

New Program Proposal
Ph.D. in International Family and Community Studies
Clemson University

Summary

Clemson University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Family and Community Studies, to be implemented in January 2006.

The proposal was approved by the Clemson University Board of Trustees on April 25, 2003, and submitted for Commission review on April 27, 2005. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on July 14, 2005.

The purpose of the program is to educate professionals to generate, diffuse and apply knowledge needed to strengthen communities' capacity for family support, meaningful participation, and strong relationships, including mutual assistance. Graduates of the program will serve primarily in academic areas related to child and family studies, community development, social policy studies and international studies, or as planners, researchers, or administrators in non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

The international focus of this program, including agreements with related programs in Central Europe, Asia, South Africa, India and the Caribbean, supports Clemson's goal of increasing international scholarship. The University, through its Institute on Families and Neighborhood Life (IFNL), is the lead institution of the Global Network for Family and Community Studies (GNFCS). The seven international partner institutions for the proposed program—the Centre for Family Environments (Czech Republic), Ibero-American University (Dominican Republic), University of Tallin (Estonia), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (India), University of the Free State (South Africa) University of the Western Cape (South Africa), and Mahidol University (Thailand)—are members of the GNFCS. At staff's request, Clemson submitted detailed information on each of the institutions that are partners in the proposed program. The institutions are all major institutions in their countries, have related programs or Centers, and will contribute to the success of the program and the internship experience of the graduates. In the same document, Clemson states that the program will have

benefits for Clemson students not in the program in that it will allow access to coursework and international contacts that would otherwise not be available to them.

Based on current experience with the IFNL, Clemson estimates that the program faculty will bring in approximately six dollars through grants and contracts for every dollar of University funding provided. The University also states in a supplemental document that, although the proposed program has an international focus, there will be a local benefit through the sharing of faculty expertise and grant experience with communities around the state, thus contributing to the quality of life in those communities. One example given in the supplemental document states that one IFNL contract has provided 1395 hours of technical assistance to 112 community agencies across the state since 2002. The document also states that IFNL faculty members have worked with community groups to write grants for funding that goes directly to the groups and thus is an indirect means to bring community grant funds into the state.

The proposed degree program is unique within the state and the nation. The proposal states that the program will be offered through the IFNL and that it will draw on a number of related areas (e.g., social sciences, planning, health, education) within the institution for collaboration in service, research and teaching.

The proposed program will not be subject to accreditation by a professional association, but it will be assessed as part of the Southern Association of Colleges of Schools (SACS) review process.

In January 2004, the proposed program was reviewed by Dr. Janis Jacobs at The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Jacobs, who is the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and International Studies and a professor in Human Development and Family Studies, was highly positive in her remarks about the concept of the program and its implementation. She sees the program as a natural direction for the IFNL and a complement to Clemson's goals and programs. The two suggestions for change that she did make (that there be an end-of-program capstone course and that an "e-learning" course be a part of the internship) were both addressed positively in the program proposal. Dr. Jacobs also complimented Clemson's foresight in proposing this program.

The proposal states that enrollment will start at eight students (8 FTE) in Fall 2005, but the schedule has been modified due to the submission date of the proposal, which makes it impossible to recruit a Fall class. The new requested start date is January 2006, which will allow eight students (8 FTE) to begin in the Spring 2006 session. Enrollment is projected to grow to 16 students (16 FTE) in

Fall 2006, and to 24 students (24 FTE) in Fall 2007, at which time it will hold steady. The proposal states that half of each cohort will be international students. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the Commission's productivity standards.

The proposed program will require a minimum (not maximum as stated in the proposal) of 90 credit hours of graduate coursework for those enrolling post-baccalaureate, including: 12 credit hours in Family and Community Life, 18 credit hours in Cultural Studies, 15 credit hours in Community Development and Policy Analysis, 12 credit hours in Research Methods, and up to 24 credit hours in Research. In addition, the program requires a one-year international internship to be served at one of the seven affiliated centers. Students entering the program post-masters will require a minimum of 36 credit hours of graduate coursework, with actual courses taken dependent on their master's level coursework. The proposed program of study will add twelve new courses to the Clemson catalogue of courses, all with the FCS (Family and Community Studies) prefix.

