



CAPITAL AREA HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006

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This report will delineate the activities of the Capital Area Health and Human Development Institute (CAHHDI) during the 2005-2006 Academic Years. The Institute is the research, training and technical assistance arm of the College of Health and Human Development in the Harrisburg area. For faculty and students who are interested in doing community based research or learning in an urban setting (Harrisburg), the Institute is the vehicle to make this happen for the College. This report will highlight all these faculty and student activities that have occurred during the 2005-2006 academic year. It is organized by Research, Evaluation and Service Projects first followed by Academic course related training and teaching. Here is a listing of the various projects and initiatives:

Research, Evaluation, and Service Projects

ELOA Grant Submission

The South Central Pennsylvania Regional Council for Early Childhood Quality spearheaded by the *Capital Area Health and Human Development Institute* submitted a grant application to the US DHHS/ACYF to support early literacy, health and safety, social emotional learning, and early educator training in the South Central Pennsylvania Region, which encompasses the seven counties of Adams, Cumberland, Lancaster, Franklin, Dauphin, Lebanon and York. Cumberland County will serve as a pilot county for this project. This application is in response to Program Announcement Number HHS-ACF-ACYF-LO-0028. This grant application was in excess of \$1,000,000 in both Federal and State funding.

To address our region's early care and education quality improvement issues, this project application will create accessible, integrated and compensated professional development for providers; improve health and safety of child care centers, and improving children's literacy skills by enriching early literacy activities for families. Of the eight allowable ELOA activities, our projects will address four: Enhancing early childhood literacy will use the Reach out and Read Program and the Hanen® Project. Promoting effective parenting will utilize Touch Point® Trainings. A Health and Safety Care Outreach Program will promote the development of linkages among early learning programs within a community and between early learning programs and health care services for young children. Two activities will promote improving the quality of early learning programs through professional development and training activities, increased compensation and recruitment and retention incentives for early learning providers.

ADL Personal Care Home Training Grant Submission

The purpose of this grant application was to help the Department of Public Welfare build an efficient and effective training and assessment system for Personal Care Home Administrators and Direct Line Staff.

To address these needs, a unique, multi-faceted partnership consisting of various units within the Pennsylvania State University system, including *Penn State Cooperative Extension, the College of Agriculture, the Capital Area Health and Human Development Institute, the College of Health and Human Development, Penn State Public Broadcasting, Information Technology experts, and faculty from various academic departments with content expertise--Aging, Human Development, Nutrition*; and collaborative arrangements with organizations, such as Better Jobs-Better Care-PA, with expertise developing and assessing skills of direct care staff in personal care homes and other care settings was formed.

Project partners were to produce training resources and competency-based training and assessment systems to support DPW legislation aimed at increasing the training requirements for personal care home administrators and staff. They were also to design an on-line train-the-trainer course to provide trainers with basic training skills and techniques for effectively teaching adult learners.

Language and Auditory Assessments

This program was designed by a faculty member in the *Communication Sciences and Disorders Department*. The purpose of this program was to establish clear baselines on children and youth aged 9-11 regarding specific assessment tools. CAHHDI staff were instrumental in establishing contacts with the School District and assisted the faculty member when she ran into a problem in getting a response from a specific school district staff member. CAHHDI staff contacted the Assistant Superintendent to get things moving again.

A follow-up project was initiated by the same faculty member focusing on preschool age children. The title of the proposed project is: Theory of mind, language, and working memory in children attending Head Start. CAHHDI staff set up meetings between the CSD faculty member and staff from Head Start and the Harrisburg School District in order to pursue this research project.

Harrisburg School District Health Clinic Evaluation

The Harrisburg School District was interested in establishing a health clinic at one of its elementary schools (Downey) and needed an evaluation to determine the effectiveness of its outreach and services. CAHHDI staff were instrumental in establishing contacts between the Harrisburg School District Medical Director and faculty from the *Health Policy Administration Program*. Two faculty members with interest and expertise in having established a similar health clinic in State College prepared and submitted to the Medical Director a letter of intent and budget to design and implement the evaluation of the health clinic.

Unfortunately, three months after the submission, the Medical Director left to take another position. A new Medical Director is to be hired. CAHHDI staff are staying informed to get this health clinic evaluation on the radar screen of the new Medical Director.

