THE COLLEGE OF
Health & Human Development

Prevention Research Center
Five-Year Anniversary Report

1998 99 00 01 02
2003
In 1998, just five years ago, the Prevention Research Center was established in Penn State’s College of Health and Human Development, devoted to the study and evaluation of prevention programs and research. Its mission was to share findings with audiences ranging from local communities and state policy makers, to national practitioner organizations and academic peers. The focus of these programs was on children—those at risk of substance abuse, violence, teenage pregnancy, poverty, and the other conditions that can take hold of vulnerable youth as they develop toward adulthood. Researchers at the Center continue to work in partnership with local schools and local and state organizations, receive funding from foundations, federal and state agencies, and nonprofit organizations, and design and implement program evaluations and research studies that have borne fruit toward ensuring the well-being of children.

Faculty efforts focus on the following activities: (1) longitudinal, developmental research on risk and protective factors and their relation to well-being and maladaptation; (2) research to better understand how communities can work together with families, schools, community groups (social service, youth groups, the faith community), and industry to promote healthy lifestyles for children, youth and families; (3) collaborations with Pennsylvania communities to design, implement, and evaluate preventive interventions; (4) clinical trials of innovative models to promote competence and prevent maladaptive outcomes for children, adolescents, families, and communities; (5) prevention research activities within the College of Health and Human Development and the promotion of prevention research throughout the Penn State system; (6) policy-relevant information on best practices in prevention to federal, state, and local governments; and (7) assistance to communities on the development, implementation, and evaluation of prevention programming.

From the outset, one of the Center’s major foci has been on training the next generation of prevention scientists. Research seminars on prevention science are hosted regularly, and support is provided for graduate and faculty fellowships and conferences. Center activities are funded by a combination of College funds, permanent endowment, and active research grants. Commitment to outreach includes the provision of policy-relevant information on best practices in prevention to state, federal, and local governments. In addition, Prevention Research Center faculty and staff provide consultation and technical assistance to numerous local communities on the development, implementation, and evaluation of community-based prevention programs.

As we look back at the Center’s first five years, and plan for the future, we wish to thank all those individuals and organizations who have guided, collaborated with, and supported us to where we are today—a leader in higher education-based prevention activities in the United States.

Thank you!

Mark T. Greenberg
Director, Prevention Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development

and

Edna Peterson Bennett Chair & Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
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In October 2003, we celebrated our five-year anniversary.

Letters of invitation were sent to educators, policy makers and childcare advocates from Pennsylvania and beyond to gather with Center faculty, staff, and students, and Penn State administrators at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center on October 30 to mark the Center’s fifth anniversary. More than 120 individuals participated in the daylong celebration. The day began with remarks by Former Pennsylvania First Lady Michele Ridge, director of strategic development and community prevention planning for Channing Bete Company, Inc. and national spokesperson for the Communities That Care® prevention planning system. Mrs. Ridge also was present at the opening ceremonies for the Center in 1998, and graciously returned to join in the anniversary celebration.

Her comments were followed by morning panel discussions on the development and evaluation of new national and international prevention programs and specific prevention initiatives in the greater Harrisburg area. Afternoon panel discussions focused on partnering with communities to develop/evaluate prevention programs and on the sustainability of prevention programs.

The celebration culminated with the presentation of the annual Bennett Lectureship in Prevention Science. This year’s lecture was presented by Dr. J. David Hawkins, School of Social Work Kozmetsky Professor of Prevention and director of the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington, who spoke on “Prevention Science: Two Decades of Progress, Plenty of Challenges.”

To see just how far the Center has progressed, we need to look back to its origins.
When the Prevention Research Center was established in the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State in 1998, it represented the culmination of a long-time mission for its director, Dr. Mark Greenberg. A Pennsylvania native, Mark had hoped to return to his home state to create an organization that would contribute solutions to issues endemic in so many American communities—substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, violence, health—by promoting the healthy development of children, reducing the prevalence of high-risk behaviors and poor outcomes for children, youth, and families, and engaging faculty and students from many different disciplines in community partnerships to benefit children. From the outset he was joined by his long-time colleague, Dr. Karen Bierman, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, who has served as the Associate Director for the Center, and by Dr. Celene Domitrovich, who has served as the Assistant Director.

The partnerships that were initially forged involved families, schools, community groups (social service, youth groups, the faith community), and local government in promoting healthy lifestyles for children, youth, and families. Innovative models developed by Center associates were developed to promote competence and prevent maladaptive outcomes for children, families, and communities. In addition, the Center engaged in basic research on the development of risk and protective factors that influence healthy development vs. maladaptation. Further, the Center sought to stimulate interdisciplinary research and collaborative projects with Pennsylvania communities to develop effective ways to decrease risk factors in children, families, and their communities.

Why Penn State? There were several key reasons. First, the College of Health and Human Development and Family Studies had developed a strategic plan in which prevention science would play a key role. Second, Penn State faculty already included a substantial number of experts in prevention science. Third, two outstanding doctoral programs (Human Development and Family Studies and Biobehavioral Health) in the College of Health and Human Development attracted high-quality faculty and graduate students. Finally, the initiation of the Children, Youth, and Families Consortium (www.cyfc.psu.edu) provided new collaborative opportunities for research, training, and outreach for faculty interested in studying family and youth issues and concerns. This convergence of forces provided both the framework and support for the development of a major university initiative in prevention research.

The new Center was officially opened on April 28, 1998, by Pennsylvania’s then First Lady Michele M. Ridge, Penn State President Graham B. Spanier, and Dr. Barbara Shannon, Schultz Dean of the College of Health and Human Development, at a ceremony in Old Main on Penn State’s University Park campus.
During its first five years, the Prevention Research Center has become the locus of research, technical assistance, and program development in prevention science in Pennsylvania. All of the activities described earlier continue today, but at a broader scale. The Center has offices and staff in State College, Harrisburg, and York. A total of 19 faculty members, 16 full-time Ph.D.-level research associates, and 2 postdoctoral fellows are currently associated with the Center.

