



Family Link

FALL 2013

<http://McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu>

Data to Strengthen Arizona's Communities



A Norton School research team led by FMI's Dr. Michele Walsh will conduct community needs assessments across Arizona to inform important decisions about future programming for Arizona families with young children.

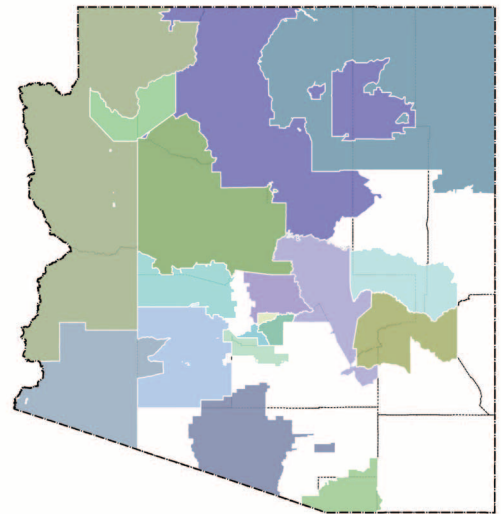
Regional Partnership Councils then use this information to prioritize programming and strategic funding decisions for their communities.

This marks the third biannual cycle of reports conducted for First Things First by Dr. Walsh's team.

Dr. Walsh noted, "We know that strengthening communities requires not only recognizing their needs, but identifying their unique assets and ways in which these can be creatively leveraged to address challenges. We are committed to providing our partners with regionally-specific data to help them make informed decisions about how to prioritize their resources for supporting young children and their families."

The Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, also known as First Things First, is a citizen's initiative formed by the 2006 passage of Proposition 203 which funds quality early childhood development and health programming and systems building. The Norton School team has been selected to partner with the Regional Partnership Councils of 20 of their 31 regions, including nine tribal regions, to produce Needs and Assets reports. Each report will address First Things First's six goal areas:

- 1 Quality and access to early care and education
- 2 Health
- 3 Professional development of early care teachers and workers
- 4 Family support
- 5 Communication
- 6 Coordination among early childhood programs and services



Dr. Walsh's Norton School team has been selected to partner with the Regional Partnership Councils of 20 First Things First regions. These regions are highlighted in color in the map above.



From the Director

Fall 2013 brings new projects and new people working in the Institute who will be helping us continue in our devotion to collaborative research and support for the well-being of children, youth and families.



It is an honor to be selected for funding from First Things First to work with communities across Arizona. This opportunity allows us to forge closer ties to local communities and fulfill our objective of translating our research into public use. Under Michele Walsh's leadership, we are assembling a team that will help communities set priorities for early childhood programs and benefit from the scholarship of the Institute.

And we're forging ahead with our scholarship and research. We're excited to host scholars from around the country and

around the world. Colleagues from Penn State are visiting for a year, and we've said goodbye to one international fellow from Turkey, and welcome another from the Netherlands who is visiting us for the Fall. These national and international ties allow us to maintain our status as a premier research institute with reach far beyond southern Arizona.

With your continued support – as colleagues, alumni, friends, and donors – we will remain strong and continue to grow our community collaborations and research. I encourage all of you all follow us on social media – Twitter, Facebook, and Google+ – to keep informed about our latest research findings and how we bring that scholarship to bear on issues important to children, youth, and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen T. Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., Interim Director
Distinguished Professor, Fitch Nesbitt Endowed Chair Director
Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families

Ann Mastergeorge Appointed by the CDC as “Act Early” Ambassador for Arizona



Ann Mastergeorge, a faculty member and Chair of the Early Childhood Initiative at Frances McClelland Institute, is leading a statewide effort to educate parents, health-care providers and other professionals about how to identify the signs of autism in very young children and the importance of early intervention.

Dr. Mastergeorge recently was appointed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the Act Early Ambassador for Arizona, one of 25 states selected for this initiative which focuses on early identification of autism and other developmental disabilities. Through her work as an Act Early Ambassador, Dr. Mastergeorge aims to raise awareness of the early signs of autism by providing education materials, such as developmental checklists

developed by the CDC to parents, pediatricians, professionals, including teachers and child-care providers. Materials are available in both English and Spanish. She also will provide training statewide in order to educate others regarding the CDC initiative called 'Learn the Signs. Act Early.'

Dr. Mastergeorge's grant with the CDC is an extension of her ongoing research at the UA examining early identification and early intervention for young children with autism and autism risk. She is conducting surveillance and developmental screening and referral research as an Act Early Ambassador in collaboration with UA's Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD) and with the UA College of Medicine's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND).

You can contact Dr. Mastergeorge at amastergeorge@email.arizona.edu if you would like more information.

