

IN THIS ISSUE

Family Focus: Families in the Postpandemic Era

In line with the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference theme, “The way we are now,” this issue of Family Focus attends to the syndemic—a pandemic that occurs simultaneously as preexisting social and health pandemic. The contributing authors provide research on where families are in the present day and what unique and unexpected challenges they currently face or may experience ahead.

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

Join Us for the 2023 Annual Conference — Onsite or Remote

M. Elise Radina, Ph.D., CFLE, 2023 NCFR Conference Program Chair

“Syndemics are characterised by biological and social interactions between conditions and states, interactions that increase a person’s susceptibility to harm or worsen their health outcomes” (Horton, 2020).

The 2023 NCFR Annual Conference will highlight and critically examine the ways in which the current syndemic has and continues to change the lives of families across the globe. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, communities and nations are also struggling with a variety of social injustices (e.g., racism, gun violence, homophobia, climate change). Together these constitute a syndemic. Syndemic theory, which has evolved out of medical anthropology, draws our attention to the many public health and societal influences on human life that cause multiple layers of harm. As Family Scientists and practitioners, we have much work to do to understand how a syndemic impacts individuals, families, and communities and develop various methods to help best navigate the syndemic and to promote health and well-being. The syndemic has made many societal issues more visible including existing and new health disparities, the profound loss that affects communities in diverse ways, and policies that actively disenfranchise so many. We are experiencing a historically significant moment in history that will distinctly

influence families and communities in the near- and long-term future.

Some might say that the syndemic began with the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, offered a comparison between the pandemic and World War II with regard to the international impact both will have had on human lives (Lederer, 2020). In 1944, as the end of World War II neared, NCFR’s conference theme was *Problems Facing the Family in the Post-War Period*.

The conference theme, *The Way We Are Now: Families and Communities at the Center of the Syndemic*, is meant to adopt the forward-looking theme from 1944, and call our attention to how families and communities have been and continue to be impacted by what has become a syndemic.

Given the historical significance of the syndemic, I have invited family historian, **Stephanie Coontz**, to return as a plenary speaker for this year’s conference. Coontz’s book, *The Way We Never Were*, inspired the phrasing of this year’s conference theme.



Elise Radina

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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- 2) brevity due to space limitations, and
- 3) how articles form a complementary collection.

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NCFR Darling Grant Invests in Research to Support Practice of Family Life Education

NCFR and Carol Darling, Ph.D., CFLE, are proud to announce the creation of the **NCFR Darling Family Life Education Research Initiative Grant**. This new \$5,000 biennial grant will be available to current NCFR members working to integrate research into the practice of Family Life Education, a priority for both NCFR and Dr. Darling.

The NCFR Darling Grant can help Family Life Educators, researchers, and programs that often lack funding to conduct research needed to support and maintain their projects and services.

“Throughout my career as a professor, I experienced firsthand the value of integrating research into the practice of Family Life Education (FLE),” said Dr. Darling, an NCFR Fellow, NCFR past president, and the Margaret Sandels Professor Emerita of Human Sciences at Florida State University. “Therefore, I created this research initiative grant to encourage, support, and advance the practice of Family Life Education.”

The first round of NCFR Darling Grant proposals will be accepted beginning March 1, 2024, with an application deadline of April 1, 2024. Proposals will be reviewed, and a decision made by Aug. 1, 2024. The research should be completed by Nov. 1, 2025.

The call for grant proposals is intentionally broad to encourage a variety of innovative projects that meet the grant objectives. Grant proposals

should clearly state how the project bridges research and the practice of Family Life Education.

The principal investigator (PI) must be a current NCFR member

and maintain membership throughout the duration of the grant. An application for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval must be submitted prior to submitting a grant application.

Dr. Darling has demonstrated a long commitment to teaching and research in Family Life Education and has made significant contributions to NCFR and to the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential. As an NCFR member for 50 years and a CFLE for over 35 years, she has received numerous NCFR accolades and awards for her outstanding service to the CFLE credential, as well as for her leadership and excellence in the teaching of family relationships.

NCFR is delighted to help Dr. Darling create a lasting legacy of new research that will support effective program design, implementation, and evaluation to meet the diverse and evolving needs of families.

Find complete details about the grant, eligibility criteria, and application process and requirements at ncfr.org/ncfr-darling-grant. *



Carol Darling



Pass It On: Making the Most of the NCFR Conference and Mentoring the Next Generation

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

Dear Friends,

November is almost here! That means time to offer a hearty welcome to all, meet new friends, and recap the summer and great adventures that you have experienced. Students of all ages are back at school, and we are in the midst of wrapping up 2023!

I am so excited to know that many of you are planning to be with us in Orlando virtually or in person. I am confident that we have planned an outstanding conference. Thank you to our staff who worked diligently to be creative and work through many challenges associated with our visit to Orlando this year, and to accommodate you, our members, so that your participation could be possible. We listened to your concerns and responded. Thank you for your patience, suggestions, and dedication to NCFR—MEMBERS MATTER!

Fall is a very special time of the year as we prepare for holidays and vacations. New research activities and new students to mentor provide opportunities for growth and development with excitement, anxiety, and energy directed to becoming the best you that you can be. Our annual conference is coming soon.

Mentoring is an important activity in which to engage and to take full advantage. Success requires commitment from you and being willing to listen to the great guidance that you will receive. Pay attention to what is said and how to grow from the feedback. Wise counsel has saved many of us from ourselves and from the woes of higher education. Careers have been advanced based on the great pearls of wisdom that have been shared through the years at our conferences. Once you are open to knowing that, there is much to learn beyond the degrees that you may have just received. Congratulations—your next steps to knowing and learning are just beginning to take shape. The mentoring

program that NCFR sponsors is a good one because you have made it so. Thank you if you have participated. It means a lot to those that you have served.

You will find many great steps to take on this journey. You will go to the next place on your agenda to see what is to be offered, No agenda? Get one, or make one, so that you know where you want to go on your professional journey and what your future holds. If you don't know where you want to go, you will not know if you have arrived.

Commit to passing along your story to junior scholars. As professors, we sometimes have given the impression that we were always where we are now.