Funded Research at the Prevention Research Center

Over its first five years, Center associates have demonstrated their commitment to research, program development, and program evaluation by gaining grants and contracts from state and federal funders, including foundations, state and federal agencies, school districts, and many others. In 1998–1999, the Prevention Research Center received 7 grants totaling more than $700,000. Five years later, in 2002–2003, the Center administered 22 grants for a total of $4,515,162. This growth has continued—in 2003–2004, the Center now has 25 funded grants totaling approximately $5,156,458. In addition, the Center currently co-shares 7 grants totaling $4,632,000 with other colleges and centers at Penn State. Three graphics well represent the significant growth in the number and amount of awards. The first graphic shows the growth in the number of awards received by Prevention Research Center associates from the Center’s inception in 1998, to 2003. The second displays the growth in research award amounts by fiscal year, for the period 1998–2003. The third figure shows the numbers of grants by type of funder over five years.
A central goal of the Prevention Research Center is to create long-term engagement with communities to create mechanisms by which measurable and sustainable systems change can occur for children and families in the Commonwealth. Many Center projects exemplify this goal. Here, we highlight three of these projects:

- The Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute
- The Harrisburg Center for Healthy Child Development
- PROSPER

The Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute

In 1999, the Prevention Research Center collaborated with the Capital Area Funders Group to develop a plan to fill the tremendous need to raise the quality of childcare for infants and toddlers. In January 2000, the Center and the Greater Harrisburg Area Foundation jointly opened the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute (CAECTI) with both private and public funding from a variety of funders in the Greater Harrisburg area and the state of Pennsylvania.

The Institute, directed by Dr. Richard Fiene, is a community-based initiative to provide training, outreach, and research to parents and care providers of children birth to five years of age. It is empowered by a broad-based community advisory board with representatives from local and state government, citizens, social service and childcare providers, local foundations, and other professionals working in research and service in early childhood. Located in Harrisburg, the Institute serves an eight-county area (Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Lancaster, Lebanon, York, Franklin and Adams Counties) of south central Pennsylvania with a special concentration on Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry Counties. CAECTI works in conjunction with other training organizations, childcare centers, and public and private agencies that serve children and families in the eight-county region to ensure high-quality, well-coordinated training for childcare providers in this region.

The Institute develops and coordinates training sessions throughout the region, including: on-site mentoring and consultative sessions; workshops for caregivers and parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers; seminars for directors of childcare programs; and an annual summer training institute. The Institute’s website lists available training opportunities in the eight-county area, as well as links to other websites containing information for parents and care providers. The Institute advocates for and helps develop high-quality early childhood education training programs for childcare providers and parents throughout the region and the state. The Institute also coordinates with other early childhood training institutes and initiatives. The Institute has conducted ongoing evaluation research of its programs and other childcare programs in Pennsylvania and these reports are available on its website. Finally, the Institute also affords growing opportunities for Penn State researchers.

The Institute has experienced substantial growth since its origins. After three years of operations it has been involved in twelve separately funded training and evaluation projects throughout Pennsylvania. It now has over fifteen part-time and full-time staff. For more information about the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute, visit its website at ecti.hbg.psu.edu.

Dr. Richard Fiene
The Harrisburg Center for Healthy Child Development

The Harrisburg Center for Healthy Child Development was established in 1999 to extend the Prevention Center’s research efforts in the Capital Area. As an urban center coping with high rates of child and adolescent risk, Harrisburg is the site of numerous prevention-related projects.

Beginning in 1999, the Center has partnered with the Harrisburg School District, Dauphin County, and a variety of public and private agencies, including Hempfield Counseling, Head Start, and the Community Action Commission, to introduce and evaluate new preventive interventions as well as to create systems change to improve the delivery of services to children and families. Barbara Carl has served as the Associate Director of the Center since 2002.

Dauphin County Delinquency Prevention. The first project, Dauphin County Delinquency Prevention, was funded by the Governor’s Partnership for Safe Children and was coordinated with the local Communities That Care Initiative and the Harrisburg School District. The project was designed to build social competence and reduce aggression in elementary school children living in neighborhoods with high rates of delinquency. Over a four-year period the project implemented the PATHS Curriculum with K–4th-grade teachers in three Harrisburg elementary schools. This program was supplemented with both parent education and mentoring provided by Big Brothers/Big Sisters to a limited number of students.

Building on this early success, four other substantial projects have been initiated by the Harrisburg Center in collaboration with the Harrisburg School District and other community partners.

Development and Evaluation of Preschool PATHS. A central concern of the PRC is the development of preventive interventions that build children’s social and emotional competence and resiliency. Led by Dr. Celene Domitrovich and with the close cooperation of the Capital Area Head Start Program, a new version of the PATHS Curriculum was developed for preschool children. Using a randomized trial design (that also included Lycoming-Clinton Head Start), findings indicated that new Preschool PATHS leads to improvements in children’s knowledge about emotions as well as their social and emotional competence as judged by both teachers and parents. The early research on this model was funded by federal offices of Head Start; however, the area Head Start programs have now been fully implemented and are sustained through local funding.
REACH. One of the greatest concerns of communities is preparing children to be ready for schooling. Children showing greater readiness are much more likely to succeed throughout their formal education. The REACH Project, funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, supports both the implementation of an innovative model of preschool programming intended to create long-term systems change, as well as the evaluation of this initiative. Led by Drs. Domitrovich and Greenberg, the evaluation is a multi-level model. At the first level, the project will follow the development of over 300 young children over a 6-year period to assess the model’s effects on academic and social competence. The second level of evaluation, led by Dr. Linda Burton and researchers from the Center for Research on Diverse Family Contexts, qualitatively assesses the effects of REACH on the attitudes and behaviors of both teachers and parents. At the third level, Barbara Carl, Associate Director of the Harrisburg Center, is leading a process of evaluation of systems change that includes assessment of school district operations, as well as broader systems change that is planned between the school district and community agencies, families, and other stakeholders.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students. Conducted in coordination with the Harrisburg School District, the PRC provides training, technical assistance, and evaluation to the SS/HS project. This initiative has multiple goals that are intended to create system change that leads to improved prevention, mental health treatment, and academic outcomes for Harrisburg students. Led by Drs. Meg Small and Celene Domitrovich, this wide-ranging project involves a number of innovations, including the development of new models for assessing and tracking student social and academic functioning as well as the introduction and support of prevention programming from preschool to high school.

