

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NEBRASKA CENTER FOR RESEARCH
ON CHILDREN, YOUTH,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS**

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

May 31, 2005



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Report compiled by Ariadne Schemm, Graduate Research Assistant, CYFS

Mission:

The mission of the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools is to improve, through cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, our understanding of optimal ways that parents, teachers and other service providers in family, school and community contexts can promote the intellectual, socio-emotional, physical and behavioral adjustment of children and youth. Central to all of this is enhancing our understanding of how these systems can work together to support the future of our nation.

Goals:

The **long-term goal** of the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools is to become a nationally recognized center of excellence in research related to children and youth, and the multiple interrelated contexts in which they function (i.e., families, schools, and communities). We are committed to:

- Enhance the scope, quality and prominence of Nebraska's research related to children, youth, families and schools.
- Create, nurture and develop an interdisciplinary academic environment that will foster new basic and applied research in all areas related to children, youth, families and schools.

Objectives:

- Facilitate the development of interdisciplinary collaborative research teams that can author joint publications and compete for large scale grants
- Increase grant production and competitiveness by providing support in proposal development, research methodology and grant administration
- Build capacity by recruiting new members, providing mentors to junior faculty, and training graduate students
- Expand research networks, disseminate research findings and increase visibility
- Offer opportunities for interaction with other researchers nationally and internationally
- Provide outreach and conduct research that is relevant and essential to Nebraska's citizens and NU stakeholders

CYFS HISTORY

The Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools is in its second year of existence. Early planning activities date back to a faculty research retreat, held in October of 2002. Thirty-one UNL faculty members, along with three deans and two vice chancellors, met in a day-long retreat, identified areas of strength and developed interdisciplinary teams that served as a foundation for Center-based research. Many research partnerships formed and continued to collaborate actively as an outcome of the retreat.

In June of 2003, the Nebraska Research Alliance on Children, Youth, Families and Schools was approved as one of 14 priority programs at UNL to receive Board of Regents support as a “Program of Excellence.” In February of 2004, University of Nebraska Regents approved the establishment of the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools, recognizing the opportunity to achieve prominence through interdisciplinary research initiatives.

In October of 2004, a newly renovated space for the Center in Mabel Lee Hall was completed, providing a central location for interdisciplinary research meetings, grant support activities and Center development functions.

Currently, the Center is staffed by a Director, three Research Faculty, an Administrative Assistant, a Grants Specialist, a Support Technician, and three Graduate Assistants. Eighty-eight faculty affiliates from 4 colleges and 15 departments are formally associated with the Center. Ten active grants and contracts operate through the Center, employing 16 graduate students.



WHO WE ARE

CENTER STAFF

DIRECTOR

Susan M. Sheridan, PhD, Willa Cather Professor and Professor of Educational Psychology
Editor, *School Psychology Review*

RESEARCH PROFESSORS

Todd Glover, PhD, Research Assistant Professor
Gina M. Kunz, PhD, Research Assistant Professor
Gwen Nugent, PhD, Research Associate Professor

SUPPORT STAFF

Holly Sexton, Administrative Assistant
Cindy Schuerman, Grants Specialist
Daniel Buser, Technology Assistant

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Ariadne Schemm, MA, Graduate Assistant
Kelly Love, MA, Graduate Assistant
Megan Watson, MA, Graduate Assistant

ADVISORY BOARD

Steven Warren, PhD, Director, Life Span Institute, University of Kansas
Stephen Elliott, PhD, Vanderbilt University
Martha Thurlow, PhD, National Center on Educational Outcomes, University of Minnesota
Hill M. Walker, PhD, College of Education, University of Oregon

STEERING COMMITTEE

Lisa Crockett, PhD
Carolyn Pope Edwards, EdD
Richard Hoffmann, PhD
Marjorie Kostelnik, PhD
Jim O'Hanlon, PhD
Susan Sheridan, PhD
Brian Wilcox, PhD

FACULTY AFFILIATES

Faculty members from numerous disciplines across the campuses of UNL, UNO, and UNMC are affiliated with the Nebraska Center for Research on CYFS (see a complete listing of the faculty affiliates in Table 1).

