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THE CENTER FOR FAMILY RESILIENCE

The Center for Family Resilience (CFR) was founded in 2009 as a community resource focused on equipping families to achieve their fullest personal and social potential. The CFR conducts and translates scientific knowledge about families and family life into strategies that build individual and family resilience. On a mission to discover solutions for today’s families, Oklahoma State University’s CFR serves Oklahoma’s communities through Research, Translation and Education, and Community Outreach and Engagement projects and initiatives.

Research is supported and conducted by the CFR’s staff, students, and Research Associates. This research is then translated and disseminated to community members and leaders through community outreach and engagement initiatives. The CFR partners with local, state, tribal, and national organizations to carry out its mission. The work of the CFR is made possible by various funding sources including (but not limited to): Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; OSU’s Department of Human Development and Family Science; Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education; the National Institute on

MEET THE CFR STAFF AND STUDENTS!

Interim Director
Brooke Tuttle, Ph.D.

Past Director (2015 – 2020)
Michael Merten, Ph.D.

Associate Director of Community Engagement
Ron Cox, Ph.D.

Associate Director of Education and Translation
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- Hector Nolasco, Ph.D. Candidate
- Ava Armstead, M.S.
- Rashmi Singh, Ph.D.
- Ashley Harvey, M.S.
- Tia Claybrook, M.S.
ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


RESEARCH

The CFR conducts and supports the implementation of research studies and program evaluations related to individual, family, and community resilience. Recent and ongoing research activities are related to adolescent sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention; assessment of rural health needs; family-school engagement; youth development; tribal reentry programming for female offenders; construction worker safety; adolescent pesticide exposure among Latino farm workers; and evaluation of school-based, universal, prevention programming for student behavioral health.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

CFR staff and students disseminate research at local and national academic conferences. Venues have included the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meetings and National Council on Family Relations Conferences. Invited talks, as well as poster and paper presentations, have included topics of police stress and wellness, bridging gaps in juvenile justice, student externalizing behaviors and academic achievement, and
family engagement practices in criminal justice settings.

**AMPLIFY TULSA YOUTH HEALTH COLLECTIVE: SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT**

The CFR supported local teen pregnancy prevention efforts by providing evaluation support to the Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy from July 2018 - December 2018. The CFR managed student feedback forms to assess sex education curricula effectiveness. The CFR was responsible for data management, analyses, and reporting to support sexual health programming in local schools. After a period of transition and re-branding, the Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, now known as Amplify Tulsa Youth Health Collective, partnered with the CFR in January 2020 to resume evaluation support for local sex education programming.

**BRIDGING THE GAP: MCINTOSH COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The CFR partnered with the McIntosh County Health Department in McIntosh County, Oklahoma to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in response to growing concerns about poor health outcomes and low life expectancy for residents of McIntosh County compared to other communities across the United States. This CHNA was motivated by existing health promotion work from the *Bridging the Gap Project*. *Bridging the Gap* is a collaboration between the McIntosh County Health Department, Oklahoma State Department of Health, and local stakeholders representing public, private, and non-

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**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED**


Pham, H., Mouser, R., Lor, B., Clark, K., Harvey, A., & Tuttle, B.M. (2019, March). Bridging the gaps in juvenile justice: Key factors to treating youth with delinquent behaviors. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.


CFR REPORT: FALL 2018 – SPRING 2020

CFR STAFF AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS


CREOKS FAMILY-SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

With purposes of understanding barriers to parent-school engagement, the CFR developed a needs assessment for Creoks mental health staff to be utilized in a local family-school engagement program that promotes parental involvement in education. This needs assessment will be administered by the program staff and the CFR will assist in data analyses and reporting in 2020-2021.