Do not be afraid to ask questions about your interests. NCFR began a formal mentoring program several years ago. If you have not volunteered to help someone, take the time to grace a colleague with your presence and share the wisdom that you have gained over your career. One thing I know for sure is that someone helped me to grow and define what the responsibilities are in our field. Grant writing, developing, and leading a study abroad program, traveling internationally, presenting workshops, and talks, all came from colleagues that I met on the way to wonderful places! These activities will change your life and the lives of your family members—let me know when this happens for you! What you have yet to learn could make a world of difference in how you might live your life tomorrow and beyond.

Commit to passing along your story to junior scholars. As professors, we sometimes have given the impression that we were

always where we are. We have had our own experiences in the field, held other jobs, and have experienced a lifetime of choices, opportunities and lessons learned. If the stories are not told, nothing is passed along. Your students would be impressed to know about your most exciting trips abroad or your favorite number two job outside of what you share in your classes. Tell them about your decision to attend graduate school and what you did in your “gap” year. I promise that they will be shocked and awed!

Undergraduates are often intrigued by the facts that you share with them outside of the textbook activities that you may assign to them. For those who have earned tenure, written grants, published papers and books, given conference presentations: share what it takes with your students, or better yet, how you became ABD (All but Dissertation), and what it took to make it the rest of the way. Yes, I know that could have been some time ago, but your students will be less likely to give up if they know that the struggles that you had were part of a larger, better journey.

It was part of the journey upon which they embarked. There may be future professors sitting in your classes today. Renowned gospel singer Mahalia Jackson is known for the song “How I Got Over.” She states that her soul looks back and “wonders” how she made it through life and made it through. I know that we wonder similarly on some of those days as well. Let your students know what keeps you in higher education and why you will not give up no matter what! They will be grateful.

Our lives are enriched by sharing with others and we are similarly enriched by them. We are given gifts that we can share to spread that which is deemed good. Providing comfort for our families is a common practice in our society and we benefit from

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The Only Constant is Change

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

An Update on Conference Site Selection

A great number of NCFR members have reached out to me in recent months in response to my spring Report column on the myriad challenges in selecting conference site locations. Thank you to everyone who sent feedback to me, the NCFR Board of Directors, and to other NCFR staff members. We truly value your comments and take them into consideration as best we can.

While NCFR has often faced one difficulty or another that has impacted its conferences—natural disasters, discriminatory policies, a global pandemic, just to name a few—additional political and current-event issues over the last several years have proved especially difficult to our conference planning.

Increasing concerns about access to full health care for pregnant women; the safety of cities; the cost of accommodations, air travel, and food; political unrest; and state-mandated travel boycotts have made it an almost insurmountable challenge to find a suitable location for the NCFR conference. In short, there are not many location options that will meet the requirements of the entire NCFR membership. If you missed this column, you may read it in full here: [ncfr.org/conference-locations-may-2023](https://www.ncfr.org/conference-locations-may-2023).

Another major challenge in selecting a conference location is that change is inevitable, and sites selected under current acceptable conditions may no longer be viable 5-7 years later when the conference commences. Changes outside of NCFR's control can happen between the time the hotel contract is signed and the date of the conference. For example, the state of California is set to repeal its law banning state employees from traveling to 26 states due to legislation in those states that discriminates based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Californians argued this policy had caused unintended consequences by keeping academics and policymakers from visiting

over half of the country. Certainly, we have heard over the years from NCFR members in California who have felt conflicted. Do they travel to the NCFR conference on their own dime, and against the wishes of the state, or do they stay home in compliance with the intended purpose of the travel ban?

Even among the handful of site locations that meet our needs, available hotels for our conference dates in 2026 and 2027 were in short supply. In fact, the only available location meeting our criteria for both 2026 and 2027 is Minneapolis, Minnesota (as a quick reminder, our 2024 conference will be in Bellevue, Washington, and our 2025 conference will be in Baltimore, Maryland).

Available hotels for our conference dates in 2026 and 2027 were in short supply. In fact, the only available location meeting our criteria for both 2026 and 2027 is Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This summer, we asked members to complete a three-question survey as to whether they would rather attend an in-person conference in Minneapolis two years in a row or attend an all-virtual conference in 2027. The majority of NCFR members voted to attend an in-person conference in Minneapolis in both 2026 and 2027 – **61 percent (Minneapolis) to 39 percent (Virtual)**. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete this important survey.

Moving forward, a committee of NCFR members and staff will be created to study and recommend potential changes to future NCFR conferences. Recommendations might pertain to the conference location, time of year, and even whether the conference should continue to meet annually. Much is on the table for discussion.

Staffing Changes at NCFR

2023 has been a time of staffing changes and transitions at NCFR. As many of you know, **Dawn Cassidy** is transitioning to retirement after 34 years at NCFR as director of Family Life Education. She has already moved to part-time status for the remainder of 2023 and will focus on special projects. **Jennifer Crosswhite** now oversees all education programs as senior director of research, family, and policy education. In May, **Jessica Oswald** joined the staff ranks as education manager and will focus her time on the CFLE credential and associated projects such as the CFLE Academic Program Review as well as managing many educational programs.

In the last couple months, we have bid farewell to two longtime NCFR staffers: **Maddie Hansen** and **Jay McGraw**. Maddie has overseen membership programs since 2019 (first as member manager, and later as director of development and member affairs). Before this, Maddie served as the education and certification coordinator beginning in 2017. Throughout these various roles, Maddie has been a reliable fixture that members could always depend and rely on and worked tirelessly to understand how to better meet their needs. Jay has served as NCFR director of technology since 2017. His role has encompassed managing everything from data and web integrations to computer hardware and software, and absolutely everything in between. Although tech matters can often be confusing and intimidating, Jay could always be counted on to explain things in an easygoing and patient manner.

Both Jay and Maddie have lent their ingenuity, enthusiasm, and passion to NCFR in creating solid and durable procedures, innovations, solutions, that will continue to guide NCFR's work forward in their wake. They are both moving on to the next stage

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2023 NCFR Annual Conference Program Highlights

Emily Vang, M.S., CFLE, Education and Certification Coordinator, emilyvang@ncfr.org; and Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Research, Family, and Policy Education, jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org

It's that time of the year! The 2023 NCFR Annual Conference will be here before we know it. I look forward to seeing you during the conference whether you are joining us in person or remotely!