Table 1. Faculty Affiliates

Brad Barker

Cooperative Extension Division
4-H Youth Development

Beth Birnstihl

Cooperative Extension Division
4-H Youth Development

Richard Bischoff

College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Linda Boeckner

College of Education & Human Sciences
Nutrition & Health Sciences

Michael Bonner

College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Kathy Bosch

College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Dawn Braithwaite

College of Arts & Sciences
Communication Studies

David Brooks

College of Education & Human Sciences
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

Eric Buhs

College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Leon Caldwell

College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Gus Carlo

College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Juan Casas

College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Connie Chapple

College of Arts & Sciences
Sociology

Susan Churchill

College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Cynthia Gress

College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Lisa Crockett

College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Rochelle Dalla

College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Ed Daly

College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

John DeFrain

College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Mark DeKraai

Nebraska Public Policy Center

David DiLillo
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Beth Doll
College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Carolyn Pope Edwards
College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Craig Enders
College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Joan Erickson
College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Joseph H. Evans
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Psychology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Todd Glover
College of Education & Human Sciences
Nebraska Center for Research on Children
Youth, Families & Schools

Gloria Gonzalez-Kruger
College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Amy Goodburn
College of Arts & Sciences
Women's Studies

David Hansen
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Jeanette Harder
School of Social Work
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Ruth Heaton
College of Education & Human Services
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

Dan Hoyt
College of Arts & Sciences
Sociology

Heidi Inderbitzen-Nolan
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Jody Isernhagen
College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Administration

Barbara Jackson
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Education & Child Development
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Julie Johnson
College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Lisa Kelly-Vance
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Suzanne Kemp

College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Lisa Knoche

College of Education & Human Sciences
Nebraska Center for Research on
Children, Youth, Families & Schools

Jody Koenig-Kellas

College of Arts & Sciences
Communications Studies

Marjorie Kostelnik

College of Education & Human Services
Dean

Gina Kunz

College of Education & Human Sciences
Nebraska Center for Research on
Children, Youth, Families & Schools

Robert Larzelere

Munroe-Meyer Institute
Psychology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Margaret Latta

College of Education & Human Sciences
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

Richard Levy

College of Arts & Sciences
Geosciences

Jim Lewis

College of Arts & Sciences
Mathematics

Kathleen Lodl

Cooperative Extension Division
4-H Youth Development

Chris Marvin

College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Merilee McCurdy

College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Tom McGowan

College of Education & Human Sciences
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

Julia McQuillan

College of Arts & Sciences
Sociology

Helen Moore

College of Arts & Sciences
Women's Studies

Ian Newman

College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Gwen Nugent

College of Education & Human Sciences
Nebraska Center for Research on Children,
Youth, Families & Schools

Jim O'Hanlon

College of Education & Human Sciences
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

Christina Perry

College of Education & Human Sciences
Nutrition & Health Sciences

Reece Peterson

College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Jodi Polaha
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Psychology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Marcela Raffaelli
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Michelle Rupiper
College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Dixie Sanger
College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Loukia Sarroub
College of Education & Human Sciences
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

G. Bradley Schaefer
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Michael Scheel
College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Marilyn Scheffler
College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Ann Schutte
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Susan Sheridan
College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Mark Shriver
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Psychology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Ellin Siegel
College of Education & Human Sciences
Special Education & Communication
Disorders

Craig Smith
College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Kaye Stanek-Krogstrand
College of Education & Health Sciences
Nutrition & Health Sciences

Rosalie Torres Stone
College of Arts & Sciences
Sociology

Elizabeth Suter
College of Arts & Sciences
Communication Studies

Susan Swearer
College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

Lauree Tilton-Weaver
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Julia Torquati
College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Guy Trainin
College of Education & Human Sciences
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

Kimberly Tyler
College of Arts & Sciences
Sociology

Rachel J. Valleley
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Psychology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Jody Viljoen
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Gwen Weber
School of Social Work
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Les Whitbeck
College of Arts & Sciences
Sociology

Brian Wilcox
College of Arts & Sciences
Psychology

Susan M. Wilczynski
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Psychology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Kathy Wilson
College of Education & Human Sciences
Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

Yan (Ruth) Xia
College of Education & Human Sciences
Family & Consumer Sciences

Oksana Yakushko
College of Education & Human Sciences
Educational Psychology

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

Thematic Areas of Research Strength

- Early Childhood Education and Intervention
- Academic Interventions, Learning, and Literacy
- Youth Risk and Resilience Factors and Behaviors
- Child and Youth Health Promotion

WHAT WE DO

Research Specialties of the Faculty Affiliates

- Social Development in Children/Adolescents
- Early Childhood Development, Early Literacy, and Play Skills
- Bullying and School Violence
- Adolescent Risk-Taking Behaviors and Outcomes
- Homeless and Runaway Youth
- Immigrant and Migrant Families
- Culturally Relevant Social, Educational, and Familial Topics
- School-Family Connections
- Families and Step-Families
- Mental Health
- Academic Interventions and Reading
- School Environment
- Dual-Language Programming and Outcomes
- Adults
- Teacher Preparation and Professional Development
- Developmental Disabilities
- Health Promotion

OUTCOMES BY OBJECTIVES:

OBJECTIVE 1:

FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH TEAMS

The collective strength of the Nebraska Center for Research on CYFS is found in its interdisciplinary, collaborative endeavors in research and scholarship. Thus, an integral function and central objective of the Center is to bring together faculty from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to address broad and far-reaching issues through joint, collaborative research partnerships.