Sports Coaching Program

CAHHDI staff assisted faculty members from *HDFS and Kinesiology* in establishing their sports coaching program in the Harrisburg area by sponsoring a community meeting and presentation. Contacts were made with the Harrisburg City Schools and several local community agencies, the most prominent being the YMCA of Harrisburg.

Childhood Obesity Research

Several initiatives have been undertaken by CAHHDI staff in establishing childhood obesity as a key area to impact in the Harrisburg area. CAHHDI staff have worked with the *Center for Research on Childhood Obesity* in applying for several grants to support work in Harrisburg and elsewhere. A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant has been received by *HDFS and Nutritional Sciences* Faculty members and the preliminary work to pilot test interventions at the lab schools on the University Park campus have begun. The ultimate plan is to take these pilot interventions and expand them to the State College and Harrisburg areas. That should begin in the next fiscal year (2006-2007).

PA MAPS Family Communications Evaluation Project

An evaluation was completed through a joint venture of *Penn State York and CAHHDI*. Family Communications (Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood) conducted two types of workshops across Pennsylvania dealing with Mad Feeling and Challenging Behaviors. Penn State (PSY—Penn State York and CAHHDI) was asked to conduct an effectiveness evaluation of the workshops. Student interns had the opportunity to be involved in this project on both a paid and unpaid basis providing them with critical research experience. A presentation was made to Department of Public Welfare officials on January 24, 2006 regarding the results of this evaluation. This is a continuing evaluation project with various Penn State campuses involved: *Penn State York and Penn State Harrisburg along with CAHHDI*.

After School Evaluation

An *HDFS faculty member* was interested in collecting data on an after school population that was in an urban setting. Harrisburg was selected as a natural site for this evaluation.

The purpose of this project is to follow children who have been involved in structured after school programming in an effort to examine enduring effects on

achievement and student pro-social and problematic behavior. The research questions are as follows:

1) The fundamental research question concerns whether children who participate in after school programming make gains in academic performance and in their behavior.

2) To examine the amount of involvement, 1-year versus 2-years of participation that is needed to substantially impact student academic and behavioral outcomes.

3) Effects will be examined separately for girls and boys, and by gender for 3rd and 4th graders versus 5th and 6th graders who are beginning to enter pre-adolescence. An important question concerns at which developmental point might structure afterschool programming be more effective and if it is equally engaging for both girls and boys.

CAECTI and BECTI Research and Training Institutes

Both training institutes within *CAHHDI, the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute (CAECTI) and the Bennett Early Childhood Training Institute (BECTI)* had a great deal of activity during 2005-2006. CAECTI assumed its role as the regional key organization in the new DPW/Office of Child Development child care delivery structure. This new role for CAECTI really expanded its influence throughout south central Pennsylvania as the co-administrator of a \$4,500,000 child care quality rating system. BECTI hired its first training director and begun operations in October 2005. Setting up the infra-structure for BECTI occurred almost immediately with the CAHHDI director and the BECTI director working very closely together. BECTI is working closely with the CDL/Bennett Transition Committee within the *Human Development and Family Studies* Department.

Mind in the Making (MITM) Evaluation

This was a new initiative of the DPW/Office of Child Development in which *CAHHDI* was asked to complete an evaluation of the new Mind in the Making (MITM) program. MITM is a social-emotional developmentally oriented program focusing on changing how teachers interact with children in child care settings. A stratified random sample was completed and a pre- post-test evaluation was completed on 42 sites and 84 classrooms throughout the state.

America's Promise Award for Harrisburg

CAHHDI worked with several Harrisburg organizations to have Harrisburg identified as an America's Promise site. This was a major accomplishment for Harrisburg and received a great deal of publicity in South Central Pennsylvania.

