage and Family

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is seeking nominations and applications for the position of editor of *Journal of Marriage and Family* (JMF). The application deadline is August 1, 2023. The JMF Editor Search Committee anticipates selecting the new editor by Oct. 1, 2023, and the new editor will be announced at the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference in November in Orlando, Florida.



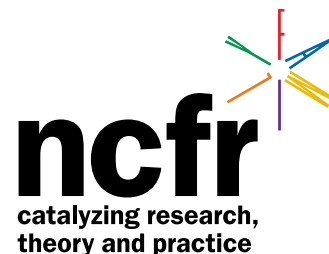
The five-year term of the new editor will begin in January 2024. During the first year, the editorship will transfer from the current editor to the incoming editor. The editor of record during 2024 will be Liana Sayer, whose term will be completed with the publication of the December 2024 issue. The first issue in which the incoming editor will be the editor of record will be the February 2025 issue.

To obtain a detailed description of the editor's responsibilities as well as a description of the application supporting materials, please email Jane Reilly, NCFR's Manager of Governance and Board Operations and staff liaison to the search committee, at janereilly@ncfr.org.

Nominations with a curriculum vitae and completed applications may be mailed to **National Council on Family Relations**, 661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN, 55114, or emailed to janereilly@ncfr.org. The JMF Search Committee will review application materials beginning August 1, 2023. Nominees and applicants must be members of NCFR.

Application Deadline

Review begins August 1, 2023



Grant Writing Webinars On Demand

Looking to learn more about grant funding and how to apply for and manage grants? NCFR now has 4 webinar recordings on demand that cover various aspects of the grant writing process.

- **Introduction to Writing Grants for the National Science Foundation**

Presented by Chalandra M. Bryant, Ph.D.
FREE for NCFR members and CFLEs

- **NIH Grant Writing: Tools for Family Scientists**

Presented by Joseph G. Grzywacz, Ph.D.
FREE for NCFR members and CFLEs

- **Strategies for Practitioners to Receive Grant Funding**

Presented by Michael Fleming, Ph.D., CFLE

- **How to Implement Awarded Grants**

Presented by Marissa Heim, CFLE



Purchase and Access Webinar Recordings at nconf.org/on-demand

These webinars are all available for individual purchase or for department/classroom use.

All webinars approved for CFLE continuing education credit. ✨

In Memoriam: Gladys J. Hildreth

Gladys Hildreth, Ph.D., CFLE, passed away on April 15, 2023. She was NCFR fellow, held membership for 50 years, a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) for 33 years, and CFLE Emeritus.

Dr. Hildreth authored *Leaving No One Behind: How Education Moved an African American Family from the Fields of Poverty to Living the American Dream*. In this book, Dr. Hildreth highlights the value of family relationships and good interpersonal family communication when identifying resources to fund college education, how successful African American families can aid struggling students, and the worth of obtaining a college education in overcoming poverty. Additionally, she authored several articles that focused on interpersonal family dynamics in business, family experience, stress and resilience in disasters, family bereavement and unresolved grief, and many others.

She earned her bachelor's degree at Southern University, her master's degree at University of Wisconsin, and her doctorate in child and human development from Michigan State University. In 2000, she was named an NCFR Fellow, and she later earned CFLE Emeritus status. She was also a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta.

Dr. Hildreth's professorate included more than 65 years of family development and human relations scholarship. She served as department chair of the School of Human Ecology at Louisiana State University

(Professor Emeritus), chairperson of the Department of Family Studies at University of Kentucky, faculty at Texas Woman's University, and lecturer at University of North Texas, while also mentoring others throughout her esteemed career.

She championed projects to the development and/or restructuring of academic programs and graduate admissions, co-spearheaded movements to strengthen child wellbeing through fostering parental relationship and optimal family structure, Family Life Education, parenting, and sexuality. Up to her retirement from the University of Kentucky in the Department of Family Studies, she was a mentor to many graduate students and colleagues.

She received the Marie F. Peters Award in 1994 from the NCFR Ethnic Minorities Section (now the Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section). Additionally, Dr. Hildreth served on the following NCFR committees: Local Arrangements Committee, Elections Council, Fellow Committee, and Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

Dr. Hildreth will be eulogized during the annual memorial service at the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference.



Thank You, NCFR Donors

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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, 2023.
Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Nyíregyháza, Hungary

Anna Olsen

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Alisia Maliborski

Nevada

Maria Claribel Jake FULL

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Leslie Rusoff
Caroline Mary Schmidt

Ohio

Lisa Mortensen

Oklahoma

Kristen Henry
Salena Maria King FULL
Summer Nicole Larkins FULL
Hailey Nicole McClain FULL

Ontario

Paula Elena Schulzke

Oregon

Destiney D. Clark FULL

Quebec

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South Carolina

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Letters to the Editor

You may submit letters to the editor to NCFR Report on topics and activities relevant to NCFR member interests. The following guidelines apply:

- Only letters submitted by members will be accepted.
- Length is limited to 250 words; letters may be edited for space and clarity.
- Letters must be signed and include author contact information; submissions are verified.
- Letters that are deemed libelous, malicious, or otherwise inappropriate will not be published.

Email letters to the editor to:
tripsullivan@ncfr.org

Or mail to:

NCFR, Attn: NCFR Report
661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114

Upcoming NCFR Webinars in 2023

All webinars approved for continuing education credit for the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential.

Request a classroom license for any webinar to use with your students!

How to Implement Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Practices

September 13, 2023 / 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CT

Presented by: Cynthia B. Wilson, Ph.D., CFLE, and Kaley de Leon, CFLE

Introduction to LinkedIn for Faculty Professors and Student Advisers

September 26, 2023 / 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CT

Presented by: Amanda Barnett, Ph.D.; and Bethanne Shriner, Ph.D., CFLE

Integrating Indigenous Voices when Developing and Implementing Family Life Education Programs

October 25, 2023 / 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CT

Presented by: Sarah Allen, Ph.D.; Vanessa Simonds, Sc.D.; Roni Knows Gun, M.S.; Alma McCormick, B.S.



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2023 NCFR Annual Conference
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The Way We Are Now:
Families and Communities
at the Center of the Syndemic

M. Elise Radina, Ph.D., CFLE
Conference Program Chair, Miami University-Ohio

The banner features a night-time photograph of a city skyline with illuminated buildings and a body of water in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image in white and blue colors. The NCFR logo is in the top left, and the registration information is in the top right. The conference details and the title of the conference are in the bottom left, and the program chair's name and affiliation are in the bottom right.