HOPE. Funded by the Center for Mental Health Services (HHS), HOPE is a collaborative initiative involving Dauphin County Mental Health, Harrisburg City Schools, and Penn State. The goals of HOPE focus on institutionalization of the PATHS curriculum in Harrisburg schools, training and technical assistance to behavioral health providers to initiate linkages between the language and goals of mental health prevention and treatment, and a community education program focused on improving the competence of children and caregivers to provide nurturing social and emotional environments for children.
The PROSPER project supports the development of local partnership teams in seven Pennsylvania school districts. The teams—made up of school leaders, Cooperative Extension staff, parents, community leaders, students and health and social service providers—identify needs and offer evidence-based programs to improve the health and well-being of middle-school and high-school students. In seven other Pennsylvania school districts, local teams will receive technical assistance to implement similar programs following a three-year waiting period.

The first phase of PROSPER involves the development of school/community-university partnerships in selected communities in Iowa and Pennsylvania. A randomized trial is evaluating the effectiveness of the model on a range of outcomes, including youth competencies and problem behavior reduction. Also, the relationship between partnership functioning and intervention outcomes is being examined. Using the first phase results as a guide, the second phase will entail (a) an expansion to additional sites in Iowa and Pennsylvania and, most importantly, (b) the gradual inclusion of an increasing number of states, as part of a national network of partnerships. Participating PRC and Penn State faculty involved in PROSPER include Mark Greenberg (PI), Karen Bierman (Co-PI), Mark Feinberg (Research Director), Janet Welsh (Intervention Director), and Daniel Perkins, Claudia Mincemoyer, and Marilyn Corbin from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Cooperative Extension.
From the outset, a strategic goal of the Center was to engage with policy makers to improve decision-making for children and families based on current scientific knowledge. Two projects highlight these efforts:

- The Early Childhood Care and Education Task Force
- Preventing Mental Disorders in School-Age Children

**University Children’s Policy Collaborative: The Early Childhood Care and Education Task Force**

In 1999, the PRC joined with nationally recognized researchers from the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development and the Temple University Center for Public Policy to form the Universities Child Policy Collaborative (UCPC). UCPC was initiated to provide cross-university capability and cooperation in providing policy-relevant research on issues related to children and families to the state of Pennsylvania. Formed by the three major state-related universities, UCPC has built a matrix of research capabilities and a network of colleagues here and nation-wide to answer the most pressing questions about advancing the well-being of Pennsylvania’s young children.

In April 2002 Governor Mark Schweiker created the 33-member Early Childhood Care and Education Task Force, which was empowered to provide recommendations for the future of early childhood services in Pennsylvania. The Governor’s Office asked UCPC to play a key role in assisting the task force and Dr. Greenberg and the PRC led and coordinated the overall effort, which examined existing and potential programs and services for children from birth to age 8 and made recommendations for improving educational opportunities for children. Penn State contributors to UCPC included Dr. Richard Fiene and Dr. E. Michael Foster, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Administration.

The task force submitted two reports in 2002. The first, *Early Care and Education: The Keyston of Pennsylvania’s Future*, detailed research findings from four studies conducted by UCPC and cited four key factors in ensuring that Pennsylvania’s children enter school ready to learn: gubernatorial leadership and vision; key components of school readiness: early care and education, health and family supports; foundation elements that assure progress toward the goal; and public information and engagement.

The second report, led by Dr. Fiene and entitled *Quality of Early Childhood Education Programs in Pennsylvania*, was the first comprehensive quality study completed in Pennsylvania that provided an evaluation of the services currently provided to children and outlined recommendations for developing baseline quality expectations for all early childhood programs. The survey of 372 early care and education providers found: 80 percent of care in Pennsylvania has been rated minimal or adequate at best; only 20 percent was rated good; Head Start’s quality was significantly higher than all other forms of early care and education; 46 percent of Head Start programs are of high quality; preschool programs scored significantly higher on quality than did childcare centers and homes; and the quality of childcare centers and family/group childcare homes decreased since the mid-1990s.

UCPC research indicated areas that must be addressed to improve the quality of Pennsylvania’s early care and education delivery system:

- **Teacher education**: Individuals with college degrees provide a much higher level of quality than...
individuals with a high school diploma; however, in Pennsylvania, only 58 percent of teachers have early education degrees.

- **Planned curriculum:** More than 90 percent of childcare centers, Head Start sites, preschools and group homes reported use of a written program guide or curriculum, while about 50 percent of the family homes and legally unregulated providers reported using written sources to plan activities.

- **Accreditation:** Since this report Pennsylvania has fully launched its Keystone Stars quality improvement program to recognize childcare providers who exceed state health and safety licensing requirements. This incentive program may help contribute to a rise in the level of quality offered to children by licensed childcare providers.

For more information on the Early Childhood Initiative or to view the task force reports, visit the Prevention Research Center’s web site at www.prevention.psu.edu.

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**Preventing Mental Disorders in School-Age Children**

PRC researchers conducted a review for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Mental Health Services on the effectiveness of prevention programs for reducing mental health problems in school-age children. The review was co-authored by Drs. Mark Greenberg and Celine Domitrovich, and Brian Bumbarger.

Thirty-four different programs were identified and found to significantly reduce aggression, depression, and anxiety and improve behavior and problem-solving skills. This good news shows the potential promise of widespread prevention programs to reduce mental disorders and behavior problems in childhood in a manner similar to what our nation has done to reduce heart disease and cancer.

The report also identified several characteristics shared by effective programs. Effective universal prevention programs (programs that were addressed to broad populations of children, families, and schools) focused on teaching emotional self-regulation as well as thinking and decision-making skills that improve social and emotional competence. Effective programs also created changes in the school and family ecology that supported the use and reinforcement of these new skills. Finally, they lasted one or more school years and were used regularly. The review also found ten programs that have successfully reduced the risk for conduct problems. Disorders of conduct are one of the most prevalent and stable child psychiatric disorders.

In addition, the review found several programs that have successfully reduced depressive symptoms, including programs that have reduced symptoms of anxiety and risk for suicide. These effective pro-
grams focus on teaching children and youth how to alter and utilize more effective thinking and behavioral coping strategies. The programs also showed children and adolescents how to more effectively use the support of others in times of stress. In addition, other programs were identified that successfully impact children experiencing the stress-related effects of divorce or childhood bereavement that often manifest themselves in mental or behavioral problems.

The report, *Preventing Mental Disorders in School-Age Children*, is available under the publications’ link on the Center’s website at www.prevention.psu.edu.