The 2023 NCFR Annual Conference Program Chair, M. Elise Radina, Ph.D., CFLE, and the Conference Program Committee have come together to design another excellent conference with many high-quality sessions including plenaries, special sessions, invited presenter symposia, and many more.

This year's theme is: *The Way We Are Now: Families and Communities at the Center of the Syndemic*, Dr. Radina's goal of this theme is to call our attention to how families and communities have been, and continue to be, impacted by what has become a syndemic (i.e., struggles related to the COVID-19 pandemic, racism, gun violence, homophobia, climate change).

In an effort to begin preparing for what will undoubtedly be an inspiring and unique conference, here are sessions that highlight this year's theme.

Please check the conference schedule for session times: ncfr.org/ncfr-2023/schedule.

Plenaries, Special Sessions, and Invited Sessions That Examine the Effects of the Syndemic on Families Well-being

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- **Our Current Crisis in Historical Perspective**, the opening plenary with Stephanie Coontz, M.S.
- **Latinx LGBTQ People and Their Families: Advancing Culturally Centered Theories and Research Methodologies**, TCRM special session
- **You Cannot Serve From an Empty Vessel: Trauma Informed Wellness For Faculty and Practitioner Support**, a special session made possible by the

Families and Health, Advancing Family Science, and Family Therapy Sections

- **Custodial Grandfamilies Navigating the Syndemic: Risk, Resilience, and Future Directions**, an invited presenter session made possible by the Families and Health section and the Issues in Aging Focus Group
- **Navigating Academia Through Syndemics: COVID and Political Churning**, an invited session made possible by NCFR Students and New Professionals

The NCFR Education department is turning its head toward pedagogy to be used in academic and community settings.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- **Ambiguity, Compounded Loss, and Suffocated Grief in Families amid the Syndemic**, Thursday plenary with Tashel C. Bordere, Ph.D.
- **Changes in the Lives of Families and Family Science Amid a Syndemic: Perspectives of Faculty Appointed at Minority-Serving Institutions**, a special session made possible by the NCFR Inclusion and Diversity Committee

Friday, Nov. 10

- **Collective Wellness: The Psychology of Radical Healing With Families and Communities of Color**, made possible by the Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families, Feminism and Family Science, and Religion, Spirituality, and Family Sections

Saturday, Nov. 11

- **A Syndemic: The American Racial Hierarchy, Systemic Racism, and the COVID-19 Pandemic**, Saturday plenary with Marlene F. Watson, Ph.D.

Check out the conference program (ncfr.org/ncfr-2023/schedule) for a full list of all symposia, workshops, paper sessions, and posters not listed here that examine COVID-19 and the various social injustices that create a syndemic—and for all the other excellent conference sessions. The sessions listed above will be available to view remotely during the conference and via a recording on demand for all conference registrants after the conference.

Policy-Related Sessions During the 2023 Annual Conference

Many of the sessions listed above have the potential for great impact on policy or to provide policy implications.

As NCFR does annually, we would like to share policy-related sessions being presented during the conference, some of which also shift perspectives on families in the syndemic. These sessions highlight the excellent policy work being presented at the NCFR Annual Conference. The conference program (ncfr.org/ncfr-2023/schedule) provides a full list of policy and policy-related posters and sessions not listed here:

Wednesday, Nov. 16

- **Birth Family Roles and Experiences in the Context of Adoption and Foster Care Systems**, a Family Policy Section symposium

Thursday, Nov. 17

- **Inspiring Action in the Face of Oppression: Advancing the Discourse on LGBTQ+ Policy**, a special session made possible by the Feminism and Family Science, Family Policy, Family and Community Education, and Family Therapy Sections
- **Sexual and Gender Minorities at the Intersection of Family Law and Policy**, a Family Policy section lightning paper session

- **How to Elevate the Impact of Your Research and Programming: How Family Military Scholars Make an Impact on Their Communities and Inform Policy**, a special session made possible by the Family Policy, Family and Community Education, International, and Advancing Family Science Sections and the Military Families and Children Focus Group

Friday, Nov. 18

- **The Impact of Discriminatory and Affirming Laws and Policies on LGBTQ Parent Families**, Friday plenary with Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D.; this session is also related to the conference theme
- **The Workings of the United Nations and How to Get Involved**, an invited presenter session made possible by the International Section
- **Centering Mothering: How Responsive is Family Policy to Evolving Maternal Experiences in the U.S.**, a Family Policy Section paper session
- **Family Policy Section Member Meeting**

Pedagogy at the 2023 Conference

The NCFR Education department is turning its head toward pedagogy to be used in academic and community settings. To that end, we would like to share with you sessions being held during the conference that can enhance your teaching skills.

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the communities of which we are a part. Loved ones that are lost and friends who are no longer with us serve as reminders to be kind to each other; further, do not put things off that you can do today until tomorrow. Each day is not promised, nor do you know what it will bring. Live a life without regrets so that your mind can be free and clear to be the true change agent that you want to see.

Walk joyfully along the path that you have helped to carve out. Share the gladness that only you can because you are you. Spend more time seeking ways to serve others and making your days count. I think you will be pleased

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- **Learning Tether: Resource Exchange of CFLE Teaching Materials**, a resource exchange for those who teach in CFLE approved programs
- **Examining and Improving Experiential Learning Experiences For Family Science Internship/Practicum Students: Adapting to the Syndemic**, an Advancing Family Science Symposium

Thursday, Nov. 9

- **Re: Building Families: Examining the Feasibility of a Psychoeducation and Support Program For Spouses/Partners of First Responders**, a Family and Community Education Symposium

Friday, Nov. 10

- **FCS/AFS Resource Exchange Roundtable**, made possible by the Family and Community Education and Advancing Family Science Sections
- **Examining Family Science and Family Science Programing**, an Advancing Family Science paper session
- **Fostering LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Family Science: A Cultural Competency Workshop for Family and Community Educators and Practitioners**, a training workshop offered by the Family and Community Education section.

Saturday, Nov. 11

- **Embrace AI Without Sacrificing AI: Artificial Intelligence, Academic Integrity, and the Family Science Classroom**, an invited presenter session made possible by the Advancing Family Science Section.