GIRLS TEEN SUMMIT EVALUATION

From 2016 to 2018, the CFR developed pre- and post-assessments for the Girls Teen Summit hosted by Soaring Eagles Youth and Family Services. The Girls Teen Summit is a 2-day event for teen girls to listen to speakers and engage in activities related to important topics such as developing healthy relationships, anti-bullying, health and fitness, human trafficking, financial literacy, education importance, and career development. In addition to assessment development, the CFR prepared a report of findings from the data.

LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE EVALUATION

For the past 3 years, the CFR has developed pre- and post-assessments for the Latino Youth Leadership Conference (LYLC). The LYLC is an annual conference for Latino youth in the Tulsa metropolitan area which focuses on promoting leadership and success among Latino youth. Conferences cover topics related to community leadership, self-confidence, and rising above societal expectations. In addition to assessment development, the CFR produces annual reports to inform future conference programming.

LATINO YOUTH PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Latino Youth Pesticide Safety Education Program grant awarded by the Southwest Center of Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education through CDC/NIOSH is in its third year. Latino youth farmworkers between the ages of 12 and 21, who reside in Tahlequah or Muskogee, Oklahoma are recruited to participate in the study. The La Familia Sana program, developed by Wake Forest University, was adapted by the OSU team to be more relevant to an adolescent audience. To date, the study has enrolled 114 adolescent-parent dyads. Overall, increases in pesticide safety knowledge and pesticide
safety behaviors such as hand washing practices have been observed as a result of program completion.

**MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION REENTRY PROJECT**

The CFR has provided evaluation support for the Muscogee Creek Nation Reintegration Program (SMART Reentry Project) in collaboration with OSU-Center for Health Sciences since fall 2016. The CFR’s primary role in the project is to conduct in-custody risk assessments of female offenders across 7 county jails (Creek County, Hughes County, Okfuskee County, Okmulgee County, Muskogee County, McIntosh County, and Tulsa County) and provide service linkage to the Muscogee Creek Nation Reintegration Program. Follow-up data collection, data management, and reporting are also provided by the CFR. This project is a Bureau of Justice Assistance funded project. The CFR has conducted 54 risk assessments through tribal and jail partnerships. Currently, the CFR is collecting follow-up data from program participants to assess program effectiveness.

**OFFICE OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH: TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION GRANT**

The CFR has continued to support local teen pregnancy prevention scale-up efforts in the Tulsa area by providing evaluation support for work around comprehensive sex education in the Tulsa Public School District as well as clinic capacity building at local health centers. The CFR partners with Youth Services of Tulsa, Amplify Tulsa (formerly the Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy), Take Control Initiative, and Strong Tomorrows to carry out federally funded evaluation activities around the promotion of adolescent sexual health. Major activities include non-participant observational data collection during program delivery, survey data collection, participant observation through local coalition work, data management and analyses, and report development.

**OKLAHOMA PAX GOOD BEHAVIOR GAME PROJECT**

PAX Good Behavior Game (PAX GBG) seeks to promote social and emotional health for students in Oklahoma through a classroom environmental intervention designed to decrease disruptive behavior and increase quality instruction time in the classroom. PAX GBG promotes self-regulation among students through a classroom environmental intervention based on a nurturing environment framework. The CFR has served as a state-wide system of support for the implementation and evaluation of PAX GBG among Oklahoma’s participating schools since 2015. The CFR provides training, follow-up
partnering and coaching, and evaluation support to participating schools as part of the broader vision for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services’ scaling of PAX GBG in Oklahoma.

In addition to coordinating the PAX GBG, the CFR develops and disseminates materials to support ongoing implementation and sustainability of PAX GBG in the classrooms and schools of trained educators. Furthermore, the CFR conducts on-site visits with partner school sites to provide in-person coaching assistance. In total, the CFR has coordinated the training, partnering plans, and evaluation plans for over 800 Oklahoma educators and support staff in 83 schools within 43 school districts. To date, the Oklahoma PAX Good Behavior Game Project has served approximately 18,675 Oklahoma students. Overall, data collected via classroom observations have identified reductions in classroom disruptions. Teacher-report data has demonstrated increases in student prosocial behavior.

