

Focus Group End of Year Report for 2023

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

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

Chair/Co-chairs email: cmarini@adelphi.edu; fitzkek23@ecu.edu; cemccall@purdue.edu

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

We continued our tradition of awarding top NCFR conference proposals, one at the student/new-professional level and one at the professional level. We also collaborated with Military REACH. REACH now puts together an accessible infographic that highlights all military-connected research that is taking place at the conference in one place for our members to refer to.

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

We continue to promote diversity and inclusion by considering all proposals for our awards (thereby eliminating a nomination process) to ensure that all members' work is represented. We are also holding our focus group meeting virtually to allow members who are unable to attend in person to join.

3. Please list any concerns, questions or suggestions.

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

Return by **October 16, 2023** to membership@ncfr.org.