- ❖ Opportunities for networking occur in part through Center-sponsored research conversation series.
- ❖ Faculty share expertise around a number of specialty areas, increasing the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration. **Table 2** identifies the research specialties of the faculty affiliates and areas of overlap.



Table 2: Faculty Affiliates by Research Specialties

Faculty Affiliates	Academic Interventions and Reading	Adolescent Risk-Taking Behaviors and Outcomes-Adults	Bullying and School Violence	Culturally Relevant Soc. J. Ed. and Familial Topics	Developmental Disabilities	Dual-Language Programming and Outcomes	Early Child Devel, Early Literacy, and Play Skills	Families and Exp-Families	Health Promotion	Homeless and Runaway Youth	Immigrant and Migrant Families	Mental Health	Social Development in Children/Adolescents	School-Family Connections	School Environment	Teacher Prep & Profess Development
Brad Barker	X						X					X				
Beth Birnstihl												X				
Richard Bischoff							X									
Linda Boeckner		X				X		X								
Michael Bonner			X				X									X
Kathy Bosch							X	X								
Dawn Braithwaite							X									
David Brooks	X															X
Eric Buhs			X									X				
Leon Caldwell																
Gustavo Carlo			X									X				
Deb Carlson	X	X											X			X
Juan Casas			X	X			X						X			
Connie Chapple		X					X					X				
Susan Churchill		X				X						X	X			
Cynthia Cress				X		X										
Lisa Crockett		X		X							X					
Rochelle Dalla		X		X				X		X						
Edward Daly	X															X
John DeFrain			X				X									
Mark DeKraai		X		X							X					
David DiLillo			X				X									
Beth Doll						X						X	X	X		
Carolyn Pope Edwards			X			X						X				X
Craig Enders																
Joan Erickson	X															X
Joseph H. Evans		X									X			X		
Todd Glover	X	X														
Gloria Gonzalez-Kruger				X						X	X					
Amy Goodburn				X		X										X
David Hansen						X	X									
Jeanette Harder							X									
Ruth Heaton	X															X
Dan Hoyt		X		X					X							

Table 2: Faculty Affiliates by Research Specialties, continued

Faculty Affiliates	Academic Interventions and Reading	Adolescent Risk-Taking Behaviors and Outcomes	Adults	Bullying and School Violence	Culturally Relevant Soc. Ed. and Familial Topics	Developmental Disabilities	Dual Language Programming and Outcomes	Early Child Devel. Early Literacy, and Play Skills	Families and Step-Families	Health Promotion	Homeless and Runaway Youth	Immigrant and Migrant Families	Mental Health	Social Development in Children/Adolescents	School-Family Connections	School Environment	Teacher Prep & Profess. Development
Heidi Inderbitzen-Nolan, PhD													X	X			
Jody Isernhagen, EdD				X												X	X
Barbara Jackson, PhD					X		X	X					X				X
Julie Johnson, PhD																	X
Lisa Kelly-Vance, PhD	X			X		X	X										
Suzanne Kemp	X	X			X												
Jody Koenig Kellas, PhD			X					X									
Marjorie Kostelnik, PhD							X							X			X
Gina Kunz, PhD	X				X											X	X
Robert Larzelere, PhD		X						X						X			
Margaret Latta, PhD				X												X	X
Richard Levy, PhD	X																X
Kathleen Lodi, PhD									X					X			
Chris Marvin, PhD					X		X								X		
Merilee McGurdy, PhD	X				X			X									
Tom McGowan, PhD																	X
Julia McQuillan, PhD			X														
Helen Moore, PhD				X													
Ian Newman, PhD		X		X					X								
Gwen Nugent, PhD	X																
Jim O'Hanlon, PhD																	
Christina Perry, PhD							X		X								
Reece Peterson, PhD				X										X	X		
Jodi Polaha, PhD		X						X	X				X		X		
Marcela Raffaelli, PhD		X		X						X							
Michelle Ruppier, PhD							X										X
Dixie Sanger, PhD	X	X			X												
Loukia Sarroub, PhD				X							X					X	
G. Bradley Schaefer, MD					X		X		X								
Michael Scheel, PhD		X		X				X			X			X			
Marilyn Scheffler, EdD		X														X	X