**The Bennett Endowment**

A $5 million commitment to Penn State’s College of Health and Human Development from alumna Edna Bennett Pierce supports a variety of University and College efforts aimed at improving the health and welfare of children and adolescents. Bennett Pierce directed $4 million of the total gift to an endowment for teaching, research and outreach programs involving children and adolescents. The endowment funds graduate and faculty fellowships, and provides other enhancements to the work of the Prevention Research Center.

A resident of Wilmington, Delaware, and a civic leader and philanthropist, Bennett Pierce is a member of the “Famous 500,” the first freshmen class of women admitted to Penn State following World War II. She earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics with an emphasis in child development in 1953. Her husband, C. Eugene Bennett, who died in 1996, began his doctoral studies in analytical chemistry at Penn State in 1951.

As a result of the generosity of the Bennett Endowment, the Center initiated a program of Graduate Prevention Fellowships. These fellowships last for one academic year and are awarded on a competitive basis.

**Prevention Faculty Fellows**

Clancy Blair, Ph.D.
Doug Coatsworth, Ph.D.
Scott Gest, Ph.D.
Kathy Hood, Ph.D.
Rukmalie Jayakody, Ph.D.
Jennifer Maggs, Ph.D.
The Bennett Lectureship
One of the Center’s most visible outreach efforts is the Bennett Lectureship in Prevention Science. This annual lecture recognizes a leading scientist in this field. The Inaugural 2002 Bennett Lecturer in Prevention Science was Sir Michael Rutter, research professor of developmental psychotherapy at the University of London’s Institute of Psychiatry. He spoke on the “Prevention of Psychological Dysfunction: Interfaces among Pessimism, Optimism and Realism.”

Sir Rutter’s research has explored resilience in relation to stress, developmental links between childhood and adult life, schools as social institutions, reading difficulties, psychiatric genetics, neuropsychiatry, infantile autism, effects of deprivation on Romanian orphan adoptees, and psychiatric epidemiology. He has published 38 books and more than 140 chapters and 300 scientific papers related to his research and serves on the editorial boards of nearly 20 journals.

Sir Rutter was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1987 and was president of both the Society for Research in Child Development and the International Society for Research in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He has received honorary degrees from a dozen colleges and universities in Europe and the United States. He was knighted in January 1992.

The 2003 lecturer was Dr. J. David Hawkins, School of Social Work Kozmetsky Professor of Prevention and Director of the Social Development Research Group, University of Washington, Seattle. The title of his presentation was “Prevention Science: Two Decades of Progress, Plenty of Challenges.”

Dr. Hawkins’ research focuses on understanding and preventing child and adolescent health and behavior problems. He seeks to identify risk and protective factors for health and behavior problems across multiple domains; to understand how these factors interact in the development or prevention of problem behaviors; and to test comprehensive prevention strategies that seek to reduce risk through the enhancement of strengths and protective factors in families, schools, peer groups and communities.

Since 1981 he has been conducting the Seattle Social Development Project, a longitudinal prevention study based on his theoretical work. Dr. Hawkins is the developer of the “Communities That Care” program, co-developer of the Social Development Model, a theory that provides a foundation for positive development and delinquency and drug abuse prevention, and co-author of “Preparing for the Drug (Free) Years” and “Parents Who Care” prevention programs.

He is President of the Society for Prevention Research, and has served on numerous state and federal committees. He was awarded the 1999 Prevention Science Award from the Society for Prevention Research, 1999 August Vollmer Award, and the 2003 Paul Tappan Award from the Western Society of Criminology.
The Prevention Research Center is committed to rigorous training of the next generations of prevention scientists. This involvement includes both pre- and post-doctoral training programs that focus on collaborations with experienced mentors and emphasize growth in the number of externally funded studies that include funds to train students in prevention research. By following this mission, the Center seeks to strengthen the nation’s supply of prevention researchers by preparing a core of well-prepared scholars in prevention science. Our goal is to ensure that each student is ready to launch his or her research career with the requisite skills for scholarly publication, teaching, conference presentation, and grant proposal development.

Through enrollment in graduate programs and experience in funded research projects, pre- and post-doctoral students are trained to conceptualize problems and questions for study, design research studies, understand and apply appropriate data analysis, write for publication and proposal development, and collaborate on interdisciplinary teams. These skills are acquired through a combination of structured experiences (coursework, seminars, workshops) and mentorship.

**Graduate Prevention Fellows**

**2002–2003**
Nicole Freeman  
Brendan Gomez  
Cori-Ann Lupino  
Sarah Meyers

**2001–2002**
Jacinda Dariotis  
Nathan Riggs  
Rachel Peters  
Eliot Rosenbloom

**2000–2001**
Tanja Affifi  
Beth Cerrito  
Dawn Stauffer

**1999–2000**
Jan Corey  
Rebecca Cortes  
Liane Pena  
Nathan Riggs

**1998–1999**
Jennifer Brooks  
Devon Corneal  
Chin-Ming Kam  
Joseph Novotny

**Postdoctoral Fellows**

**2003**
Richard Puddy, Ph.D.

**2002–2003**
Nathan Riggs, Ph.D.

**2001–2003**
Janean E’guya  
Dilworth, Ph.D.
As part of its mission to promote prevention science through the training of next-generation prevention researchers, the Prevention Research Center conducts weekly seminars for Penn State graduate students and faculty. The seminars feature speakers from around the University who are engaged in prevention research, talks by visiting scientists and state officials concerned with prevention programming, discussion of prevention research issues, and presentations by graduate students involved in Prevention Research Center activities.

Seminars and Workshops Hosted by the Prevention Research Center, 1998–2003

1998

**Mark Greenberg**, Ph.D., Bennett Chair of Prevention Research, and Director, Penn State Prevention Research Center

**Michael A. Smyer**, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston College, jointly sponsored with the Gerontology Center, “Public policy as a preventive strategy, NHRA: Did it work?”