The following is taken from the introductory statement of the application: "How is your community one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in America? We celebrate a community which has enriched the lives of our youth by not only responding to their current needs but by anticipating what those needs will become as they grow and as the infrastructure of our local government and community changes in response to societal, economical and political transformations. From birth through higher education, we have a service system which offers support for each of our children as they

develop. From health centers onsite at elementary schools, low income dental services for children, free inoculation programs, full day kindergarten for all five year olds, after school programs, summer camps, youth councils, peer education programs, leadership programs, black achievers, abstinence programs, to math and science magnet high schools and career development programs, our youth are able to develop both healthy and academically. The Pennsylvania National Fire Museum, The Whitaker Center for the Science and the Arts, the Danzante Cultural Center, The National Civil War Museum, The Susquehanna Art Museum, The Olewine Nature Center, and the State Museum combine with many special events and festivals to offer educational and cultural growth. For recreation, Harrisburg operates the largest municipal park system in Central Pennsylvania. The citywide recreation program registered over 460,000 attendances in 2004. City Island is now home to three professional level sports involving baseball, outdoor soccer and football. The City's Juvenile Firesetter Program has now been adopted for application statewide because of its success in sharply reducing the rate of recidivism. To make existing homes safe from the adverse effects of lead with children and pregnant women, the City is continuing with its lead abatement program that cleans and restores these sites. The Federal Government has cited Harrisburg as one of the nation's best practices programs. In neighborhood after neighborhood, we see citizens becoming engaged in the life of their community. Over 120 blocks have been organized under the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program. Over 310 blocks and lots have been adopted by groups and individuals, who maintain and beautify these areas. College students are spending their time helping residents plant gardens and place murals. A new Joshua Project will soon create a large organic garden on open space in Allison Hill, one of our poorest neighborhoods. The level of citizen involvement today is greater than at any time in at least three decades. The membership roles of neighborhood and crime watch groups, coupled with those who are serving on City boards and commissions or with the adoption programs exceed 2,000 persons. Through a joint effort of the City, Dauphin County and major service providers, \$1.5 million in Federal funds have been secured to finance the initial phase of a 10 year plan to fully end chronic homelessness in this City and region. Breaking the cycle of poverty, dependency and homelessness cannot be done simply by providing temporary shelter. Job training and placement, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and long-term housing stability are the funded steps now underway. It is the most significant work to address this issue ever undertaken in this region."

The *Capital Area Health and Human Development Institute (CAHHDI)* is a new institute of the College of Health and Human Development at the Pennsylvania State University, located in Harrisburg. The Institute is the research, training and urban outreach arm of the College in the Harrisburg area. Harrisburg was selected because of its unique geographic and demographic characteristics as well as being the state capitol with its many state agencies located within the City limits along with the many local human service/social service agencies.

The Institute is organized into four divisions: Research and Evaluation, Planning and Outreach, Training and Technical Assistance, and Administrative and Information Technology. The Institute is the hub for the college's faculty and students on various research and training opportunities in the Harrisburg area. The Institute has community service learning internships for students and community based research projects for

faculty. Both students and faculty have many opportunities to work together on community-based initiatives. The focal point is for the intervention(s) to meet the needs of the local Harrisburg community. True partnerships are developed with the Harrisburg community in which the community members are equal partners with university faculty and students. The purpose of the Institute is to meet the pressing social, human, health issues of the local community and not some research agenda of university faculty members. The Institute is a long-term commitment by the university to be fully engaged with the Harrisburg community.

The *College of Health and Human Development* has a major presence in the Harrisburg community through its *Prevention Research Center and the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute*. Both the Prevention Research Center and the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute have long standing commitments to the local school district as well as to the early care and education community in Harrisburg.

Built Environment Exercise Program

A faculty member from *Landscape Architecture* has collaborated with several faculty members in our College and has received a seed grant from her college to begin work in the Hall Manor section of Harrisburg in pilot testing a walking and exercise program in a very low income, economically disadvantaged area. The purpose of the pilot study is to establish a baseline to the interests and needs of local residents regarding their physical activity and exercise routines.

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) Collaboration

The *College of Health and Human Development and the College of Medicine* through the Institute have developed a unique collaboration with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities and the Greater Harrisburg Foundation (TFEC/GHF). Together we will be addressing key health access issues in the Harrisburg area by applying for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding to deal with specific health access gaps that were identified by the TFEC Needs Assessment completed in 2005.

SSHS/BMI Research Project

SSHS (Safe Schools and Healthy Students) project continued into its fourth year with *CAHHDI* staff assisting the Harrisburg school district in better planning services for the school district's children. This project is one of the successful attempts by Penn State in collaborating and working with an urban local income school district serving primarily minority children and their families. A separate project collecting BMI data and comparing that to REACH (Harrisburg City Schools Early Childhood Program) child development data was undertaken.