Remember these are only a handful of all the many excellent sessions that examine the impact the syndemic has had families and policy and sessions that can inform your teaching efforts. You can find the full conference program at ncfr.org/ncfr-2023/ schedule to see all the many excellent sessions that will be offered this year. We can't wait to learn more! ✨

Executive Review *continued from page 4*

of their respective careers, and although we will fondly miss them, we wish them well.

Several other longtime staff members have shifted recently into new positions: **Jane Reilly** (manager of governance and board operations), **Ginnie O'Neill** (director of membership engagement and development), and **Trip Sullivan** (director of marketing and communications). Meanwhile, **Bjorn Willms** became the new office manager in March, and two part-time program assistants moved to full-time status in August. They are **Kyle Armon** (membership and education), and **Kristal Johnson** (communications and education). Please join me in welcoming these staff into new roles and positions.

At a recent staff meeting where we discussed possible projects for the coming year, we took time to reflect on just how much had changed in the last year that affects the work of NCFR's staff and affects the work of NCFR's members. We all agreed that there would inevitably only be *more* change coming in the months and years ahead, and that we will have to continue to try and find new ways of working. Indeed, the only constant we can count on is change itself. And while changing staff roles and new ways of holding conferences are challenging, they are necessary steps toward NCFR's continued growth and success. Here's to the journey ahead. ✨

that you accomplished as much as you could while you could. Send a note when you can, particularly when you think of someone. Those who helped you on the days that you needed it, be grateful and let them know how much you appreciated it. Relationships are made just for that. Appreciate each day that you are given and use it wisely. Each one is precious and priceless.

When you have reached the last days of your career, think about the lives that you have touched and the differences that you have made in positive ways. Welcome to the fall season and I look forward to the best that is yet to come. ✨

Meet the 2023 Conference Plenary Presenters

Stephanie Coontz, M.A.

Our Current Crisis in Historical Perspective

As highlighted by the 2023 NCFR conference theme, society is experiencing a syndemic period brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This talk will attempt to connect the



Stephanie Coontz

converging crises of the 21st century and the diverging responses to those crises into historical perspective. Contradictions and trade-offs produced by changing socioeconomic relationships and changing values about gender, race, class, and equality will be emphasized. Suggestions will be provided as to what we can learn from history – and from on-going research – about what we can and cannot do to contain or cure the social and personal pathologies of this syndemic.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate the historical variability and social origins of ideas about race, gender, and sexuality.
- Examine the origins of our current economic and political pathologies and show how they have aggravated “pre-existing conditions” of both disadvantage AND privilege.
- Show why the only thing more dangerous than accepting nostalgic myths about American history is discounting the legitimate anxieties and grievances that the mythmakers are attempting to exploit.
- Summarize recent research on what sorts of actions actually change minds instead of hardening minds.

Stephanie Coontz, M.A., (she/her) is the director of research and public education at the Council on Contemporary Families. A professor emerita at Evergreen State College

in Olympia, Washington, she received her B.A. in the history honors program at the University of California at Berkeley. As a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, she earned her M.A. in history at the University of Washington. She has since authored seven books on marriage and family life, one of which was cited in the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality. She also edited *American Families: A Multicultural Reader*. She is currently working on a book of essays tentatively titled *For Better AND Worse: The Problematic Past and Uncertain Future of Marriage*. Ms. Coontz is a frequent guest columnist for the New York Times and is widely interviewed about her research by the press. She has been a member of NCFR for 25 years and a frequent author of *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Sponsored by Department of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Georgia

Thursday Plenary: Nov. 9

Tashel Bordere, Ph.D., CT

Ambiguity, Compounded Loss, and Suffocated Grief in Families Amid the Syndemic

In a largely death-denying, grief-blind broader culture, social media and national movements have been pivotal in bringing widespread attention to the hidden traumas, complex losses, and profound grief of families simultaneously coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest, and sociopolitical grief. This plenary will address ways that historical patterns of ambiguous, compounded loss, disenfranchisement, and suffocated grief (or penalties assessed of grieving individuals) were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic inequities. Drawing from social justice-based grief theories,



Tashel Bordere

research, and case examples, we will examine social justice issues in loss in the syndemic, centering families located at the margins, opportunities for dismantling systemic impediments to coping, and ways to promote grief enfranchisement in various institutions. Implications for grief-informed research, education, clinical practice, programming and policy will be addressed.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Explain concepts of loss (ambiguous), suffocated grief, and bereavement within context
- Describe historical and contemporary patterns unique to the loss and grief experiences of the general population and patterns unique to individuals and families living through and resisting intersecting forms of marginalization (e.g., educational, social)
- Explicate contextual factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic that exacerbated challenges to grief, mourning, and coping among youth and families in the syndemic.
- Delineate culturally resonant, grief-informed approaches to research, clinical practice, education, programming, work spaces and policies.

Tashel C. Bordere, Ph.D., CT, (she/her) is a certified thanatologist, grant-funded researcher at the Center for Family Policy and Research and adjunct faculty, Department of Human Development and Family Science, at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Bordere earned her doctorate degree in human environmental sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her research assumes a contextual and interdisciplinary approach focusing on systemic inequities and cultural trauma; stigmatized loss and coping; Black youth and family bereavement; and “suffocated grief,” a term she coined. Dr. Bordere is a past Fellow of Forward Promise, through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, that focuses on the promotion of healing, growth, and thriving among boys and young men of color. She is co-editor/

co-author of the *Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief* and developed the S.H.E.D. Loss and Grief Tools Training. Dr. Bordere has been featured in multiple media outlets including *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *Legacy.com*, *Psychology Today*, and *Houston Chronicle*.

**Sponsored by Texas Tech University
Department of Human Development and
Family Sciences**

Friday Plenary: Nov. 10

Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D.