**Wayne Osgood**, Ph.D., Professor of Crime, Law, and Justice, Penn State

**Susan Youtz**, D.Ed., RN, Director, Rural Nursing Program, Penn State, “The evolution of a rural health outreach initiative in Huntingdon County, PA”

**Karen Bierman**, Ph.D., Director, Fast Track Program–PA, Penn State

**Sukhdeep Gill**, Ph.D., Leonard Parker Pool Prevention Fellow, Research Associate, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Evaluation of an early Head Start program in Lehigh Valley”

**Sherri Willis**, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development – Gerontology, Penn State, “The ACTIVE project: A clinical trial in cognitive aging”

**Andrew Tershakovec**, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

**Jim Connell**, Ph.D., Institute for Research on Reform in Education, Philadelphia, PA

**Edward Smith**, Dr.PH., Associate Professor of Human Development, Penn State

**Tena L. St. Pierre**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Agricultural & Extension Education, Penn State, “SMART Moves: A prevention program for boys and girls clubs”

**Kathy Hirsh-Pasek**, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Temple University, “Effects of early child-care on cognition and language development”

**Lori Bechtel**, Ph.D., Professor of Biobehavioral Health, Penn State Altoona, “From curricular development to school health advocacy”

1999

**Mark Greenberg**, Ph.D., Bennett Chair of Prevention Research, Director, Penn State Prevention Research Center

**Celene Domitrovich**, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Penn State Prevention Research Center

**Carla Walls**, Associate Director, Harrisburg Center for Healthy Child Development, “Exposure to a community-level HIV prevention intervention: Who gets the message”

**Edward Smith**, Dr.PH., Director of Evaluation, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Experimental, quasi-experimental, and party designs: Evaluating PA’s abstinence programs”

**Paul Amato**, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Penn State

**Daphne Minner**, Ph.D., Research Associate, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Evaluating implementation fidelity: How do you do it?”

**Matthew Sanders**, Ph.D., University of Queensland, “Family intervention and the prevention of child psychopathology”

**Tony D’Augelli**, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State, “Queer adolescents: Implications for prevention research and practice”

**Monica Rodriguez**, Ph.D., and **Nancy Jakabowick**, Ph.D., State University of NY at Albany, “Promoting effective self-regulatory strategies and positive life goals in early adolescence”

**John W. Graham**, Ph.D., Professor of Biobehavioral Health, Penn State, “Preventing alcohol-related harm in college students”

**Dena Swanson**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State, “Mentoring programs, relationships, and adolescence”
Prevention Seminars (continued)

John Swisher, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Penn State

Nancy Landale, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, Penn State, “Infant health outcomes among Puerto Ricans”

Eva Lefkowitz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State

Ralph Tarter, Ph.D., Professor, University of Pittsburgh

Steven Zarit, Ph.D., Associate Director, Penn State Gerontology Center, and Professor of Human Development, Penn State, “The success of prevention with the elderly: Lessons for other age groups”

William Boyd, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Education, Penn State, “Improving student outcomes in a socially toxic environment: How much can schools do alone?”

Frank Worrell, Ph.D., Coordinator, School Psychology Clinic, Assistant Professor of Education, Penn State

Michelle Miller-Day, Ph.D., Department of Speech Communication, Penn State, “Ethnically sensitive approaches to adolescent drug use prevention”

Clancy Blair, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Development, Penn State

Gary King, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biobehavioral Health, Penn State

2000

Mark Greenberg, Ph.D., Bennett Chair of Prevention Research, and Director, Penn State Prevention Research Center

David Conroy, Ph.D., “Patterns of introjection associated with fear of failure: Implications for prevention”

Mark Feinberg, Ph.D., Research Associate, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Developing a new intervention to reduce antisocial behavior: Collaborating with childbirth educators to teach co-parenting skills to expecting parents”

Emma Motrico, Ph.D., “Parenting Styles During Adolescence”

Linda Caldwell, Ph.D., Professor of Hotel and Recreation Management, Penn State

Cynthia Stifter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State


Scott Gest, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Arizona State University

David Schwebel, Ph.D., University of Washington School of Medicine, “Temperament and ability estimation as predictors of children’s unintentional injuries”

JoAnn Robinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, “Emotional vitality in infants and toddlers: Associations with later development and effects of early interventions”

Tasha Snyder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology, Penn State, “ELECT Program”

Celene Domitrovich, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Penn State Prevention Research Center

George Farkas, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Penn State

Carol Hammer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Disorders, Penn State

2001

Eric Loken, Ph.D., Instructor of Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State, “Can coaching help children qualify as gifted? Academic interventions designed to improve performance on the SAT”

Edward Smith, Dr.PH., Director of Evaluation Research, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “The ADAPT drug prevention trial: Results from year one”

Meg Small, Ph.D., Research Associate, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Preventing problem behaviors: An overview of two federal agencies’ history, structure, and strategy”

Mark Feinberg, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “The efficacy of PA Communities That Care”

Jean Dumas, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Penn State, “Parenting classes as prevention of child behavior problems: Engaging and retaining parents who are not asking for help”

Jim Derzon, Ph.D., Hamilton Fish Center on Violence Prevention
Diane Clark, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Shippensburg University, “Girls in trouble: A gender analysis of early predictors for school removal, conduct disorder and later negative consequences”

Mary Dozier, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of Delaware, and Director, Center for Early Experience, “Coping with disruptions in care: The challenge for young foster children”

Karen Bierman, Ph.D., Director, Consortium for Children, Youth and Families, and Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Penn State, “Using clinical judgment in adaptive preventive intervention design”

Janet Welsh, Ph.D. and Celene Domitrovich, Ph.D., Penn State Prevention Research Center, “The Tyrone Safe Schools Healthy Students Project: A federal inter-agency grant to reduce violence and improve students’ competencies”

Daniel Perkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Agricultural and Extension Education, Penn State, “Extension and applied research: A natural fit”

Dixie Winters, Ph.D., Instructor, Penn State York, “Stop the bullying”

Kathleen Fisher, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Hershey Medical School, “Developing an interactive board game to promote farm safety among Amish children”

Sukhdeep Gill, Ph.D. and Jim Johnson, Ph.D., Penn State York

Norma Keller, Executive Director, United Nations Rights of the Child

Richard Fiene, Ph.D., Director, Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute, “The effectiveness of an infant mentoring project”

Doug Coatsworth, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State


Mark Greenberg, Ph.D., Bennett Chair of Prevention Research, and Director, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Assessing the quality of early childhood services in Pennsylvania: The Governor’s Task Force”

Sharon Landesman Ramey, Ph.D., The Susan H. Mayer Professor of Child and Family Studies, and Director, The Georgetown Center on Health and Education, Georgetown University, “Intensive interventions to enhance children’s development: behavioral and biological evidence”

Joan McCord, Ph.D., Professor of Criminal Justice, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, “How family matters: A report from a longitudinal study”