¡UNIDOS SE PUEDE! / UNITED WE CAN!

¡Unidos Se Puede! / United We Can! (USP/UWC) are family-based intervention programs designed to help Latino and African-American middle-school youth, respectively, excel in school, avoid risky behaviors such as drug use and teen pregnancy, and reduce the chronic stress in their lives that leads to long-term physical and emotional problems like heart disease and depression. The mission of ¡Unidos Se Puede! (United We Can) is to increase the number of Latinx and African-American students from the city of Tulsa that attend and graduate a higher education institution.

Unidos Se Puede is in 7th year of partnering with Tulsa Public Schools and currently serving in 5 of the district’s middle schools, working with approximately 650 Latino immigrant parent/youth dyads or about 1,300 individuals. Project outcomes include increases in parental expectations for college attendance, parental involvement in school, self-efficacy and confidence in own ability to solve problems and be successful, positive attitudes towards school engagement, and prosocial behaviors. Project outcomes have also noted decreases in behavior problems at school and drug use.

TRANSLATION AND EDUCATION

The CFR translates current research findings in an effort to disseminate new knowledge to professionals and community members to promote family resilience. These efforts seek to address the research-practice gap that exists across human sciences and related disciplines. The CFR holds free, monthly research seminars which are open to the public.
and cover a variety of topics related to resilience. Additionally, an annual Chautauqua: Conference on Family Resilience is held to bring researchers and professionals in the community together to discuss topics related to family resilience and best practices in applied science. This conference translates into a Springer Resilience book series. Furthermore, the CFR is the state coordinator for the Family Development Credential in which community organizations are trained to work with families for purposes of fostering resilience. These and other initiatives are detailed next.

CHAUTAUQUA CONFERENCE ON FAMILY RESILIENCE

The CFR hosts an annual Chautauqua conference in Tulsa. Participants include (a) distinguished and rising scholars from diverse disciplines whose work has implications for individual or family resilience; and (b) community stakeholders, including family health and social service providers who can benefit from the translation of basic resilience research. The aim is to have short, cutting-edge presentations with ample scheduled time for guided discussion among the presenters and the conference attendees. Attendees are asked to complete a conference evaluation form. Overall, each year’s data shows positive outcomes related to participant evaluation of speakers and the conference as a whole.

Traditionally held the night before the Chautauqua conference, the Authors’ Dinner is a 3-hr working meeting and dinner attended by the authors, reviewers (CFR Associates), and CFR, HDFS, and College administrators. The purpose of the Author’s Dinner is to discuss and translate research to serve communities.

* The 2019 Chautauqua was co-organized by Dr. Harrist and Dr. Julie Croff. It was held February 22nd and was titled, Family Resilience and Recovery: Opioids and Other Addictions. The conference was co-sponsored by CAPSAT, the Coalition Against Prescription and Substance Abuse of Tulsa. The Chautauqua was attended by 95 participants.

* The 2020 Chautauqua was co-organized by Dr. Kami Gallus and Dr. Jennifer Jones. It was held on March 6, 2020 and was entitled, Engaging Communities to Foster Belonging for Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Families. The conference was co-sponsored by American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Oklahoma Chapter and OSU’s Department of Human Development and Family Science. The Chautauqua was attended by 87 participants.
SPRINGER RESILIENCE BOOK SERIES

The CFR’s Associate Director of Education and Translation is Series Co-Editor with Dean Stephan Wilson of *Emerging Issues in Family and Individual Resilience*, a book series published by Springer International. Each year’s theme corresponds with the theme of the annual Chautauqua conference. Speakers from the Chautauqua conference produce book chapters for the volume. The references for 2019 and 2020 Springer Resilience book series are below:


CFR/OSU-CHS JOURNAL CLUB

The CFR works with OSU’s Center for Health Sciences to support cross-disciplinary Journal Club meetings with OSU-CHS Pediatric Residents and faculty. The Associate Director of Education and Translation helps procure facilitators from Human Sciences as facilitators for meetings of the Journal Club.