The Impact of Discriminatory and Affirming Laws and Policies on LGBTQ Parent Families

LGBTQ parent families are currently being impacted by laws and policies across the United States that directly or indirectly stigmatize LGBTQ identities, as well by the sociopolitical climate that often accompanies or embeds such laws and policies. This plenary will address how laws and policies that recognize (versus deny the existence of) same-sex relationships and LGBTQ parent-child relationships serve to impact the lives and well-being of LGBTQ parents and their families. This plenary will also address how



Abbie Goldberg

laws and policies that restrict recognition, affirmation, or inclusion of LGBTQ identities—such as in schools—impact LGBTQ parents and their children. Attention will be paid to the role of sociopolitical context and community climate in understanding sources of pain, tension, and resilience for LGBTQ parent families. This presentation will include data collected from three recent studies that examine the impact of the Parental Rights in Education Act (Don't Say Gay) in Florida. It will also address contemporary challenges—legal and institutional—to conducting this type of research in the current sociopolitical climate.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Learn about key legislation affecting contemporary LGBTQ parent families.
- Understand the relationship between systemic stressors and family, relational, and individual well-being.
- Gain knowledge of how different members of the LGBTQ community are differentially impacted by legislative and community level stressors.

Abbie E. Goldberg, Ph.D., (she/her) is a professor in the Department of Psychology and the director of women's and gender Studies at Clark University. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research examines diverse families, including LGBTQ-parent families and adoptive-parent families, with a focus on family transitions.

Dr. Goldberg has also conducted research on trans students' experiences in higher education. She has received research funding from the National Institutes of Health, the American Psychological Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, and more. Dr. Goldberg authored over 140 peer-reviewed articles, four books, and is the editor/co-editor of four books. Her most recent books include *LGBTQ Family Building: A Guide for Prospective Parents* and *Open Adoption & Diverse Families*. Dr. Goldberg is a widely recognized expert on LGBTQ-parent families and is regularly featured by media outlets including the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *People*. She has also provided expert testimony in court cases involving adoption, same-sex divorce, and parenting.

**Sponsored by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
Department of Human
Development and Family Studies**

Saturday Plenary: Nov. 11

Marlene F. Watson, Ph.D.

A Syndemic: The American Racial Hierarchy, Systemic Racism, and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The American racial hierarchy played a critical role in the COVID-19 pandemic. Systemic racism, the child of the American racial hierarchy, adversely interacted with the COVID-19 pandemic to form a syndemic. Racism

was known to be a social determinant of health prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the COVID-19 pandemic left no doubt that systemic racism is an epidemic in its own right. Systemic racism has impacted Black people across many generations, contributing to and maintaining an excess burden of disease for Black families. Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic hit vulnerable communities the hardest. In the United States, that meant BIPOC communities, with



Marlene F. Watson

Thank You, NCFR Donors

Donations made to NCFR from April 1 to June 30, 2023

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Plenary Presenters continued on page 9

Welcome to the Newest Members of NCFR

Please join us in welcoming these members who joined between April 1 and June 30, 2023.

Lauren Aaron	Sandra Carrillo	Morgan Rebecca Fragale	Yaochong Huang
Shalyn Adams	Ying Chen	Hannah Frisbey	John Hughes
Valerie Albert	Lan Chen	Sheena Frizzell	Magda Javakhishvili
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Zach Bailey	Jennifer Creighton	Neha Prashant Gholap	Jennifer Kendrick
Brooke Aryn Bailey	Ruhan Ding	Meredith Elaine Goodman	Jody Koenig Kellas
Kimberley Bartlome	Karina Donald	Elvenia Elizabeth Gray-Sandiford	Jordyn Kohl
Tara Anne Bass	Reed Donithen	Mariam Hafiz	Cho Rong Lee
Tishra Beeson	Nan Du	Katty Hall	Yu Li
Sarah E. Bergerson	Hanna Duffy	Taylor Renee Hampton	Jing Li
Meg Breland	Kara Beth Duke	Alyssa Hartman	Ying Liang
William Trevor Brooks	Caitlin Duplechin	Naomi Hassane Dan Karami	Laura Ann Liepinski
Jarri Daniel Emmanuel Brooks	Julissa Duran	Kyleigh Hatch	Evalyna Littleyoungman
Jamie Branam Brown	Michael Everhart	Christian Heim	Madalyn Desiree Losee
Eleanor DeMaris Brown	Shixin Fang	Grace Heimerdinger-Baake	Shuang Lu
Cathie P. Butler	Hannah Brett Farr	Haiden Hice	Yi Luo
Aaron Cackoski	Ruiqi Feng	LaNita Dawn Hobza	Xiaoqi Ma
Anna Sellers Calley	Lucyana Ferguson	Jayvon Howard	Emily MacLee
Laura L. Campos	Karyme Alyssa Fernandez		

New Members continued on page 11

Plenary Presenters continued from page 8

Black people being especially vulnerable due to intergenerational racial trauma. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that a nation is not only as healthy as its people but that a more just nation is a healthier one. This plenary will explore the American racial hierarchy, systemic racism, and health inequity. It is also a call to action for family therapists, educators, researchers, and policymakers to collectively take on systemic racism and promote mental and physical health equity.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Advance knowledge of how the American racial hierarchy was ripe for a syndemic to emerge.

- Promote awareness of the impact intergenerational racial trauma has had on the health and well-being of Black people.
- Encourage family therapists, educators, researchers, and policymakers to center systemic racism in their work.

Marlene F. Watson, Ph.D., LMFT, (she/her) is the director of training at the Ackerman Institute for the Family, and associate professor emerita and former chair of the Couple and Family Therapy Department at Drexel University. She earned her doctorate in couple and family therapy at Virginia Tech. Dr. Watson is past president of the Family Process Institute Board of Directors, has served on editorial review boards for several journals including the *Journal of*

Marital and Family Therapy, and has written columns for *Heart & Soul* magazine. She is the former Chair of the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education as well as the inaugural couple and family therapist to receive the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship, where she served as a senior health advisor to the then U.S. Senator John D. Rockefeller IV. Dr. Watson's outstanding research was recognized by the American Family Therapy Academy as recipient of their 2009 Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice Award. Dr. Watson is a licensed couple and family therapist in private practice and author of *Facing the Black Shadow*. ✨

Bringing Research to Life: Meeting Children’s Educational Needs Through Stakeholder Collaboration

Member Q&A With Lorena Aceves

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:

Lorena Aceves, Ph.D.

Current Job Titles:

Research Scientist, Child Trends

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

At Child Trends, I’m focused full time on research projects related to K-12 education. While education is my predominant topic, I think about my work using a systems approach, which is where Family Science comes in: Kids don’t just exist in the silo of education, they exist in a family system that impacts how they navigate their educational system. Day to day, my work tasks can depend on where I’m at in the cycle of each of my projects. Some days I’m running focus groups or having check-in calls with funders. Other days, I could be strictly writing because I’m working on a proposal with a team.