Faculty for the program will consist of seven existing faculty from the IFNL (1.625 FTE), a professor emeritus who will join the faculty in 2006 (.125 FTE), four grant-supported faculty, and a visiting scholar from one of the partner institutions (in annual rotation). The proposal notes that all hold doctoral-level degrees in related fields, including program-related areas as diverse as law, social work, and nursing. There will be only one new faculty position added (.125 FTE) and no new administrator or staff positions, although portions of existing administrator's time (.3 FTE) will be assigned to the program.

The proposal states that the Poole Agriculture Center has sufficient office and classroom space to house the new program. In addition, the existing classroom technology, faculty computers, and presentation technology are adequate, with no new purchases required in these areas.

The proposal also anticipates a need to expand library holdings in the areas of international family studies, cross-cultural issues, and non-profit management. The need to expand holdings in these areas is largely a result of Clemson's own evaluation of its holdings since, due to the unique nature of the program, there are no peers for comparison. The budget reflects an annual estimate of \$5,000 over five years for new library resources, totaling \$25,000 by the end of year five.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$300,569 in the first year, increasing to \$545,563 in the second year, \$712,488 in the third year, \$740,453 in the fourth year, and \$763,636 in the fifth year. Categories of costs over the first five years of the program's implementation include program administration (\$220,062), faculty salaries (\$939,412), graduate assistants

(\$1,617,576), clerical and support personnel (\$35,659); library resources (\$25,000), equipment (\$10,000) and other operating expenses (\$10,000). Total estimated new costs for the program during the first five years will be \$3,062,709.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	\$455,701		\$455,701	\$0	\$165,024	\$165,024
Year 2	\$683,552		\$683,552	93,185	\$247,075	\$340,260
Year 3	\$683,552		\$683,552	139,077	\$247,075	\$386,152
Year 4	\$683,552		\$683,552	139,077	\$247,075	\$386,152
Year 5	\$683,552		\$683,552	139,077	\$247,075	\$386,152

These data demonstrate that if the institution meets the projected student enrollments and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover costs during each of its first five years. However, it should be noted that the proposal states that over the first five years of the program a total of \$972,878 will be reallocated to the program from existing funds and that \$4,764,033 will be generated through external sources such as research and service grants and contracts. Thus, the institution expects that the program will ultimately generate revenue and pay its own way through its grant and contract activities.

In summary, Clemson University proposes to offer a program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Family and Community Studies. The program will be offered through the Institute for Family and Neighborhood Life, will have strong international partnerships, and will prepare students for either advanced scholarship in the field or for employment as researchers, planners, or administrators in a wide range of international governmental and non-governmental agencies dealing with children, families, and communities.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Family and Community Studies at Clemson University, to be implemented in January 2006, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that no international internship credit hours be used in the calculation of the MRR.

Appendix 1 International Family and Community Studies

Selected Current and On-going Initiatives of the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life (IFNL) Faculty

At the September 2005 meeting of the Academic Affairs and Licensing Committee meeting it was suggested that it may help Commissioners know more fully the potential and substance of the IFNL faculty and the opportunities that will be afforded to its PhD students if a brief summary of current and on-going faculty efforts were highlighted.

As stated in the PhD program proposal, the Institute's mission is to generate, share, and apply the knowledge needed to strengthen ties between families and communities. Research shows that strong communities support and help build strong families and vice versa, and that both are necessary for healthy development of children and youth. Faculty work with community leaders interested in better understanding, re-building or fortifying its natural helping systems as well as its professional systems of care found in neighborhood institutions such as schools, civic organizations, religious organizations, workplaces and courts. Ultimately, faculty strive to promote positive, evidence-based child, youth and family development and well-being outcomes.

To accomplish these outcomes, IFNL conducts empirical research, performs policy analyses, develops and evaluates programs and initiatives, and provides technical assistance and community education. The Institute's aim is to learn from a variety of national and cultural contexts and contribute to communities in South Carolina, the region, nation and elsewhere with the resources, understandings, and talent available to its faculty. Faculty conduct research and provide public service related to three broad topics:

- The nature of everyday life in families and neighborhoods
- The development, maintenance, and enhancement of community institutions
- The current and alternative public policies supportive of family and neighborhood life

Currently IFNL directly provides approximately \$1M in subcontracts and grants per year to community organizations in South Carolina. More than \$6 is raised by IFNL faculty for every \$1 dollar of University funds appropriated to the Institute.