In 2018, CFR/OSU-CHS Journal Club facilitators included:

* Amanda Harrist, Ph.D., OSU
* Tessa Chesher, D.O., OSU-CHS
* Jennifer Hays-Grudo, Ph.D., CIRCA
* Julie Croff, Ph.D., National Center for Wellness and Recovery

In 2019, facilitators included:

* Jordan Love and Mallory Schmidt, Child and Adolescent Development Lab, OSU-Tulsa
* Julie Croff, PhD, CIRCA, OSU
* Chantelle Lott, M.S.; Tia Claybrook, M.S.; and Mike Merten, PhD, HDFS, OSU, at Fit to Learn Summit in Tulsa
* Michelle Schaecher, MSW, Will Rogers Elementary, and Amanda Harrist, PhD, at Fit to Learn Summit in Tulsa
CFR RESEARCH SEMINARS

The CFR invites speakers and organizes regular CFR Research Seminars at OSU-Tulsa and simulcast to the OSU-Stillwater campus. While seminars vary on topic, each focus broadly on family resilience. Attendees typically include HDFS and College of Human Sciences faculty and graduate students as well as community service organization leaders and community members.

2018-2019 seminars were presented by:
* Christina Chambers, Ph.D., UC-San Diego
* Jason Beaman, Ph.D., Center for Health Sciences, OSU
* Mike Stout, Ph.D., Dept. of Human Development & Family Science, OSU
* Alex Bishop, Ph.D., Dept. of Human Development & Family Science, OSU
* Brian Whitacre, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, OSU
* Gretchen Cole-Lade, Ph.D., Dept. of Human Development & Family Science, OSU
* Ron Thrasher, Ph.D., OSU Center for Health Sciences & OSU Dept. of Sociology
* Stacy Marie Tiemeyer, Ph.D., OSU - Tulsa, CIRCA Research Scientist
* Julie Croff, Ph.D., M.P.H., and CIRCA Project Directors, OSU Center for Wellness & Recovery

2019-2020 seminars were presented by:
* Amanda Williams, Ph.D., & Jennifer Becnel, Ph.D., School of Human Environmental Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas
* Kate Meilitz., Ph.D., Dept. of Human Development & Family Science, OSU
* Ginger Welch., Ph.D., Dept. of Human Development & Family Science, OSU
* Gary Duhon, Ph.D., School of Teaching, Learning and Educational, OSU
* Tonya Hammer, Ph.D., Community Health Sciences, Counseling, & Counseling Psychology, OSU
* Lara Mayeux, Ph.D., Dept. of Psychology, University of Oklahoma

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CREDENTIAL – STATE COORDINATOR

The CFR is the state coordinator for the Family Development Credential (FDC) program which collaborates with agencies to teach family workers how to coach families to set and reach their goals for healthy self-reliance. The program is implemented in many states throughout the nation, teaching and credentialing frontline workers from public, private and non-profit service systems (e.g., home visitors, case managers, family resource center workers, community health workers).
In 2018-2020, FDC classes included the following:

- **2018**: A total of 4, 90-hour FDC classes were conducted for family worker at United Community Action Program (UCAP), Community Action Resource & Development (CARD), Ki Bois Community Action Foundation, and Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City (CAA of OKC). As a result, 25 students received the FDC credential.

- **2019**: A total of 4, 90-hour FDC classes were conducted for family workers at Native American Coalition of Tulsa Head Start (NACT), Ki Bois Community Action Head Start, Tulsa Educare, Inc., and Community Action Development Corp (CADC). As a result, 24 more students received the FDC credential.

**PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

CFR staff and students have participated in numerous professional presentations to include the following venues: Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Retreat 2020, Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference, Zarrow Mental Health Symposium, House Common Education Committee Interim Study 19-009 Discipline in the Classroom, Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Tuttle, B.M.** (2020, April). *Project planning from a results framework.* Invited talk at the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Retreat 2020, Tulsa, OK.