Beyond my research area, I’m able to work on different aspects of other projects, like providing technical assistance to funders and collaborating with people at academic institutions. We respond to calls put out by funders, including the U.S. government and other stakeholders, and compete for funding to address the issues or research questions they’ve identified. Lately, the federal government has put out a lot of calls to address equity, so that’s one of my focus areas. It’s pretty fun to come together with others who have different areas of expertise

and show funders the team we can offer and what we can do. It’s even more exciting when we’re funded to do the work and see the research come to life. I think that’s what’s so important — that we’re addressing timely, real-life needs, which is very different from academic spaces.

Another important aspect of my job that I really enjoy is working directly with state and local governments, school districts, families, and communities. For example, one school district we’re working with is addressing how to engage their students’ families, who speak five different languages. The district only has so much bandwidth, but representatives want to make sure that the families can be engaged in their children’s education. We’re working on strategies to make sure these families have a voice in the programs the school district is working to implement.

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

I was always interested in knowing how my family context mattered — for instance, in motivating me to earn a Ph.D. when my brother and cousins pursued avenues other than higher education. That set the stage for my interest in educational outcomes among Latinx youth, in the context of their family.

As a student, I loved connecting with people at the NCFR Annual Conference who were doing this kind of work. Then, learning

about theoretical models in Family Science and in developmental science made me think about how I could marry the two areas in my work.

I started my Ph.D. intending to become a professor, but halfway through graduate school, I realized that didn’t seem like a good fit for me. Through that kind of questioning, I did internships during graduate school at the U.S. Department of Education that showed me other career paths. I was a federal policy postdoc with the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), which allowed me to spend two additional years learning about federal government work and more career paths. Ultimately, I decided that I wanted to work somewhere like Child Trends, where I could focus on research — doing analyses, writing reports, and conducting focus groups. While I loved federal service, a lot of federal work is administrative, and I was looking for somewhere where I could still be “in the weeds.”

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

Again, I approach my work from a systems perspective. Sometimes people only focus on the school, or they only focus on the family. But there has to be an intersection between the two. The child might be at that intersection, but it’s not the child’s responsibility to inform the family about what’s going on at school or vice versa.



Lorena Aceves



If the child is growing in a healthy family system, they'll thrive in school, and if school representatives understand what the home base looks like, they're better able to support the child's needs at school.

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

I find it so exciting to work on something happening in real life, like partnering with school districts on how to engage families instead of thinking about the issues only from a theoretical perspective. It's about understanding the real-life issues that families and schools are facing and creating solutions together.

I also like investing in up-and-coming Latinx scholars. I have a network of people I've met at conferences over the years, and I also host a writing and support group pretty regularly. I love having that space for folks, especially if they're the only Latinx individual in their program, or so they can come to somebody

about professional issues or really about anything related to being a Brown person pursuing a Ph.D.

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

I think the only thing I wish I had known earlier was just how many options there are career-wise. That's why I make it a point to let people know that the skillset we gain in graduate school can extend beyond academia. We're not always told that. I actually have an enormous spreadsheet of all the kinds of organizations where you can work with a Ph.D. (bit.ly/AcevesResourcesNCFR). I always share it and tell people to just take a look. Even if you know you want to go in academia, I think it's still worthwhile to learn what else is out there; you could find organizations to collaborate with, or you might change your mind at some point or need more flexibility because of personal circumstances.

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

Again, one aspect of my work that I'm so passionate about is using research to address timely, real-life issues. Make sure you're passionate about what you're doing and that it fills your cup; if it fills your cup, it's going to fill everybody else's cup, as well. But it's also important to note that your passion can change. I feel like a lot of people struggle when their passion changes or they need to adapt it a bit. But if you feel it in your heart and soul, it's going to go so far. ✨

Dr. Aceves has also created these resources to help others explore and navigate academic and non-academic career paths:

- *Podcast: Vida de PhD* (bit.ly/AcevesPodcastNCFR)
- *Resources: Discovering the Right Fit: Academic and Non-Academic Careers* (bit.ly/AcevesResourcesNCFR)

New Members *continued from page 9*

Christopher Daniel MacLee
Annie Marantette
Georgia C. Maxey
Aysoltan Maxudov
Elizabeth Mazur
Kevin McAweeney
Holly McCollom
Deanna E. McCollum
Megan McElheran
Amanda M. McGuinness
Lily Messenger
Madeline J. Mickelson
Tamara Mock
Victoria Mollo
Marcia Lynn Montague
Andrianna O. Moustakas
Roger Murray
James Haywood Neely, Sr.
Shinae Noh
Elsa MacMillan Nownes

Grace Ann O'Toole
Viktoria Papp
Hannah Sue Pausch
Tamara Perez
Jennifer Perkins
Elizabeth B. Perkins
Susan Danielle Pickles
Beatrice Fenelon Pierre
Arielle Podberesky
Leila Marie Poole
Melanie Port
Kellsie Lynn Prather
Julia Pyatyshev
Jeanine Raymond
Jayme Redmon
Jeennie Reedy
Jamie-Lyn M. Richartz
Eleanor Megan Rolfe
Keegan Xavier Salisbury
Danielle Alyssa Samuel
Janice M. Santiago

Annagrace Rebekah Saufley
Addison Schubert
Bailey Schumacher
Melissa Rivera Screven
Kellie Jean Seals
Kallen Shaw
Haeun Shin
Mary Shrader
Jessica Marie Siadek
Laura Siracusa
Patricia Snyder
Ellaina Stadel
Melissa Dawn Sudduth
Jihyun Sung
Sofia Suxo-Sanchez
Ty Swire
Jennifer Ann Switzer
Jana Teagle
Shelby Tidwell
Lyra Grace Toohey
Aryanna Tunstall

Rafael A. Vasquez
Roxana M. Vernescu
Debra A. Vilmont
Hailing Wang
Wen Wang
Ashley M. Wasia
Alicia M. White
Liz Williams
Britt Willis
Elaina Kaye Wilson
Emily Diane Wilson
Allyson Wolman
Grover Wray
Rebecca Wutz
Yubo Xu
Mai Chong Yang
Yuanyuan Zhang
Fanwen Zhang
Suge Zhang

International Section News

Raeann R. Hamon, Ph.D., CFLE, International Section Chair

We look forward to assembling in the Sunshine State of Florida in November and hope you will be joining us! Did you know that in 2022, approximately 9.8 million guests visited Florida from Canada and other overseas countries? Let's hope for a great turnout and some warm weather for our reunion!