A few of the major initiatives and projects are briefly described below. Each often results in several scholarly publications, advancements in professional practice,

additional contracts, grants and consultancies, as well as helping to build the capacity of communities to support individuals and families, and vice versa.

Alternatives to Traditional Justice Practices. IFNL faculty have worked in multiple South Carolina counties to assist justice personnel in designing and implementing juvenile, and adult offender drug courts and mental health courts, evaluating drug court programs, and preparing funding applications predominantly for federal funding (many of which have been successful). Faculty worked under a contract with the state Department of Social Services to assist in the design of family drug courts in Charleston County and the 3rd Judicial Circuit. Drug court programs are now available in most judicial circuits in South Carolina (Robin Kimbrough-Melton).

IFNL faculty also have worked with numerous communities in South Carolina to develop strategies for reducing crime and violence, including initiatives aimed at reducing juvenile problems (i.e., status offending, truancy). Faculty have worked with the Department of Public Safety to analyze the nature of the gang problem in South Carolina. Most recently, INFL faculty assisted the 4th judicial circuit in developing a problem-solving grant proposal (funding is pending). (Robin Kimbrough-Melton, Mark Small, Susan Limber, Gary Melton).

Finally, IFNL is currently providing pro bono consultation to an emerging South Carolina Restorative Justice Network. The objective of the project is to build the capacity to implement restorative justice approaches that will attempt to build a sense of responsibility within the broader community for working with individuals who become involved in the justice system. (Robin Kimbrough-Melton)

Building Afterschool and Summer Activities for Children and Youth. Several projects have occurred to provide various decision makers with the knowledge and research needed to use and develop effective out-of-school opportunities that foster youth development. One effort is a multi-year, multi-grant funded initiative to develop comprehensive community youth development systems in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties. Professional development experiences will be provided, organizations supported and helped, networks established, resources networked and secured, and research and evaluation studies conducted. A similar project was also done in Belton and Honea Path, South Carolina. Consultant activities include working with several organizations in the state to develop YouthBuild projects in Lancaster and Beaufort Counties. Robin Kimbrough-Melton has been co-chairing (with Brett McGargle, DJJ) a task force aimed at developing Teen After School Centers (TASC). The TASC initiative, implemented in conjunction with faith communities, is designed to develop after-school programs for juveniles who might otherwise be committed to the

Department of Juvenile Justice. This project developed in part from a concern among members of the Black Caucus that kids that the churches could work with in the community were ending up in secure facilities. The Task Force also is part of the DJJ-Clemson initiative (led by John Kelly and Judge Byars) to develop alternatives to juvenile incarceration, thus saving the state money. Work is pro bono.

Building Capacity to Improve Outcomes for Families Impacted by the Justice System: IFNL is implementing *Building Dreams*, a mentoring program for children of prisoners. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) the goal is to develop close, supportive relationships between volunteer mentors and children of prisoners.

IFNL faculty have been working with several upstate organizations (e.g., Soteria World Outreach Ministries in Greenville, Potter's House Ministries in Anderson, Provisions in Spartanburg) to develop re-entry initiatives for prisoners based on best practices. Most recently, IFNL faculty and staff have written a grant proposal in the amount of \$600,000 for one of these organizations to strengthen re-entry efforts. (Robin Kimbrough-Melton and Jill McLeigh)

Bullying Prevention. In cooperation with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA, US Department of Human Resources), IFNL faculty (Limber, Ott, Small) have received \$581,000 over three years to provide consultation on the National Bullying Prevention Campaign, the first national public information campaign focused on the prevention of bullying among children and youth.

In addition, IFNL faculty (Limber & Snyder) have developed a national train-the-trainer (TOT) model for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, an internationally recognized mode for the prevention of bullying and other antisocial behavior among elementary and middle school children. Faculty have trained nearly 193 trainers from 32 states and Canada and have received \$875,000 in contracts and fees-for-service to further this work.

Chesterfield County Coordinating Council Stop the Violence Project is a multi-year, grant-funded project to plan and implement an evidence-based intervention to reduce rates of date and other relationship violence against girls and young women in Chesterfield County.