Children and Families Impact Seminar

On June 14th, 2005 faculty from *Penn State (Fiene, CAHHDI and Perkins, College of Agriculture), University of Pittsburgh, and Temple University* conducted a

children and families impact seminar for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Pre-K Initiatives. The event was attended by over 200 early childhood individuals, legislators, key state policy makers and the general public. It was a resounding success that resulted in a public policy monograph published by LORL and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Department of Education Assessment Committee

CAHHDI worked with a Pennsylvania Department of Education Assessment Committee on developing early childhood standards, model curricula, and model assessment tools. This effort resulted in a publication that was distributed to all the 501 school districts in Pennsylvania. Student interns had the opportunity to work on this significant state policy initiative.

State of Arkansas Professional Development Evaluation

CAHHDI was instrumental in obtaining an evaluation contract to assess the state of Arkansas's professional development system. Fiene is acting as a consultant to the state in this assessment effort. Students will have the opportunity to work along side Fiene in this research and evaluation study.

Keystone Stars Research and Evaluation Project

CAHHDI collaborated with the *University of Pittsburgh and the Universities Children's Policy Collaborative (UCPC)* to conduct a statewide evaluation of the Commonwealth's Keystone Stars child care quality improvement system. This evaluation involved collecting data from over 500 child care centers and homes from across the state. Our students were involved in this project providing a unique opportunity to see the research process from the very beginning (planning and data collection) to the very end product (final report and presentation to the Office of Child Development).

Kellogg FOCUS Language Intervention Research Project

A language intervention research project funded by the Kellogg Foundation was begun in the Harrisburg City Schools. The purpose of the project is to conduct random clinical trials on a dialogic reading approach with a social emotional component in Kindergarten and First Grade. Forty children and their families will participate in these trials. This project involved faculty from the *College of Health and Human Development as well as the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Agriculture (Cooperative Extension and Outreach) and Education*. The project is headed up by Karen Bierman in the Department of Psychology and Director of the Children, Youth and Families Consortium. This project is a perfect example of the multiple functions of *CAHHDI* in the research, training and outreach arenas for the College of Health and Human Development.

Harrisburg School District Innovation Educational Program for Improving Health of Students

The Harrisburg City Schools was interested in evaluating outcomes from their new Health Improvement Program with students. CAHHDI coordinated and hosted a meeting in Harrisburg between the school district staff and faculty from *Department of Health Policy and Administration, BioBehavioral Health, Human Development and Family Studies and the Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Settings* to determine the specific needs and resources of the school district and the *College of Health and Human Development* respectively. This was a very successful gathering in which the school district walked away with a plan for working with the invited faculty on this very significant project.

The Harrisburg School District Health Program is an innovation program that has the potential to improve the quality of health as well as the academic achievement of students in PreK through grade twelve. Lack of access to even basic health care has been a continuing problem for students in this District. It is well documented that students' health directly influences their learning. Daily exercise and activity also improve learning. This program is based on the belief that every child should enter school every day healthy, fit and ready to learn. Students who receive essential health and dental care and learn the importance of physical exercise will have a better chance of succeeding in school and succeeding in life.

To overcome the pervasive effects of poverty, single parent families, birth to mothers with less than a high school education, teenage parents, and lack of access to health care, the District has developed a new model of health care. The cornerstone of the model is the establishment of several school-based health centers, at which students will receive more readily the essential care they need. A Director of Health Services with a strong health background will oversee these centers. The roles of school nurses and other health staff are being redesigned with a focus on health management, and they will track services, needs, and health indicators such as BMI, and monitor students' progress. Dental care will be initiated for students previously screened and identified with unresolved dental problems and lack of preventative care. Another component of the program is revising the health and physical education components of the curriculum, so they target identified health issues among our students and complement the services provided in the health centers.

Key to the success of these health centers is close collaboration with community health and social services agencies. The District has already established many solid partnerships with these groups and is working on the integration of school health services with community resources. Emphasis is on health promotion, prevention, and chronic care management.

Infant Laboratory for Emotional Regulation

CAHHDI through CYFC funding assisted a *College of Education* researcher with support from *College of Health and Human Development* researchers in the establishment of an Infant Laboratory for Emotional Regulation in the Harrisburg area. The researchers were interested in working with diverse families in order to determine if

mothers who had the ability to regulate their own distress were able to calm their own infants more effectively when they were distressed.