Table 2: Faculty Affiliates by Research Specialties, continued

Faculty Affiliates	<i>Academic Interventions and Reading</i>	<i>Adolescent Risk-Taking Behaviors and Outcomes</i>	<i>Adolescents</i>	<i>Bullying and School Violence</i>	<i>Culturally Relevant Soci. Ed. and Familial Tropics</i>	<i>Developmental Disabilities</i>	<i>Dual Language Programming and Outcomes</i>	<i>Early Child Devel. Early Literacy, and Play Skills</i>	<i>Families and High-Families</i>	<i>Health Promotion</i>	<i>Homeless and Runaway Youth</i>	<i>Immigrant and Migrant Families</i>	<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>Social Development in Children/Adolescents</i>	<i>School-Family Connections</i>	<i>School Environment</i>	<i>Teacher Prep & Professional Development</i>
Ellin Siegel					X												X
Craig Smith								X									
Kaye Stanek-Krogstrand							X	X	X								
Rosalie Torres Stone		X			X						X	X	X				
Elizabeth Suter					X			X					X				
Susan Swearer				X								X				X	
Lauree Tilton-Weaver					X								X				
Julia Torquati							X										
Guy Trainin	X																X
Kimberly Tyler		X						X		X		X					
Rachel J. Valleley	X	X												X			
Jodi Viljoen		X		X								X					
Gwen Weber							X	X									
Les Whitbeck		X						X		X							
Brian Wilcox		X						X					X				
Susan M. Wilczynski					X		X						X	X			
Kathy Wilson	X						X										X
Yan (Ruth) Xia								X			X	X					
Oksana Yakushko					X						X						

OBJECTIVE 2 :
INCREASE GRANT PRODUCTION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Scout grants and inform faculty affiliates of federal and foundation funding opportunities:

- Research federal agencies for available funding opportunities
- Research foundation funding mechanisms for priorities and funding opportunities
- Ensure faculty affiliates receive the most current information

Summarize federal grant announcements and foundation funding opportunities:

- Federal grant announcements summarized and categorized by the four Center thematic strengths
- Foundation funding opportunities summarized and categorized by the four Center thematic strengths
- Notifications of all federal and foundation funding opportunities, specific to research interests, e-mailed to faculty affiliates bi-weekly
- Summarized grants posted on the CYFS website

Maintain grant library:

- Electronic and hard-copy files kept of all grant announcements and summaries
- Previously funded grants archived and available to faculty affiliates as sample proposals
- Additional information provided on specific types of grants and federal initiatives

OBJECTIVE 2, Continued

Provide supporting information to assist with development of grant proposals:

- Useful statistical information and needs data researched and stored in Center library
- Monthly e-mails of needs data that support grant proposals

Assist faculty affiliates with conceptualization, generation and submission of grant applications in an effort to secure competitive research grants:

- Assist with budget development:
 - Help faculty affiliates develop budget items and calculate costs
 - Assist in completing budget forms
 - Coordinate efforts with the Office of Sponsored Programs
- Assist with grant writing and assembly of proposals:
 - Receive, review and edit sections of grant narratives
 - Compile final documents and make copies for submission to the funding agency
- Provide support to faculty through Research Methodology lectures
 - “Hierarchical Linear Modeling,” presented by Dr. Craig Enders, Director of the NEAR Center
 - “Developing an Evaluation Plan That Works,” presented by Dr. Marilyn Scheffler, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders



Table 3: Funded Grants & Contracts

Faculty Affiliates	Funding Agency	Grant Title	Total Funding/Length of Support
Susan Sheridan Carolyn Pope Edwards	NIH/NICHHD	Parent Engagement and Child Learning Birth to 5	\$5,037,786 total/5 years
Susan Sheridan	Department of Education/OSEP	Leadership Specialization in Home-School Consultation & Support for Students with SED	\$723,941 total/5 years
Susan Sheridan Cynthia Ellis	Department of Education/OSEP	Leadership Training in Interdisciplinary Collaboration	\$800,000 total/4 years
Rachel Valleley Gina Kunz	Watt Foundation	Academic Evaluation and Intervention Outreach Grant	\$40,840 total/1 year
Deborah Carlson Gina Kunz Richard Levy David Harwood	UNL Seed Grant (Learning and Teaching Seed Grant Program)	Development and Evaluation of Innovative Teaching and Learning Models that Prepare, Support, and Sustain K-12 Science Educators	\$9,922 total/13 months
Edward Daly Merilee McCurdy Gina Kunz	Department of Education/ OSEP	School Psychology Leadership Specialization in Response-to-Intervention Research and Systems Change	\$800,000 total/4 years
Edward Daly	Nebraska Department of Education	Response to Intervention	\$35,000 total/14 months

Table 3: Funded Grants and Contracts, continued

Gwen Nugent	South Carolina Educational Telecommunications Commission	Bridges: School to Home Literacy and Technology Initiative	\$15,000 total/1 year
Gwen Nugent Chris Marvin	Nebraska Department of Education	Medicaid Billing for Infant/Toddlers with Special Needs in Nebraska	\$21,068 total/1 year
Susan Sheridan Todd Glover	Department of Education/ IES	Evaluation of the Efficacy of CBC for Addressing Disruptive Behaviors of Children At-Risk for Academic Failure	\$1,368,067 total/3 years
Richard Levy David Harwood Gwen Nugent Gina Kunz	National Science Foundation	Geoscience Education	\$162,967 total/2 years
TOTAL			\$9,014,591