Chesterfield County Coordinating Council Rural Planning project is a multi-year effort to implement and evaluation a coalition to plan community-wide efforts to reduce substance abuse in Chesterfield County (\$247,129; 2003-2005; Mark Small, James McDonnell and Joyce Ott)

Childcare workforce quality, affordability, and availability. A multi-year and multi-grant funded initiative to describe and evaluate South Carolina's workforce situation relative to child care, the status of child care agencies in SC, and the strategies to use to enhance quality and availability. This initiative is being used by decision makers in SC to guide direction in the development, monitoring and support of child care and early education services in SC. Current efforts are focused on the design of Palmetto STARS (a quality rating system for child care centers and 4 year-old kindergarten programs in order to inform parent-consumers and to promote program improvement). All work has involved the development and facilitation of public-private partnerships including all major public and private 4-year universities, the Technical College System and all technical colleges, educator and child care associations, United Way of SC and local United Ways, Voices for South Carolina's Children, League of Women Voters of SC, state agencies, and so forth. (\$1,024,742; 2000 to present; Janet Marsh

Community, Family and Child Well-being Benchmark and Indicator Initiative. This is an on-going initiative of several Institute faculty to provide consultation, technical assistance, facilitation, strategic planning, and indicator development for communities, regions and nations interested in using benchmarking and indicator approaches to community change. One set of activities has organized a worldwide network of researchers who develop child and family well-being indicators in their communities and nation and is in the process of developing a common index of indicators of child well-being for use by decision makers and researchers around the world (Asher Ben-Arieh).

Food Security and Nutrition Status among Upstate South Carolina Women. A five-year grant-funded effort to research the effects of welfare reform on the well-being, food security, and nutritional status of women in SC in collaboration with similar studies in Louisiana.

Growing Foods Locally. An initiative in partnership with 10 newly established farm operations, 25 nonprofits (faith-and community-based), 2 elementary schools, a technical college, and retail outlets to grow locally nutritious food for low-resourced individuals affiliated with the Lowcountry Food Bank so that their health and nutritional intake is changed and enhanced, and they have access to fresh vegetables and fruit, nutritional guidance and health monitoring.

Local Implementation of a National CMHS Evaluation. This project is funded by the Center for Mental Health Services through the SC Department of Mental Health and aimed at evaluating and researching a comprehensive system of mental health care for seriously emotionally disturbed young people and their families in Greenwood, SC.

Pathways Teen Mothers Support Project. Funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, this project was a randomized field trial of a comprehensive intervention for pregnant and parenting teens receiving or eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

South Carolina Rural Community Compassion Project. A US DHHS funded project to provide small grants (between \$5,000 to \$20,000 each), technical assistance, and learning opportunities to 120 community nonprofits and grassroots groups across S.C. (2002 to 2005).

Strong Communities for Children in the Golden Strip and surrounding communities. *This is the largest social science research and development project in Clemson University's history.* It designs, implements and evaluates interventions that will result in measurable reductions in child abuse and neglect in southern Greenville County and adjoining communities in Anderson and Laurens Counties. This initiative is the first in the nation to fully implement the US DHHS's Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee's recommendation to the nation as reported in *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* and *Creating Caring Communities*. It is receiving national attention. It is funded by the Duke Endowment. (Approximately \$4.7M received to date with approximately \$1.4M a year for a projected ten year period) Gary Melton, a nationally recognized authority in child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention, leads this project with 20 INFNL staff and faculty heavily involved in either the development or research activities connected with this initiative. Strong Communities in many ways represents the essence of what IFNL is all about.

Supporting Civil Society in South Carolina. This is an on-gong initiative to establish an information dissemination, standards development, professional enrichment, technical assistance, evaluation and research service for South Carolina nonprofits and sustained unincorporated civic groups. This initiative is about to launch a series of research studies to better understand the nature and needs of the nonprofit sector in South Carolina and to address how best to promote and maintain quality.

Supporting the South Sumter Citizen's Community Building Initiatives. This multi-year, multi-grant funded initiative emphasizes the positive development of youth as a means of preventing substance abuse.

Room does not permit explanation of the faculty's international projects but the focus of these projects follows similar themes as described above.

Further information, including an extensive publication listing and description of various centers of work, is available on the IFNL website at <http://www.clemson.edu/ifnl>