For this pilot study a diverse group of 30 low-income mothers and their infants (aged 4.5-6 months) will be recruited from Early Head Start programs in Harrisburg. The Harrisburg area was selected because of the potential for recruitment of a racially diverse sample (approximately 60% minority group members, 40% majority group members).

Mothers and infants will be invited to come into the lab in Harrisburg for a 2.5 hour visit, during which time mothers and infants will participate in a number of standard interaction and temperament tasks, many of them drawn from the Laboratory Temperament Assessment Battery (Lab-TAB; Goldsmith & Rothbart, 1999). Tasks will include a still-face procedure, a dress-undress task, a 10-minute free-play session with toys, a robot-dog approach, and an arm-restraint procedure. Mothers will be told that they can do whatever they would like to do to soothe their babies if the babies become distressed. Mothers and infants will be videotaped during the procedures. A staff person will conduct the procedures while a student videotapes the mother and infant continuously during and between the tasks. Both staff person and student videotaper will videotape mother and infant during the still face procedure, in order to allow for split screen videotaping of this task.

During the lab, mothers and infants will also have heart rate variability measured using ambulatory, wireless devices. The heart rate variability data will be time-locked with the video observation data. Saliva samples will be collected from mothers and infants at four time points. Baseline samples will be taken at the beginning of the lab. Three other samples will be taken from both mother and infant at 5 minutes, 20 minutes and 40 minutes after the arm restraint procedure. The arm restraint procedure was selected because it is the procedure that is most likely to result in infant distress. Cortisol will be measured in the baseline, 20 minute and 40 minutes samples and α -amylase will be measured in the baseline, 5 minute and 20 minutes samples. After the lab procedures, child care will be provided to the infant while mothers complete a series of self-report measures and then the Adult Attachment Interview in another room.

Training and Teaching

Early Childhood Certificate Programs

Several College of Health and Human Development Courses have been offered in the Harrisburg area through the *CAHHDI and Penn State Harrisburg's* Early Childhood Education Resident Education Program. These courses are part of an early childhood certificate program series being offered to early care and education staff in the Harrisburg area. It is part of the larger Early Care and Education Regional Key system that CAHHDI is a key organization of. An online version of the Director's Certificate program was begun in the Spring 2006 semester. Five additional certificate programs are being offered in addition to the Director's Certificate Program: Infant Toddler Certificate Program, Preschool Certificate Program, Inclusion Practices Certificate Program, Home Based Provider Certificate Program, and a Social Emotional Certificate Program. The following courses are part of these certificate programs: HDFS 230, 229, 330, 414; EDUC 403, 404, 405, 408.

Student Internship Program

CAHHDI has run a very successful internship program for students who are interested in an urban experience. Many different types of internships have either been offered directly through CAHHDI or have been arranged. Our college's students have done a wonderful job in enhancing services in the Harrisburg area and the intern experience has been an excellent educational experience for them, with several students getting jobs and staying in the area.

The following is a sampling of the types of programs and internships that our students have been involved in through the Institute:

Angela Saylor was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student who was interested in early intervention. She had a placement in the local mental health and mental retardation program.

Jessica Gwinn was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate who was interested in the elderly. She had a placement in the local area agency on aging. This was a paid internship.

Jenny Jackson was a *health policy administration* undergraduate who was interested in working in a hospital setting. Contacts were made for her in several local hospitals: Pinnacle and Harrisburg hospitals.

Kate Nelson was a *bio-behavioral health and health policy administration* undergraduate who was interested in working in the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She was put into contact with several high ranking senior level Health administrators for a placement in this agency.

Cara Poon was a *human development and family studies* doctoral student who is interested in early childhood education. She has been working on several early care and education and child care projects, the most recent one in which she has been assisting in the gathering of observations from classrooms to establish the reliability and validity of a caregiver observation scale. This project has been very helpful for Cara in understanding

the total data collection and analysis phases in a research project. This is a paid internship.

Kristin Schultz was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student interested in early childhood education. She worked on several early childhood professional development activities in which she helped to design a new training protocol for child care teachers in Pennsylvania. This was a paid internship.

Sara Shoaff was a *kinesiology and human development and family studies* undergraduate who was interested in working with children and youth. She wasn't certain which age group she was most interested in. After a summer internship with the Institute she was able to determine the age group she was most interested in working. This was a paid internship.