Ty Ridenour, Ph.D., Research Associate, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “The assessment of liability and exposure to substance use and antisocial behavior (ALEXA): Background and progress”

Sir Michael Rutter, Ph.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, London, “Prevention of psychological dysfunction: Interfaces among pessimism, optimism, and realism”

Michelle DyKlyen, Ph.D., Office of Population Research, Princeton University, “Describing the most fragile families: Their parenting partnerships, resources, and mental health”

Elizabeth Cauffman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Law & Psychiatry Research, Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic, University of Pittsburgh, “Mental health issues among juvenile offenders”


Heather Cecil, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Penn State Harrisburg, “Reliability and validity of a sexual victimization scale for adolescents: The Sexual Experiences Survey”

David Schultz, Ph.D., Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, “Perceiving the angry face: Basic research into kids’ development”
Michael L. Hecht, Ph.D. and Elvira Elek-Fisk, Ph.D., Department of Speech Communication, and David A. Wagstaff, Ph.D., Methodology Center, Penn State, “Cultural appropriateness in drug prevention: an evaluation of the ‘Keepin’ it REAL’ curriculum of the Drug Resistance Strategies Project”

Sherri Willis, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State

Laura Ferrer-Wreder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Penn State Harrisburg, “Prevention science and theory building”

Ron Prinz, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of South Carolina, “Improving parenting in the population: Should we pursue the high-risk or universal approach?”

Jane Gillham, Ph.D., Research Associate and Co-Director, The Penn Resiliency Project, Department of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, and Visiting Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, Swarthmore College, “Prevention of depression in adolescents”

Elias Mpofu, Ph.D., C.R.C., Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Counselor Education, Penn State, “Treatment of conduct disorder in children: Practices in an African context”

Rebecca Wells, Ph.D., MHSA, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration, Penn State, “The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention’s RADAR Network as a strategy for disseminating effective prevention practices”

Cal Izard, Ph.D., Unidel Professor of Psychology, University of Delaware

Pnina Klein, Ph.D., Professor of Education and Early Childhood Development, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, “Combining affect, cognition, and culture in early childhood education and care”

Scott Gest, Ph.D. and Janet Welsh, Ph.D., Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Social competence and peer affiliation patterns as predictors of within-year changes in attitudes about school”

Hiro Yoshikawa, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, New York University, “Effects of welfare and anti-poverty policies on children’s development: Towards a dynamic systems perspective”

Janine M. Zweig, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, Labor and Social Policy Center, The Urban Institute, “An evaluation of victim service programs assisting domestic violence and sexual assault survivors: The case of STOP-funded communities”

Laura Foster, Ph.D. and Bruno Anthony, Ph.D., Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Maryland, Baltimore, “Considering contextual effects in research and interventions with preschool children”

Gail Ritchie, M.S.W., Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, “Integrating prevention science into community programs: An evolving federal perspective”

Karen Bierman, Ph.D., Director, Penn State Children, Youth, and Families Consortium, and Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Penn State, “Early disruptive behaviors associated with emerging antisocial behavior among girls”

Sandra Azar, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Penn State, “A cognitive behavioral approach to understanding child maltreatment”

Meg Small, Ph.D., Research Associate, Penn State Prevention Research Center, “Creating demand for evidence-based interventions: Using prevention science to influence funders”

J. David Hawkins, Ph.D., School of Social Work Kozmetsky Professor of Prevention, and Director of the Social Development Research Group, University of Washington, Seattle, “Prevention science: Two decades of progress, plenty of challenges”
Center Projects

Starting in 1998

- **Evaluation of Pennsylvania Communities That Care**
  Evaluation of the Commission’s innovative “Communities That Care” initiative—a community-based program to promote healthy outcomes in youth currently operating in 47 sites across 34 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
  
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg
  **Funder:** Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

- **Preventing Mental Disorders in School-Age Children**
  Review of the effectiveness of prevention programs for reducing mental health problems in school-age children.
  
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg
  **Funder:** Johns Hopkins University, National Institutes of Health

- **PATHS**
  PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) is a program designed to improve the social, emotional, and cognitive competence of elementary-age children.
  
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg
  **Funder:** Community Action Commission

Starting in 1999–2000

- **Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute**
  The first in a series of grants to fund the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute.
  
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg; Feine
  **Funder:** Greater Harrisburg Area Foundation

- **The ELECT Feasibility Study**
  Feasibility study to determine if young women who participated in Pennsylvania’s ELECT program could be re-contacted and interviewed one to five years after leaving the program.
  
  **Principal Investigator:** Smith
  **Funder:** Center for Schools and Communities

- **Prevention Seminars for School Administrators**
  A series of prevention training seminars targeted to school superintendents, building principals, and school board members.
  
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg
  **Funder:** Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

- **Bedford County (PA) Early Head Start Program Evaluation**
  An evaluation of the Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries Early Head Start Program.
  
  **Principal Investigator:** Gill
  **Funder:** Allegheny Lutheran: Social Ministries of Bedford County

- **Promoting Social and Emotional Competence in Head Start Children and Their Families**
  A partnership with two Pennsylvania Head Start sites (Lycoming-Clinton and Capital Area) to develop, implement, and evaluate a teacher-implemented, school-based prevention program to meet the mental health needs of Head Start children.
Principal Investigator: Greenberg  
Funder: National Institutes of Health

**Evaluation of Philadelphia Healthy Families**  
An evaluation of the efficacy of the Philadelphia Region Healthy Families Initiative (PRHFI).  
Principal Investigator: Greenberg  
Funder: William Penn Foundation

**A Comprehensive Plan to Promote Safe Schools and Healthy Students in Rural PA**  
An evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of a comprehensive prevention strategy (universal social-emotional curriculum, academic support programs, school-based mental health services, therapeutic in-school suspension program) designed to involve the educational, social service, and law enforcement agencies in a coordinated effort to reduce violence and promote the health of children and families in a small, rural community.  
Principal Investigator: Domitrovich  
Funder: Tyrone Area School District

**Research-based Delinquency and Violence Prevention**  
Principal Investigator: Greenberg  
Funder: Community Action Commission

**Blueprints for Violence Prevention**  
Principal Investigator: Greenberg  
Funder: Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

**Lycoming-Clinton Head Start Family Child Care Mentoring Evaluation**  
Principal Investigator: Fiene  
Funder: Lycoming Head Start