Saying Goodbye to Cigdem Topcu



We're sad to say goodbye to Cigdem Topcu who joined the Institute last fall for a 10-month visit. Topcu spent those months working with Dr. Noel A. Card and Dr. Sheri Bauman in their three-year longitudinal project on cyber aggression among adolescents.

Dr. Card noted Topcu "brought a fresh perspective to our work, drawing upon the leading European

research on cyber-aggression. She was also an inspiration to all of us at FMI for her willingness to travel half way around the world to work with us."

Topcu, a Ph.D. candidate in Psychological Counseling and Guidance, works as a research assistant at Middle East Technical University (METU) Turkey. She holds her B.A. in Psychology and M.A. in Psychological Counseling and Guidance, both from METU. Her research focus is aggressive behavior specifically bullying and cyber bullying among adolescents.

Welcome Back, Bo Cleveland and Cathleen Hunt Norton School Visiting Faculty

Please join us in welcoming Bo Cleveland and Cathleen Hunt back to the University of Arizona. Their offices are in McClelland Park, Suite 301/315. They are both very excited to be back at the Norton School after attending grad school in Family and Consumer Sciences. They are now back in Tucson with their two children, Arthur (6 years) and Henry (1½ years). While here, on sabbatical from Penn State University for 2013-2014 academic year, they will be teaching in the FSHD department.

Cleveland earned his Ph.D. in Family Studies and Human Development in 1998 and minored in Ethology and Evolutionary Psychology. David Rowe was his primary advisor. Bo completed a two-year post doc at UNC-Chapel Hill and then taught Human Development and Family Studies Department at Penn State. His research interests focus on



gene-environment transactions involving risk behaviors during adolescence and the use of quasiexperimental design for policy relevant research.

Hunt earned her Ph.D. in the Psychology Department in 2002.

Her background is in Ethology and Evolutionary Psychology as well as Genetics. She is looking forward to teaching the Lifespan Development and Biosocial Development courses this academic year.

Welcome Jason Rivera Program Coordinator for the Frances McClelland Institute



Jason Rivera began as the Program Coordinator for the Institute on July 15th. In this role he manages Institute related projects, and assists faculty, staff, and students, as well as coordinating Stephen Russell's lab activities. Jason is located on the second floor of McClelland Park in Room 235A.

Rivera comes to us from the College of Medicine where he worked as a Program Coordinator at the Office of Outreach and

Multicultural Affairs. Jason has over five years of experience in prevention and community health education. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University and began his Master of Public Health this fall at the University of Arizona.

His interest in the research being conducted at the Institute relates to health disparities among LGBTQ populations and he hopes to focus on aging in LGBTQ community and addressing the unique health disparities among older LGBTQ adults.

Rivera can be contacted at jasonrivera@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-8067.

Welcome *Laura Baams* Visiting Scholar from Utrecht University in Netherlands



Laura Baams is currently working as a Fulbright visiting researcher at the Frances McClelland Institute with Dr. Stephen Russell. Baams is also a PhD candidate in Developmental Psychology at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. In her work

at Utrecht University, she uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to study romantic and sexual development of a general adolescent population. In her qualitative work she looks at positive sexual experiences of adolescents and young adults, and their boundaries and desires in sexual interactions. In her quantitative work she studies the role of individual factors such as personality, and interacting contextual factors such as peer- and family relations, in the development of romantic and sexual cognitions and behaviors.

Baams has a strong interest in LGBTQ health and well-being, minority stress and gender nonconformity which has brought her to Tucson. In her work at FMI with Dr. Stephen Russell, she will study LGBTQ-specific stressors and general factors including perceived burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness and their role in predicting suicidal ideation and behavior among LGBTQ youth.

Institute Researcher Awarded Funds to Study Peer Victimization

The Institute is continuing to grow our research dollars. Dr. Noel Card and his team have received funding from the National Institute of Justice to look at relations of peer victimization with peer relations, families, and school. Dr. Card's team will conduct a series of meta-analyses that will draw information from all prior studies in order to draw conclusions about the correlation of peer victimization with peer relations, families, and school contexts. This research will provide more precise and generalizable information regarding peer victimization, clarifying the inconsistent finding from previous studies, and evaluate where more research is needed.

CONTACT US:

Frances McClelland Institute for
Children, Youth, and Families
The University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210078
Tucson, AZ 85721-0078
Phone: 520.621.8067
Fax: 520.621.4979
E-mail: families@ag.arizona.edu
Website: McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu



The Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families is housed in The John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona. The Institute serves as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research dealing with children, youth, and families.



P.O. Box 210078 • Tucson, AZ 85721-0078

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