Michelle Salopek was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate who was interested in early care and education and human services in general. Michelle had the opportunity to work within several different human service settings and this has helped her to focus on the types of careers available with a human development and family studies major. This was a paid internship.

Becky DeRousie was a *human development and family studies* doctoral student who has an interest in early care and education, child care and public policy. Becky has been involved in several projects, one in which she analyzed data from the Pennsylvania Early Childhood Settings Quality Study which she turned into a publishable article. She is in the process of re-writing the article for *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*. This is a paid internship. Becky is also working on the development and implementation of the Bennett Early Childhood Training Institute.

Sarah Meyer was a *human development and family studies* doctoral student who has an interest in teens. Sarah completed a summer internship in which she was working with several Harrisburg human service agencies helping them to develop more effective evaluation systems. The most significant program that she worked, Silence of Mary, has taken her work and made several significant changes in their accountability systems. This was a paid internship.

Kim Cohick was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student who has an interest in early childhood. Kim has been involved in several early childhood and child care projects during her summer internship in which she has help to set up local training and technical assistance for child care teachers and directors. This was a paid internship.

Kimberly Christoph was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student who had an interest in early childhood and childhood obesity. She completed an internship that focused on these two areas and the Institute helped her to secure post graduation employment within a local parenting and human service agency. This was a paid internship.

Dawn Backowski was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student who was interested in working with young children. Her spring semester internship helped her to focus her interest on a specific age range and setting. This was a paid internship.

Kristen DiAntonio was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student who was interested in working with children and youth. She was involved in several of our certificate programs in which she assisted Institute faculty in the

preparation of training materials, went on observation visits to local child care programs and collected data on these programs. This was a paid internship.

Maria Zoratti, Laura Hollar-Wilt, Dr Hima Palakurthi and Michael Tsappis were child psychiatric residents from the *Hershey Medical Center (HMC)* who were interested in early childhood. Both residents did rotations with the Institute where they had opportunities to visit local early care and education programs and to work with families. This was a paid internship through HMC.

Teresa Kern was a *University of Kentucky* doctoral student who has an interest in early childhood. Teresa has worked on several projects at the Institute, the most recent has been in collecting data to establish the reliability and validity of a caregiver observation scale. This was a paid internship.

Laura Wray was a *human development and family studies* doctoral student who is interested in community impact interventions. She did an unpaid practicum in the Harrisburg area exploring possible avenues of research.

Christy Briner, Tara Mohamed, and Elizabeth Araman were all undergraduate students in *nutrition, bio-behavioral health and communication sciences and disorders* who were interested in childhood obesity and language learning programs. Referrals were made for these students related to internships and employment.

Elisabeth Donaldson was a *health policy administration and bio-behavioral health* undergraduate who is interested in childhood obesity and public health. A paid summer internship through the United Way, Cooperative Extension and the Dauphin County Health Improvement Partnership was created where Elisabeth worked with children and youth in local summer camps related to proper nutrition. Her program was so successful, the United Way and HIP have taken the curriculum and are developing a train the trainer program based upon her internship experience. Elisabeth was also nominated for a HIP Award because of her contributions to the Harrisburg Community during her summer internship.

Celia Zehring was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student who is interested in early childhood. Her paid internship involved working in the community improving the quality of care in local child care programs. After her internship she was hired to assist on one of the Institute's research projects.

Tara Shunk was a *human development and family studies* undergraduate student who is interested in all forms of human services and age ranges. Her unpaid internship has given her the opportunity to shadow the Institute Director and the Institute's Division Directors in learning more about the various positions available in human service agencies.

Ali Smalstig was a *Master's level psychology* graduate student who is interested in early childhood evaluation. Her project involves the evaluation of the Harrisburg Early Childhood Program determining the effectiveness of this intervention related to pro-social skill development. Ali has been hired to work on several Institute's research projects.

Jesse Hunting was an undergraduate student in *landscape architecture* with a real interest in social change mechanisms. Jesse applied for a PA's AmeriCorps*State Program Grant. This experience of applying for the grant had been a great experience for him and had given him confidence in his ability to organize and plan large scale projects.

Jesse continues to impact Harrisburg through his community impact work in reclaiming or creating local neighborhood parks.