**Evaluation of the Marine Corps’ New Parent Support Program**  
An evaluation, with J&E Associates as well as the Marine Corps, of the Marine Corps’ New Parent Support Program.  
Principal Investigator: Greenberg  
Funder: U.S. Marine Corps

**Starting in 2000–2001**

**Formative Evaluation of the CyberStart Initiative**  
An evaluation of a Pennsylvania state government program that was developed to provide resources for computer-based teaching and learning in preschool programs across the state.  
Principal Investigator: Blair  
Funder: Center for Schools and Communities

**Evaluation of Healthy Families of Harrisburg Project**  
Principal Investigator: Greenberg  
Funder: Hempfield Counseling Associates

**Starting in 2001–2002**

**Study of Implementation in Social-Emotional Learning Prevention Programs**  
Principal Investigator: Greenberg  
Funder: Committee for Children

**Psychophysiology of Adaptation: Children in Head Start**  
A longitudinal examination of physiological and psychological correlates of the adjustment to school in children in Head Start.  
Principal Investigator: Blair  
Funder: National Institutes of Health
- **Evaluating Pennsylvania’s Pregnant and Parenting Teen Initiative**
  An evaluation of the short-term outcomes to adolescent mothers participating in Pennsylvania’s Pregnant and Parenting Teen program.
  **Principal Investigator:** Smith  
  **Funder:** Center for Schools and Communities

- **Child Rearing Across Generations**
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg  
  **Funder:** National Institutes of Health

- **Develop and Evaluate a CTC Self-Assessment System**
  Development and pilot of a web-based questionnaire regarding the functioning and efficacy of local Communities That Care prevention coalitions.
  **Principal Investigator:** Feinberg  
  **Funder:** Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

- **Evaluation of Pennsylvania’s Abstinence Education Initiative**
  Evaluation of the impact of abstinence education on sexual onset among young adolescents at 28 sites.
  **Principal Investigator:** Smith  
  **Funder:** Center for Schools and Communities

- **Early Childhood Taskforce**
  A statewide look at the overall quality of early care and education quality in 372 facilities.
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg  
  **Funder:** Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

- **Partnership Model for Diffusion of Proven Prevention**
  An assessment of the effectiveness of a model for the diffusion of empirically validated prevention programs focused on adolescent substance abuse and mental health. The project is being conducted in 14 communities in Iowa and Pennsylvania.
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg  
  **Funder:** University of Iowa Partnership

- **Children in Rural Poverty**
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg  
  **Funder:** University of North Carolina

- **REACH Evaluation Project**
  An evaluation of a comprehensive early childhood education program recently unveiled by the Harrisburg (Pa.) School District.
  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg  
  **Funder:** W. K. Kellogg Foundation

- **Drug Use Liability: Investigating Competing Models**
  Research designed to help better understand how children come to initiate the use of drugs, and to provide an important tool in research on and prevention of drug use.
  **Principal Investigator:** Ridenour  
  **Funder:** National Institutes of Health

- **Inhalants Abuse and Dependence**
  Substance Abuse Module (SAM) questions specifically developed and tested for abuse and dependence diagnoses related to the different types of inhalants. An exploration of experiences relevant to use, and exploration of parents’ and health care pro-
professionals knowledge of inhalants, consequences of use, and efforts to warn children of this danger.

**Principal Investigator:** Ridenour  
**Funder:** National Institutes of Health

- **Harrisburg Safe Schools/Healthy Students Project**
  Evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of a comprehensive prevention strategy (REACH preschool program, universal drug prevention and social-emotional curriculum, school-based mental health services, transition program for 8th- and 9th-grade students) in a moderate-sized, urban community.

  **Principal Investigator:** Domitrovich  
  **Funder:** Harrisburg School District

- **Sustainability Study**
  **Principal Investigator:** Small  
  **Funder:** National Mental Health Association

- **Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention Strategy School Programs**
  **Principal Investigator:** Bumbarger  
  **Funder:** Centre County Mental Health/Mental Retardation

- **Mental Health Promotion and Mental Illness Prevention Workshop for Business Leaders**
  **Principal Investigator:** Small  
  **Funder:** National Institutes of Health

- **Lebanon County Mentor Training Program**
  Funding for the CAECTI parent mentoring program, in which a speech pathologist works with parents whose children have special needs in the language domain.

  **Principal Investigator:** Fiene  
  **Funder:** Child Care Resource Developers

- **CCC York County Relative/Neighbor Care**
  Two grants to provide training on the use of home-based early childhood environment rating scales to a group of childcare evaluators and trainers.

  **Principal Investigator:** Fiene  
  **Funder:** Child Care Resource Developers

- **Pittsburgh Stars**
  Funding for the early childhood certificate and mentoring programs, which includes programs for infancy, accreditation, directors of programs, center-based staff, home-based staff, public school teachers, and special needs/inclusive practices.

  **Principal Investigator:** Fiene  
  **Funder:** University of Pittsburgh

- **Promotion of Coparenting During Family Formation Period**
  Development and pilot test of a group-format program for first-time parents, being delivered to parents through Altoona and Harrisburg Hospitals’ childbirth education departments.

  **Principal Investigator:** Feinberg  
  **Funder:** National Institutes of Health

- **Understanding and Assessing the Needs of Young Children in Centre County**
  Four major project activities: development and screening of a screening tool; scan of providers for gap analysis; meetings with key stakeholders and parents on their needs; and analysis of existing, archival data.