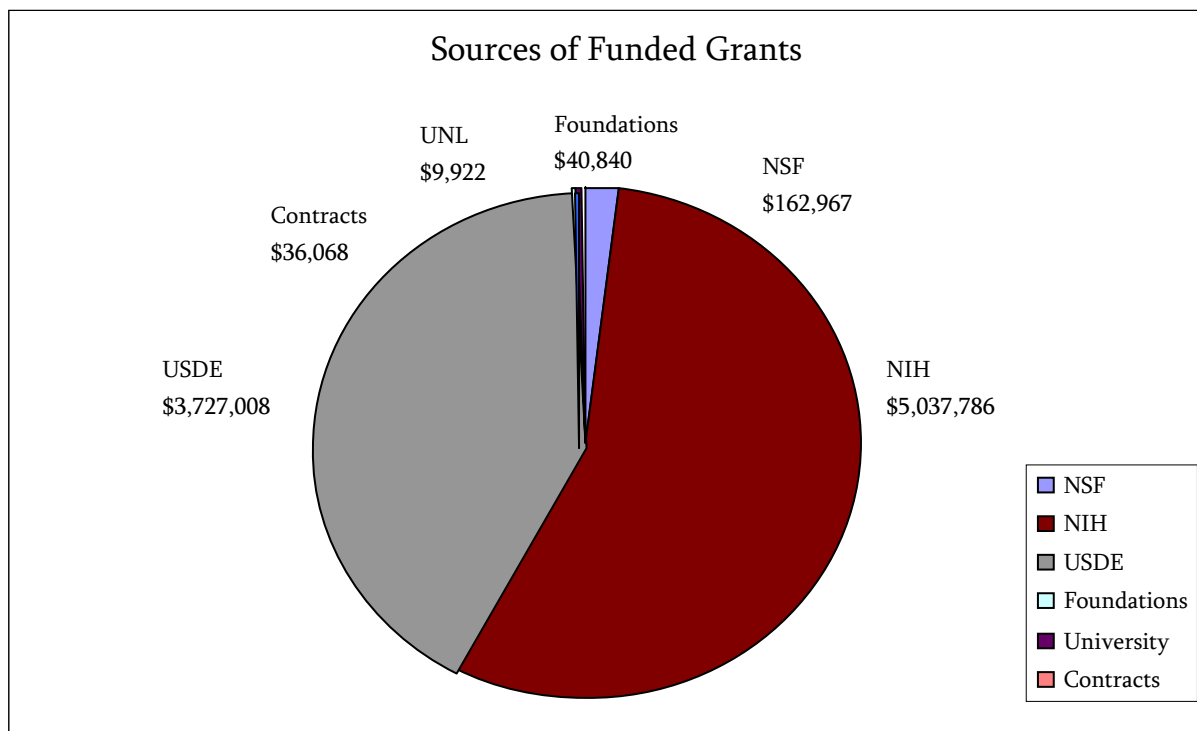
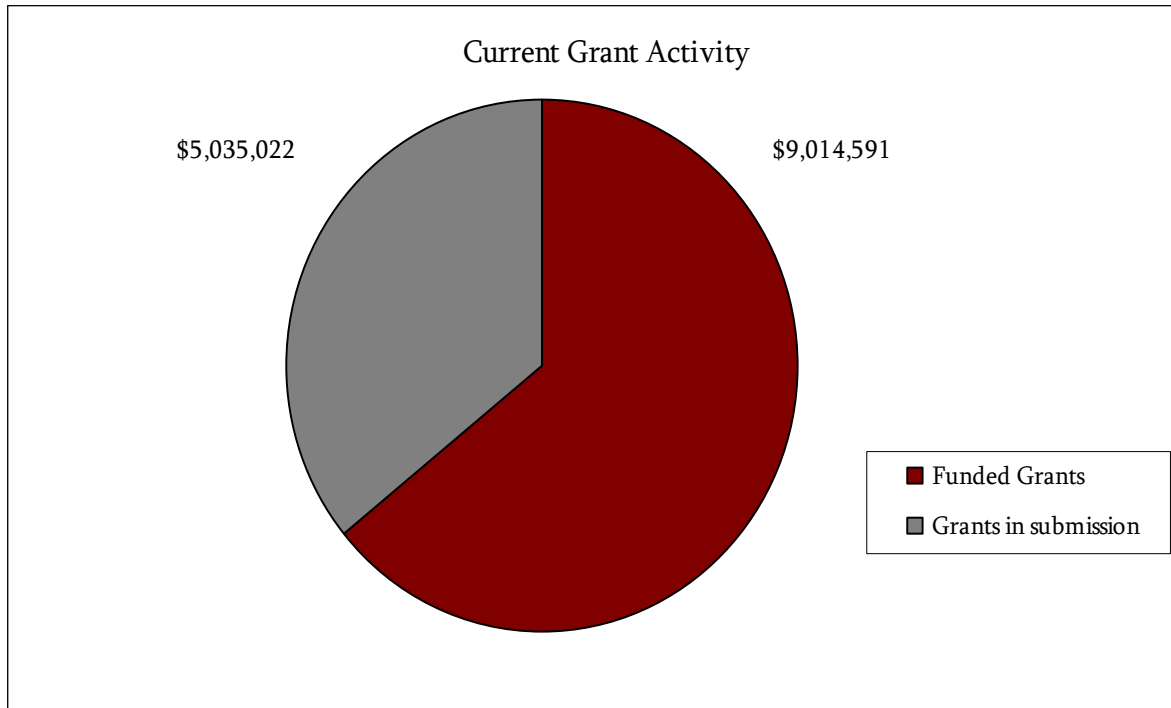