**Lott, C. & Claybrook, T.** (2020, April; Cancelled). *Responding to Students in the Classroom: PAX Good Behavior Game* to be presented at the Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference, Edmond, OK.

**Claybrook, T. & Lott, C.** (2019, October). *Promoting Resilience in Oklahoma’s Classrooms* presented at the Zarrow Mental Health Symposium, Tulsa, OK.

**Tuttle, B.M.** (2019, September). *Preventing disruptive behaviors in Oklahoma classrooms: Oklahoma PAX project.* Invited presentation at the House Common Education Committee Interim Study 19-009 Discipline in the Classroom, Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Claybrook, T., Lott, C., & Merten, M.** (2019, June). *Promoting Child Health and Wellness in Oklahoma’s Elementary Schools* presented at the Fit to Learn Summit, Tulsa, OK.

**Claybrook, T. & Lott, C.** (2019, February). *Reducing Unwanted Behaviors Using PAX Good Behavior Game in Oklahoma’s Schools* presented at the Suicide Prevention Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Gold, R., & Tuttle, B.M.** (2019, February). *Albert Schweitzer Fellowship.* Invited presentation at Leadership Tulsa’s Good News Summit, University of Oklahoma, Tulsa, OK.

**Mouser, R., Harvey, A., Tuttle, B.M.** (2018, October). *Collaborative family engagement within juvenile detention: Family and adolescent resilience program.* Open seminar presented at the annual Zarrow Mental Health Symposium, Tulsa, OK.

**Claybrook, T.** (2019, September). *Reducing Unwanted Behaviors Using PAX Good Behavior Game in Oklahoma’s Elementary Schools* presented at the Canadian County Resource Fair, El Reno, OK.

Summit, Canadian County Resource Fair, and the Oklahoma Children’s Behavior Health Conference. Presentations have covered a variety of topics ranging from childhood trauma and mental health prevention strategies to family programming for justice-involved youth and program evaluation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

In line with Oklahoma State University’s land-grant mission, the CFR supports several community-based activities, initiatives, and events to foster and promote individual, family, and community resilience.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIRS

With the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations, the CFR co-hosts annual community health fairs to provide free child and flu vaccines, health screenings (vision, dental, blood pressure, glucose, spirometry, cholesterol, etc.), and community-based resources to attendees. This event has been held in partnership with Tulsa Tech at their Lemley Memorial Campus since Fall 2018 serving over 300 community members in 2018 and more than 200 community members in 2019.

ANNUAL LATINO CHRISTMAS PARTY

An annual holiday collaboration among community agencies to provide gifts and toys for low-income Latino families has been held for 5 years. This annual Christmas party is a time in which all the families in our ¡Unidos! Program come together to share food, listen to music, receive gifts for the children, take photos with Santa, and other activities such as games, face painting for the littles ones. In 2019, ¡Unidos! Partnered with multiple local agencies such as the Council for Safe Neighborhoods, the Tulsa Police and Fire Department, Tulsa Public Schools, The US Attorney’s office and St. Francis Xavier Church among others. This year the event was open to the general public. There were approximately 500 to 600 in attendance.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR YOUTH SERVICES

FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS) provide ongoing support, training, and educational opportunities for Oklahoma’s foster parents. The CFR was contacted by NRCYS to conduct in-person and
virtual trainings regarding *Creative Strategies for Making Your Home Run Smoothly*, for the foster parents they serve. These trainings were attended by over 180 foster parents and child case workers. Overall, trainees provided positive feedback noting they learned helpful strategies for working with youth.