  **Principal Investigator:** Greenberg  
  **Funder:** Knight Foundation
**Prevention Research Center Faculty and Staff**

**Senior Administrative Staff**

**Mark T. Greenberg**  
Director  
Edna Peterson Bennett Chair & Professor of Human Development and Family Studies  
mxg47@psu.edu  
*Research Interests:* Intervening in the developmental processes in risk and non-risk populations with a specific emphasis on aggression, violence, and externalizing disorders; promoting healthy social and emotional development through school-based prevention; the study of community partnerships and the diffusion of evidence-based programs; the interface of neuroscience and prevention

**Karen L. Bierman**  
Associate Director  
Distinguished Professor of Psychology  
kb2@psu.edu  
*Research Interests:* ADHD, adolescents, African Americans, aggression, antisocial, behavior problems, children, ethnic/racial, intervention, language delayed, minority, peers/friendship, preschool, prevention, rural, school problems, school violence, social competence, social development, social skills training

**Celene Domitrovich**  
Assistant Director  
cxd130@psu.edu  
*Research Interests:* Application of knowledge of developmental psychopathology to create interventions for children that promote school readiness and prevent mental disorders

*Projects:*  
- Harrisburg REACH Evaluation  
- Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative  
- Head Start REDI

**Edward A. Smith**  
Director of Evaluation Research  
eas8@psu.edu  
*Research Interests:* Adolescents, health education, leisure time, pregnancy, prevention, program development/evaluation, rural, substance abuse

*Projects:*  
- Adapting Life Skills for Training for South Africa  
- Life Skills Infusion/Prevention in Rural Junior High Grades
Prevention Research Center Faculty and Staff

Senior Administrative Staff (continued)

Richard Fiene

*Director*

Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute
rjf8@psu.edu

*Research Interests:* Childcare, infants, parent-child relationships, preschool, program development/evaluation, public policy, toddlers

*Projects:*
- Early Care and Education, and Infant and Toddler Training Program
- Mentoring Evaluation Projects
- Pennsylvania Early Childcare Quality Study

Barbara Carl

*Associate Director*

Harrisburg Center for Healthy Child Development
bec109@psu.edu

*Research Interests:* Family/school/community partnerships and early childhood care quality improvement

*Projects:*
- Harrisburg REACH Evaluation
- HOPE (Harrisburg Outreach for PATHS Expansion)
- Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative

Brian K. Bumbarger

Policy Research and Outreach
bkb10@psu.edu

*Research Interests:* Adolescents, aggression, antisocial, behavior problems, children, classroom management, delinquency, policy/education, gangs, juvenile justice, prevention, prosocial behavior, public policy, risk factors, school violence, violence

*Projects:*
- Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention Strategy School Programs
- Partnership Model for Diffusion of Proven Prevention (PROSPER)
Research Associates

Mark Feinberg
mfeinberg@psu.edu

Research Interests: Adolescents, attention, children, family/families, genetics, parent-child relationships, prevention, stereotyping (race/gender)

Projects:
• Promotion of Coparenting at the Transition to Parenthood
• Partnership Model for Diffusion of Proven Prevention (PROSPER)
• Evaluation of Pennsylvania Communities That Care

Robert Nix
rnix@psu.edu

Research Interests: Use of quantitative analyses to understand how intervention programs effectuate change in children; examine how different aspects of parenting influence children’s developmental trajectories; examine how poverty and neighborhood context shapes family processes and child functioning

Projects:
• Multisite Prevention of Conduct Disorders: The Fast Track Project
• Head Start REDI

Ty Ridenour
tar13@psu.edu

Research Interests: The etiology of problem behaviors, primarily substance use, and the prevention of problem behaviors; the development of self-report measures for elementary school-aged students that can be used to enhance research and intervention with these age groups

Projects: • Drug Use Liability: Investigating Competing Models
• Inhalants Abuse and Dependence

Meg Small
mxs693@psu.edu

Research Interests: Understanding the factors that allow organizations to successfully adopt and sustain evidence-based interventions; developing and testing methods that allow organizations to use data when making programmatic decisions

Projects:
• Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative
• Safe Schools/Healthy Students Sustainability Study

Janet Welsh
jaw900@psu.edu

Research Interests: Early language development and its relationship to social competence, and the impact of various aspects of the school ecology on students’ behavioral and academic adjustment

Projects:
• Partnership Model for Diffusion of Proven Prevention (PROSPER)
• Head Start REDI
**Affiliated Penn State Faculty**

**Clancy Blair**  
Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies  
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*
*Research Interests:* Design and evaluation of preventive interventions; developmental relation between emotion and cognition in early childhood; application of epidemiological methods to the study of child development

**Linda Caldwell**  
Professor of Recreation and Parks Management/Leisure Studies  
lindac@psu.edu  
*
*Research Interests:* Adolescents, leisure and health; leisure education, prevention research, and the developmental affordances of leisure

**J. Douglas Coatsworth**  
Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies  
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*
*Research Interests:* Prevention research and theory; design and evaluation of family-based interventions to promote development and to prevent mental health and behavioral problems in children and adolescents; resilience

**Sukhdeep Gill**  
Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies  
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*
*Research Interests:* Program evaluation, needs of women and young children, and diverse and at-risk families

**Scott D. Gest**  
Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies  
gest@psu.edu  
*
*Research Interests:* Links between reading skills and social competence in elementary school; peer relations; early reading tutoring as a preventive intervention; longitudinal study of patterns of risk and adaptation from childhood to adulthood; behavioral inhibition and related internalizing dimensions of personality and psychopathology
Affiliated Penn State Faculty (continued)

Jennifer Maggs
Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
jmaggs@psu.edu

Research Interests: Adolescent social development and health; transition to adulthood; risk behaviors; prevention science; research methods; alcohol expectancies

Claudia Mincemoyer
Assistant Professor of 4-H Youth Curriculum Development
cxm324@psu.edu

Research Interests: Positive youth development, nonformal curriculum, development and evaluation, life skills evaluation, experiential learning, curriculum marketing and delivery strategies

Daniel Perkins
Associate Professor of Family and Youth Resiliency and Policy
dfp102@psu.edu

Research Interests: Factors and assets related to a young person’s development, including community youth development, youth’s engagement of sports, youth’s engagement in risky behavior, strength-based programming, family resiliency, and community resiliency

Emilie Phillips Smith
Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
emilieps@psu.edu

Research Interests: Home, school, and community partnerships in development and prevention; violence and delinquency; the roles of identity, ethnic identity, and ethnic socialization in child and adolescent development; socio-cultural factors and social capital; protective processes and resilience; experimental social innovation, applied research

Douglas Teti
Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
dmt16@psu.edu

Research Interests: Socioemotional development in infancy and early childhood, parenting, and intervention strategies designed to promote early development and parent-child relations
Prevention Research Center Faculty and Staff (continued)

Administrative Staff

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**Recent Publications**

**Karen L. Bierman**


**Clancy Blair**


**Linda Caldwell**


**Barbara Carl**


**J. Douglas Coatsworth**


Celene Domitrovich


Mark Feinberg


Richard Fiene


Scott D. Gest


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Daniel Perkins


Ty A. Ridenour


Meg Small


Edward A. Smith


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