Table 4: Grants in Submission

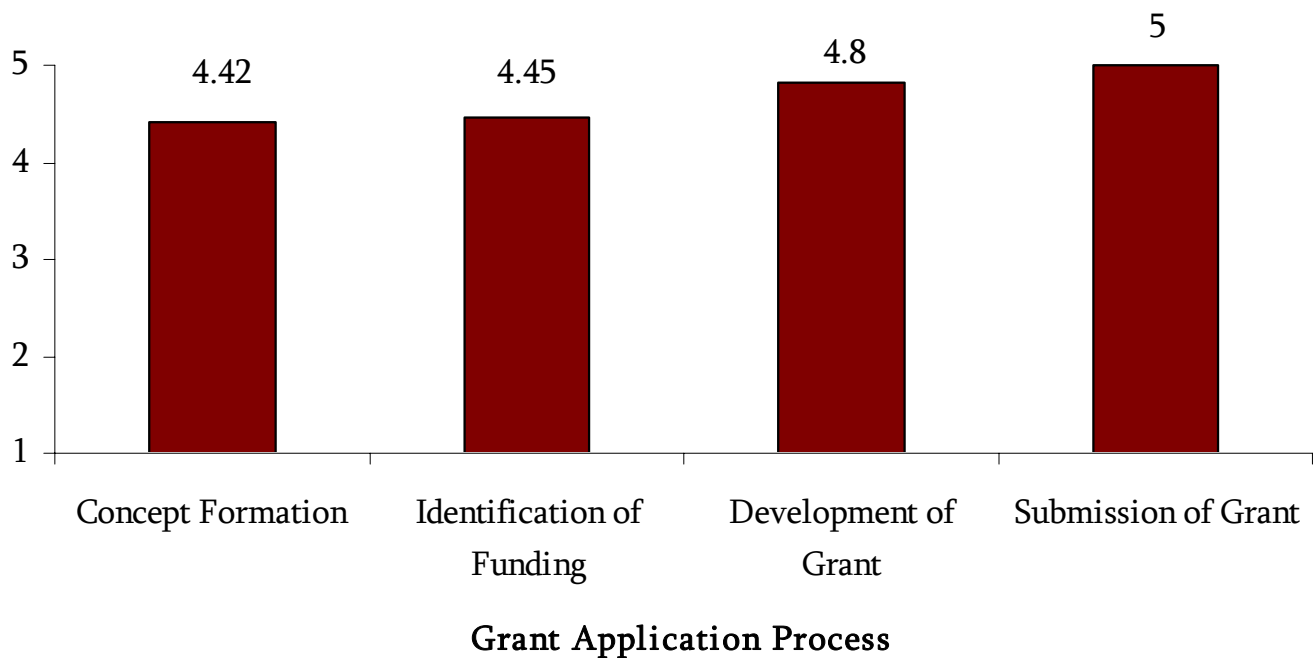
Faculty Affiliates	Agency	Grant Title	Total Funding/ Length of Support	Submission Date
Jodi Polaha Robert Larzelere Rachel Valleley Gina Kunz Sue Sheridan	HHS/ AHRQ	Enhancing Specialized Rural Healthcare Research Capacity	\$500,000 total/2 years	1/17/05
Yan Xia Kathy Bosch, Gina Kunz Susan Sheridan	CDC	Risk and Protective Factors for Adolescent Dating Violence Perpetration	\$874,508 total/3 years	2/1/05
Sue Kemp	Woods Charitable Fund	Project TEAMS	\$134,172 total/3 years	3/15/05
Gwen Nugent David Brooks Al Steckelberg Guy Trainin Kathy Wilson	Department of Education	Project TeleRead: Technology Enhanced Learning Environment for Reading Education at a Distance	\$1,426,845 total/5 years	4/20/05
Kim Tyler	NIH/NIDA	Epidemiology of Drug Abuse	\$275,000 total/2 years	5/1/05
Ellin Siegel	Department of Education/ OSEP	Project STAR: Specialized Training in Autism and Related Low- Incidence Disabilities	\$850,812 total/4 years	5/9/05
Chris Marvin Malinda Eccarius	Department of Education/ OSEP	Project MPUP-EC: Mountain Prairie Upgrade Partnership- Early Childhood	\$973,685 total/4 years	5/9/05
TOTAL			\$5,035,022	

