



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

School of Social Work Research Newsletter

Fall 2007

TOOLS & LINKS

Center for Community Partnerships

<http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/ccp/index.cfm>

Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research

<http://www.charityadvantage.com/iaswr/IASWRH/OME.asp>

University and Community Partnerships: A New Approach (U of Richmond)

<http://www.incommunityresearch.org/news/crossroads.htm>

Research that Matters (ASU Community Outreach)

<http://community.uui.asu.edu/features/socialembdeddedness.asp>

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

John Bricout, Ph.D.
Associate Director
for Research

Room: HPA I-249

Phone: (407) 823 6167
jbricout@mail.ucf.edu

<http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/Research/Research.htm>

UPDATES

Student/Alumni Research News – Dr. Nancy Ellis, Director of the COHPA Center for Community Partnerships, successfully defended her dissertation, Nutrition and Health Promotion: an Elementary School Study, in the PA Ph.D. program. Her dissertation, which was chaired by Dr. Eileen Abel, focused on the critical national issue of childhood obesity. This longitudinal study assessed the impact of in-school nutrition education on changes in eating behaviors and body mass index percentile rankings. The study results indicated that a multi-dimensional approach to health promotion programming that includes administrative commitment and support, teacher/staff education and involvement, student education and involvement, and parent/family education and involvement as key components in the change process can result in sustained positive changes in students' eating behaviors and BMI percentile rankings.

Dr. Michael Campbell, of the Nemours Children's Clinic Orlando, successfully defended his dissertation in the Public Affairs Ph.D. program. His dissertation was also chaired by Dr. Eileen Abel. The topic of Dr. Campbell's dissertation was The Impact of Service Delivery Models on Non-Disabled Peers Intent to Include Their Peers with Disabilities.

Grant Submissions – School of Social Work faculty members have recently submitted the following grant proposals to the Silberman Fund Faculty Grant Program: The Effectiveness of a Physical Activity/Nutrition Educational Series on Increasing Self Efficacy, submitted by Dr. Shawn A. Lawrence, and Post-Separation Experiences of Abused Latina Immigrants, submitted by Dr. Olga Molina.

Recent Publications – Dr. Eileen Abel has co-authored the following journal articles:

Abel, E.M. & Greco, M. (2007). A preliminary evaluation of an abstinence-oriented empowerment program for public school youth. *Research on Social Work Practice* (scheduled for November, 2007; issue and page numbers not yet available).

Abel, E.M. & Campbell, M. (In press). An evaluation of a student-centered teaching approach in graduate social work education using mixed methods. *Social Work Education*.

Co-author on the latter article is our recent Public Affairs Ph.D. recipient, Michael Campbell.

PROFILED FACULTY MEMBER RESEARCH

Robin Kohn, MSW, LCSW has taken a leadership role in coordinating a very promising research/resource development project. Through the Orange County Coalition for a Drug free Community, the Addictions and Disabilities Workgroup was formed. Hector Del Valle, MSW is a Co-Chair and tells a powerful story about sustaining a spinal cord injury while drinking and using drugs, then denied access to treatment for his substance abuse. This group is actively developing a resource and educational directory to assist individuals with disabilities and substance abuse issues, contacting possible funding sources, and researching what is in existence and what is needed. Robin is actively providing leadership and expertise to the Workgroup.

PROFILED AGENCY PARTNER

Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando is a nonprofit human service agency that has been strengthening individual and family life for all Central Floridians since 1978. JFS provides supportive services across the life span, including emergency food and financial assistance, in-school programming for children from changing families, outpatient counseling, adoption, older adult case management, counseling and transportation, as well as a wealth of volunteer activities. For more information, check our website at www.jfsorlando.org or by phone at 407.644.7593.