Thank you to everyone who submitted proposals to the Section as well as those who volunteered to review the proposals. I'm very excited about the program we will be offering. The International Section organized an invited session devoted to *The Workings of the United Nations and How to Get Involved* provided by Dr. Ignacio Socias, Dr. Yan Xia,

Dr. Bahira Trask, and Dr. Mihaela Robila. We will also have a concurrent paper session entitled *Adolescents and Their Families in the Contemporary World*, as well as a series of lightening papers on the topic of *Couples and Parenting During the Covid Pandemic*. Additionally, our Section is co-sponsoring a special session on *How to Elevate the Impact of Your Research and Programming: How Family Military Scholars Make an Impact on Their Communities and Inform Policy*. On top of all of that, our Section will highlight international family scholarship through multiple poster sessions throughout the conference. Our Section business meeting and social will be on Friday from 5:15-6:15.

The Journal of Comparative Family Studies graciously agreed to provide refreshments for our business meeting. I'm also hoping to organize a time when interested Section members might go out for dinner together, so look for more details. The Section meeting and dinner afford a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and envision innovative internationally focused projects.

Lastly, we're exploring the possibility of conducting a silent auction of international items to benefit the Bron Ingoldsby and student travel awards, so consider bringing an item to donate for the cause.

I look forward to seeing you at the NCFR Conference this year! ✨

The Way We Are continued from page 1

Coontz will share her perspectives on the historical moment of the syndemic and offer new insights into how we can view our history through a lens that focuses on human strength, advocacy, and perseverance in the face of incredible barriers.

The syndemic has brought with it many losses. Not just loss of loved ones due to illness and violence but also the loss of normalcy, human interactions, relationships, identities, etc. **Tashel Bordere**, who identified the concept of suffocated grief in the context of systemic oppression, will share insights during her plenary about the complexities of loss during the syndemic.

It is essential to acknowledge this year's conference in the state of Florida. The state's Parental Rights in Education measure has been the subject of much social unrest and political turmoil impacting teachers and families alike. **Abbie Goldberg**, an expert on mental health and LGBTQ+ families and youth, will discuss how research can help families navigate homophobia amid anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

Our final plenary presenter is **Marlene F. Watson**. She is the director of training at the Ackerman Institute for the Family in New York. She is an associate professor emerita and former chair of the Couple and Family Therapy Department at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She is a licensed couple and family therapist in private practice and the author of the book, *Facing the Black Shadow*.

As conference attendees and NCFR members, we would be remiss not to consider what the location of our meeting means to both conference attendees and the families we serve. Florida has been the epicenter for many aspects of the syndemic we are experiencing and the situation seems to change almost daily. As a result, it is not surprising that, for some, attending the conference in person in Florida is not possible. I am grateful to the NCFR Board and staff who have helped to make the opportunity for remote and virtual participation possible for our members, despite the huge financial and logistical costs. I know the NCFR staff has worked tirelessly

to enact the Board's directive to create as interactive in-person and virtual experiences as possible. I am also grateful for our colleagues at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign who are hosting our members so that they can gather together and participate in the conference as a community.

My hope is that our keynote speakers, special sessions, and presentations throughout this conference will create space for our members to engage in dialogue so that we can listen to and learn from one another, find small places of healing where possible, develop the resolve to forge our way forward, and gain insights about how we can support families and communities in the coming future. Thank you for attending this conference in whatever way was best for you. Enjoy! ✨

CALL FOR PAPERS

Doha International Family Institute Journal (DIFI Journal) is a new peer-reviewed, scholarly journal focusing on family research and family policy related topics. By bringing together diverse and insightful research, the Journal aims to tackle family issues at the local, regional, and international level.

DIFI Journal is spearheaded by Doha International Family Institute, a global policy and advocacy institute working to advance knowledge on Arab families and promote evidence-based policies.

We are now accepting submissions for the following papers:

1. EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

Papers should clearly state their hypothesis, methods, results, any interventions, conclusions, and recommendations, along with policy implications. 6,000-8,000 words.

2. POLICY BRIEF

Summary of information about a research project, suggesting possible policy options or arguing for a particular action/intervention/program. 3,000-4,000 words.

3. DESK REVIEW RESEARCH

Secondary analysis or evidence derived from primary studies that have been selected and synthesized.

4. APPLIED RESEARCH

This type of research plays an important role in solving everyday problems that often have an impact on life, work, health, and overall well-being.

Submissions are accepted in both Arabic and English.

To learn more about DIFI Journal and the submission process, visit <https://www.qscience.com/content/journals/difi>

Submissions can be emailed to difijournal@qf.org.qa.



Nominate Candidates to be NCFR's Next Leaders

Jenifer McGuire and Jessica N. Fish, NCFR Elections Council Co-Chairs

The future of both NCFR and Family Science are inextricably tied to the quality and dedication of our leaders. Thanks to the strategic vision and perseverance of our leadership, we have made tremendous strides toward our mission of strengthening families. We need your help to keep up this momentum. As we approach the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference in November, there are two ways you can assist the Elections Council. First, think about the leadership opportunities in NCFR that might be a good match for you. Speak with colleagues, mentors, section leaders, or Elections Council members about your desire to serve and

your willingness to be nominated for a position. Second, consider nominating colleagues who you think would be a good match for the positions available in the next election cycle:

Board Positions

- President-Elect (President-Elect for 2026 and 2027 and President for 2028 and 2029)
- Board Member At-Large (to serve 2026, 2027, and 2028), two positions
- Board Students and New Professionals Representative-elect (Board SNP Rep Elect - 2026; Board Students and New Professionals Representative 2027 and 2028), one position

Board Committee Positions

- Elections Council members (serve 2026, 2027, 2028), two positions
- Fellows Committee members (serve 2026, 2027, 2028), two positions
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee (serve 2026, 2027, 2028), two positions
- Student and New Professional Representative on Inclusion and Diversity Committee (2026, 2027), one position

Conference Program

- Conference Program chair-elect (2026, program chair for 2027 conference)

Nominate Candidates continued on page 15

In Memoriam: Margaret Arcus

Margaret E. Arcus, Ph.D., CFLE, passed on June 27, 2023. She was an NCFR member for 55 years, Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) for 36 years, an NCFR Fellow and CFLE Emeritus.