Current Center Grant Activity

- Eleven grants **awarded** totaling \$9,014,591
- Seven grants in submission totaling \$5,035,022



Average Helpfulness Ratings of Center Services Following the Submission of a Grant



- 100% of the faculty affiliates indicated that “I had such a positive experience in working with the Center, I would work with them again in future grant submissions,” and/or “I was pleased that I submitted the grant through the Center and believe the potential funding of this grant was enhanced due to their assistance.”
- None of the faculty affiliates indicated they “did not find the assistance provided by Center staff very helpful in the grant development and/or submission.”
- None of the faculty affiliates indicated that they “did not think I will ask for help in the future from the Center Staff when submitting a grant proposal.”

OBJECTIVE 3:

BUILD CAPACITY BY RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS, PROVIDING MENTORS TO JUNIOR FACULTY AND TRAINING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Recruiting New Members:

- Since designation as a Program of Excellence, the number of Faculty Affiliates of the Center has more than doubled. At inception, the Center had 40 Faculty Affiliates and currently has 88 Faculty Affiliates.

Providing Mentors to Junior Faculty:

- Center staff members co-direct the CEHS Scholarly Enhancement program, a two-year mentoring program for junior faculty researchers. Currently, there are six faculty members in three departments that participate in this program.

Training Graduate Students:

- With assistance from Center staff, four graduate students have submitted grants to support their research. Two of the grants were submitted to federal agencies, and two were submitted to foundations.
- There are currently 16 graduate students employed by the Center on research grants.



OBJECTIVE 4:

EXPAND RESEARCH NETWORKS, DISSEMINATE RESEARCH FINDINGS, AND INCREASE VISIBILITY

The recognition of UNL as a premier research institution in children, youth, families and schools requires increased visibility and outreach to national and international audiences. Thus, an important objective of the Center on CYFS is the assurance of opportunities to increase visibility of faculty affiliates and their projects.

- Website (<http://cyfs.unl.edu>)
- Research Digests (see Appendix A)
- Local Outreach/ Panel Presentations
- Community Outreach/ Presentations
- National Outreach/Presentations



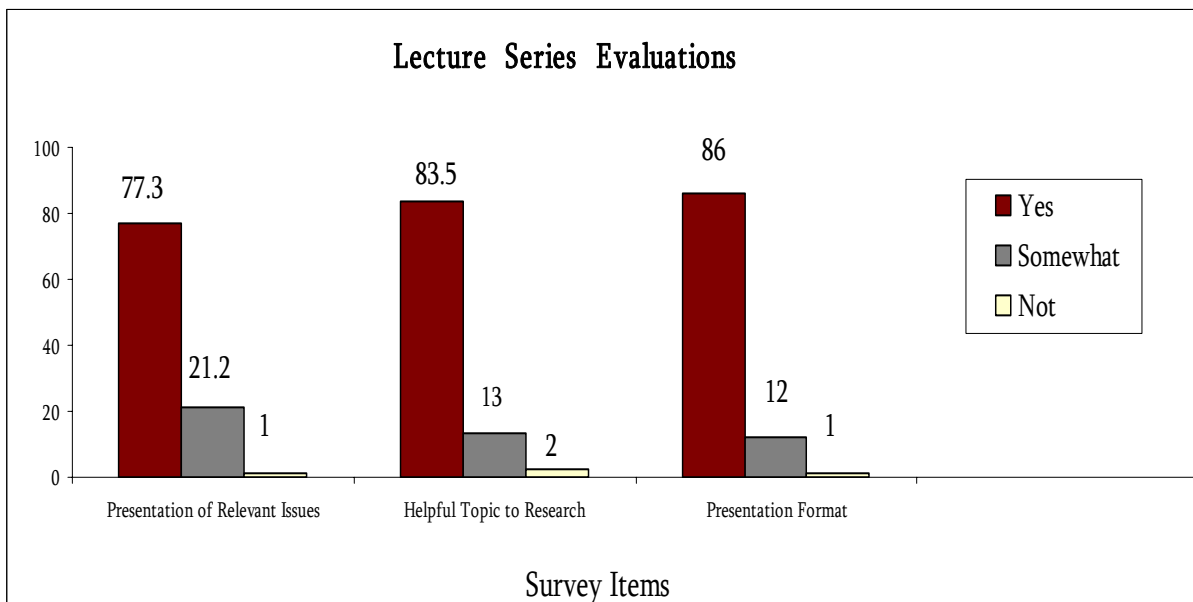
OBJECTIVE 5:**OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION WITH OTHER RESEARCHERS
NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY**