Jenn Reott was an undergraduate student in *human development and family studies* who is interested in early childhood and human services in general. Her paid internship involved working on several Institute evaluation projects both with Harrisburg and statewide.

Michelle Strickler, Michele Miele, Amanda Swett, Elisha Kramer, Chris Robinson, Marquita Giles, Don Bloss, Taryn Ball, Jodi Jones, Rachel Hall, Nancy Wilson, Laura Peters, and Stephanie Baird were undergraduate *psychology* students at *Penn State Harrisburg* who completed research and evaluation practica at the Institute.

Over 50 undergraduate and graduate students have made inquiries of the Institute related to internships, practica, and employment. Twenty-six students were placed or worked on Harrisburg related projects. Eighteen were paid internships.

Year of the Young Child at Penn State—the Early Childhood Education Initiative

The Early Childhood Education Initiative is a multi-disciplinary, cross-college faculty initiative (College of Education, College of Health and Human Development, College of Liberal Arts) to demonstrate Penn State's commitment to early care and education. The plan is to hold several major events either once a month or once every two months related to young children. The ultimate goal is to position Penn State as the premier leader in early care and education in Pennsylvania as the Commonwealth begins to entertain the idea of expanding early childhood through the public schools and implementing new teacher certification standards. By placing this focus on early care and education and building this coalition of Penn State faculty members the university will be positioned to respond to the new opportunities being offered by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development.

Some of the activities that will be undertaken:

- Department of Psychology is planning on having a pre-literacy seminar series,
- Announcement and launch of the new Bennett Early Childhood Training Institute,
- Early care and education conference pulling in key early childhood leaders to help advise us on innovations in pre-K to 3 teacher education models,
- Early care and education specialty workshops and seminars, and
- Visits to other states and universities where model early childhood education teacher training programs have been developed.

Conclusion

The Capital Area Health and Human Development Institute (CAHHDI) involved the College's faculty in many collaborative projects in the Harrisburg area that provided tremendous benefit to the area as well as for the specific faculty member. These projects ranged from early childhood to aging. Some were research and evaluation projects; others had more of a service component; others were training and teaching—certificate programs.

What has been equally significant has been the opportunities provided to our College's students through CAHHDI's Internship Program. They have had the opportunity to be involved in urban-based as well as statewide-policy research and evaluation studies. They have seen the research enterprise from the start to finish. They have been part of service learning projects and community based research projects. CAHHDI is unique in that not only can it provide urban experiences for students and faculty but also state policy opportunities as well. It is clearly demonstrated that the CAHHDI is providing a unique service to the College's students and faculty, and to the Harrisburg community.

Some of the following departments, programs, research centers, colleges, and universities, and state departments that have been involved during the 2005-2006 academic year are the following: In the College of Health and Human Development: *HDFS, HPA, BBH, RPTM, Nutritional Sciences, CSD, Kinesiology*; Research Centers: *Prevention Research Center, Center for Research on Childhood Obesity, Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Settings, Bennett Early Childhood Training Institute, Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute*; Other Colleges: *Agriculture Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Education, Penn State Harrisburg, Penn State York, College of Medicine-Hershey Medical Center, Landscape Architecture*; Penn State Cooperative Extension; Other Universities: *Temple University and the University of Pittsburgh*; *Universities Children's Policy Collaborative*; *State Departments of Education and Public Welfare*; and lastly *the State of Arkansas*.

Additional information regarding any of the projects mentioned in this report can be obtained from:

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Capital Area Health and Human Development Institute Funding 2005-2006

College of Health and Human Development
\$140,000

Pennsylvania Key
\$267,530

Southcentral Key
\$459,534

Greater Harrisburg Foundation
\$54,000

Robert Wood Foundation
\$10,000

Mind in the Making Evaluation/Berks County Intermediate Unit
\$36,201

Mind in the Making Service Delivery/Berks County Intermediate Unit
\$20,200

HOPE/Dauphin County Mental Health and Mental Retardation
\$40,000

Bennett Early Childhood Training Institute Technical Assistance
\$160,000

York Quantum Evaluation Project/YWCA of York
\$15,000

Keystone Stars Evaluation/Office of Child Development
\$15,000

Adult Residential Living Services/Department of Public Welfare
\$496,242

Total
\$1,713,707