Dr. Arcus made a remarkable contribution to the field of Family Life Education (FLE) during her long, productive career as an author, teacher, and scholar. She helped establish the Certified Family Life Educator credential program at NCFR, setting standards for the field. She was also chair of NCFR's Education Section, chair of the Continuing Education Committee, chair of the membership committee, and vice chair of the International Section. In 2000, NCFR established the Margaret E. Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator award in her honor to recognize significant contributions to FLE through research, theory, practice, or other professional activities.

Dr. Arcus earned her doctorate in home economics education from Iowa State University. She was a professor of home economics and family studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC) where she taught and conducted research for 31 years, being instrumental in establishing

the family studies program. She was also director of the School of Family and Nutritional Sciences, and Fellow for the Association for Values Education and Research (AVER), an interdisciplinary group of researchers at UBC.

Dr. Arcus received several prestigious awards for her scholarship. She was recipient of the NCFR Ernest G. Osbourne Award in 1989 for her innovation in teaching and dedication to Family Science. She received the Killam Teaching Award at the University of British Columbia, 1995-96 and 1989-90, for her outstanding teaching and learning contributions. The 1992 Just Desserts Award at the University of British Columbia was bestowed upon Dr. Arcus for her outstanding passion and work in the spirit of service for students, which comes at the recommendation of UBC undergraduate and graduate student societies. She was the 1996 recipient of the Honour Award, the highest award bestowed by the Canadian Home Economics Association (CHEA) for her leadership and service to the profession and the association.

Dr. Arcus, one of the pioneers of and primary contributors to FLE wrote several important works on the subject. She

is acclaimed for providing the first synthesis of FLE, articulating it in theory and in practice, contributing to program development, curriculum planning, marriage and family enrichment. She was a fruitful author of articles and also authored the two-volume *Handbook of Family Life Education*, a foundational text offering a critical perspective on FLE values, professionalism, and programming.

Dr. Arcus will be eulogized during the annual memorial service at the 2023 NCFR Annual Conference. The names of any NCFR members who have recently died are read aloud at this service. Members who have served as an NCFR board member, journal editor, or are conferred NCFR Fellow status are given a eulogy. ✨

If you learn of an NCFR member who has passed away, please email membership@ncfr.org.



Congratulations to Our New Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs) designated between April 1 and June 30, 2023. *Provisional unless otherwise noted.*

Alabama

Savannah Brasher

Arkansas

Mary Catherine Andrews
Meaghan Ranz Ellenburg FULL
Geoff Reddick FULL

Arizona

Jill B. Willmore

California

Kayla Patricia Bereijo FULL
Lisa Janell Johnson Davis
Halle Ann Kane
Cynthia Villa

Colorado

Kristin Diane Orphan FULL

Florida

Madison Robinson
Katelyn Emily Sullivan
Valeria Williams
FULL



Georgia

Alejandra Black FULL

Idaho

Gayle Lewis
Lisa Ann Sowards
Kayli Madison Bontrager

Illinois

Ava Pauly

Indiana

Joshua James Ford
Kelly Oliver

Michigan

Jala A Crews
Alicia Lynn Dykman
Keegan Xavier Salisbury

Minnesota

Melanie Port

Missouri

Amber Allen FULL
Chelsea Rose Baker FULL
Makayla Black
Mary Elizabeth Hecht FULL
Tashari Reed

Mississippi

Kindall Akers
Taylor Deer

North Carolina

Morgan Rebecca Fragale FULL
Lansdale Arthur Jones
Monica B. King FULL

North Dakota

Katie Sanda

Nevada

Chalyss Evans FULL
Anarita Ibarra
Annie Marantette
Nicole Metz
Mariana Lippert Vignoli

New York

Nicole Muhs
Dorothy Anne Weishaar FULL

Ohio

Mackenzie Rae Nicolli

Oklahoma

Dedra Jean McDaniel

Tennessee

Isabel Ann Foraker-Turner
Diamond Moses
Britt Willis

Texas

Stacy E. Bergman FULL
Felisha Burselson FULL
Christi Carter
Anna Diaz
Karyme Alyssa Fernandez
Heather Fuller FULL

Utah

Madeline E. Giles

Virginia

Whitney Danielle Moore

Washington

Megan Elaine Clausen

Nominate Candidates *continued from page 14*

Affiliate Council

- Affiliate Council President-Elect (2026 and 2027), one position

The election cycle begins each year at the annual conference, when we ask members, sections, and focus groups to nominate potential candidates for the organizational-level positions that need to be filled.

In the spring of 2024, the Elections Council will meet to identify and discuss possible candidates for 2025 who have been identified by nomination or who have previously served in leadership positions. We consider the experience of individual candidates and ensure that the overall slate reflects the

strength and diversity of the entire NCFR membership and that reflects and promotes the mission and goals of NCFR.

The Elections Council's responsibility is to help NCFR members match their leadership abilities to the opportunities that abound within our organization. We take seriously the NCFR Board of Directors' charge to find the right people who are willing to have their names placed on the ballot each year. We are guided by the operating values outlined in the NCFR bylaws and the Elections Council policies and procedures. We are excited about the possibilities for future leadership and hope you consider being a part of it. ✨

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
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in this issue:

M2023 NCFR Annual
Conference

ncfr
2023

REGISTER TODAY
2023 NCFR Annual Conference
Wednesday, Nov. 8 – Saturday, Nov. 11

2023 NCFR Annual Conference
Wednesday, Nov. 8 – Saturday, Nov. 11
Rosen Centre | Orlando, Florida

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 cityscape of Orlando, Florida, with illuminated skyscrapers and a body of water in the foreground reflecting the lights. The text is overlaid on the image in white and blue colors.