Reaching out to scholars nationally and internationally is an important feature of the Center's work, which includes increasing dialogue with prominent researchers in the areas of children, youth, families and schools. Likewise, increasing the opportunity for Center faculty and students to interact with top researchers is essential in staying abreast and keeping UNL at the center of important research dialogues in 2005. The Center provided opportunities for interaction with national researchers on youth aggression and bullying through a Lecture Series co-sponsored with the Center for Children, Families, and the Law. The Center also co-sponsored a presentation on Response to Intervention with Lincoln Public Schools.

Title	Date	Presenter	Affiliation
Real Boys and Young Men: Hearing Their Voices, Understanding Their Pain, Healing Their Disconnection	3/7/05	Dr. William S. Pollack	Centers for Men and Young Men/McLean Hospital/ Harvard Medical School
Preventing Bullying Among Children and Youth: How Can Research Advise Our Efforts in a Post-Columbine Era?	3/21/05	Dr. Susan P. Limber	Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life/ Clemson University
Bullying and Aggression in Schools and Families: What Works, What Doesn't Work	4/25/05	Dr. Andy Horne	University of Georgia
Research and Practice on Response to Intervention	4/15/05	Dr. Sharon Vaughn	Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts /The University of Texas in Austin
Childhood Aggression and Gender: Boys will Be Boys, But What About Girls?	5/16/05	Dr. Nicki R. Crick	Institute of Child Development/ University of Minnesota

OBJECTIVE 5, continued

- The Lecture Series was attended by a total of 238 individuals, including community members, parents, teachers, school psychologists, special education coordinators, graduate students, representatives of local media, personnel from the Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln Regional Center, Child Guidance Center, Girls and Boystown, Catholic Social Services, Lincoln Public Schools, and Health and Human Services, and faculty members from the Lincoln, Omaha, and Kearney campuses. Attendees represented Lincoln, Grand Island, Beatrice, and Omaha.
- Feedback indicated that the presentations met the following objectives: Learning about issues, fostering increased awareness about policy and research, and providing opportunities to learn from or interact with a seminal researcher in the field.
- 77% agreed that the lectures presented relevant issues.
- 83.5% agreed that the lectures were helpful for attendees' research, grant writing, and practice.
- 86% agreed that the presentation format was helpful.



**OBJECTIVE 6:
PROVIDE OUTREACH AND CONDUCT RESEARCH THAT IS RELEVANT AND
ESSENTIAL TO NEBRASKA'S CITIZENS AND NU STAKEHOLDERS**

Impact on Nebraska and Nebraska Communities:

- Two-thirds (67%) of the funded grants have direct impact on Nebraska's children, families, schools and communities, supporting the land-grant mission of the University.
- Seventy-eight percent of studies involve innovative educational or psychosocial interventions for serving children and families. For example:
 - New approaches for helping families (i.e., parents and young children living in low socioeconomic conditions) prepare their children for successful, long-term social and academic experiences are being implemented and evaluated.
 - Innovative methods for assessing and teaching children with reading difficulties are being developed and studied.
 - Procedures for linking families, schools and medical professionals for children with pediatric concerns are being explored.
 - Methods for teaching parents of children with disabilities procedures to help their children gain academic competence are being implemented and evaluated.
 - New technology approaches, including the use of Internet, CD-ROM, and DVD are being used with teachers and parents to promote student literacy.

OBJECTIVE 6, continued

- **Multiple Nebraska agencies and community stakeholders are involved in research that builds their capacity for delivering state-of-the-art educational, developmental and social services. For example:**
 - Staff in community agencies in rural areas of Central and Southern Nebraska engage in staff training and receive ongoing support in their work with families at risk.
 - Preschool teachers in Lincoln Public Schools' Head Start Program participate in professional development experiences and ongoing coaching to engage families in their young child's learning.
 - Child care specialists and teachers at Lincoln high schools, working with high school students who are parents, learn approaches for working with and supporting the young parents and their babies.
 - Administrators, specialists, and teachers in Lincoln Public Schools work with UNL researchers to develop effective procedures for assessing students' academic needs and delivering effective interventions at the first sign of difficulty.
 - Omaha families participate in programs to help them support the unique learning needs of their children with developmental disabilities.
 - Teams of school personnel and pediatricians in the Omaha area learn effective ways to collaborate in their work with children with pediatric and medical needs.



APPENDIX:
RESEARCH DIGESTS