**PAX TOOLS COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

The community component to the PAX Good Behavior Game classroom intervention, PAX Tools, was designed to train youth workers and parents on evidence-based strategies to promote youth self-regulation and cooperation while promoting positive adult-child relationships to mitigate the impacts of trauma and adversity. The CFR is a Community Educator for PAX Tools and holds free trainings for parents and youth workers. To date, the CFR has provided PAX Tools training to over 40 parents and youth workers since January 2020 with plans to increase training sessions in FY 2020-2021.

**PROYECTO TU VOZ (PROTECT YOUR VOICE) INITIATIVE**

This new initiative creates a bi-directional node of communication between CFR/Unidos Se Puede program and the Latino community to allow the voice (voz) of Latinos to be heard in policy and research. This initiative proposes to enroll Latino families and individuals into a data bank. The data bank will have a dual purpose. First is to be able to push information out to Latino members of the community to inform them about special events and important policy initiatives. The second purpose is to collect data (hear their voice) from Latino members of the community through periodic surveys that assesses their attitudes and opinions around current events and policies implemented by government agencies and institutions such as schools. A corollary objective of the project is to create a pool of potential participants that researchers can access to study different aspects of the Latino community with the goal of translating this research into programs that benefit the community.

**SECURE THE BAG**

Secure the Bag is a resource fair and workshop event in partnership with the North Tulsa Community Coalition. This endeavor provided middle and high school students and families with information on financial aid for college and career resources. All attendees indicated that they learned about a new resource or program and that they would attend another Secure the Bag event.
TULSAKIDS MAGAZINE Q&A: TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

CFR staff were invited to discuss the topic of talking to children about Coronavirus and the pandemic with TulsaKids Magazine Editor, Betty Casey, during a live question and answer session hosted by TulsaKids Magazine and OSU-Tulsa. This session was live streamed on TulsaKids Magazine and OSU-Tulsa Facebook pages and a recording is publicly available on the TulsaKids Magazine website.

¡UNIDOS SE PUEDE! / UNITED WE CAN! SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY

The USP/UWC summer academy, sponsored by the CFR and UWC program, works with key community partners to provide activities twice a week for youth during the 8-week summer break. Community agencies and businesses design activities to expose youth to potential career opportunities while having fun and bonding with other like-minded youth. Teachers from TPS provide classes twice weekly to help buffer against the summer learning loss. The Summer Youth Academy ends with a 2-day overnight trip to OSU Stillwater where youth attend specially designed workshops provided by university professors and graduate students. Youth also stay in university dormitories and eat in cafeterias to promote the idea that they too can go to a university.

FUTURE ENDEAVORS

Moving into FY21, the CFR will continue to support several ongoing projects, initiatives, and events to include (but are not limited to): academic and professional conference presentations; Chautauqua Conference on Family Resilience; CFR Research Seminars; Family Development Credential State Coordinator, Muscogee Creek Nation Reentry Project; Oklahoma PAX Good Behavior Game Project; PAX Tools Community Workshops; Secure the Bag; and ¡Unidos! And United We Can!

The Oklahoma PAX Good Behavior Game Project is expected to train 300 new educators and provide partnering and coaching support to all 830 trained educators. Taking a community approach to PAX sustainability in Oklahoma, the CFR will host a series of PAX Tools trainings for parents and community workers of youth in Oklahoma with an aim of reaching 200 youth workers and parents. Furthermore, the CFR will host a PAX Tools Community Educator training to certify up to 15 community educators from
partnering organizations with purposes to expand program reach. Planning is underway for the 2021 Chautauqua, upcoming CFR Research Seminars, and Secure the Bag.

The CFR will be holding a Fall 2020 Virtual Retreat for all current and onboarding staff and students. Major goals of the retreat include promotion of cross-collaboration among students, staff, and faculty, and the development of a collective team vision for the upcoming year.

The CFR will continue to collaborate with various local, tribal, and state partners to bridge the gap between research and practice, and to identify and address barriers associated with individual, family, and community resilience. With committed faculty, staff, and students, the CFR will continue *discovering solutions for today’s families.*