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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



NORTON SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Frances McClelland
Institute for Children,
Youth & Families



Greetings from the Frances McClelland Institute,

We are pleased to share updates with you as we near the end of the semester! We ended March with the final two installments of the [Turbeville Speaker series](#). Dr. Thao Ha from Arizona State University joined us on March 20th to share findings from her cutting-edge research on technology and adolescent romantic relationships. Dr. Dan McDonald and his Cooperative Extension colleagues, Dr. Madeleine DeBlois, Debbie Curley and Noel Wilkinson, joined us on March 27th to share about their community-based financial literacy education program, Family Talks: Money Edition. This was a terrific opportunity to learn more about the work of the Take Charge America Institute and Cooperative Extension. See below to access this talk on our [YouTube channel](#).

We are gearing up for our final event of the year, the Student Poster Showcase on May 1st. This is always a fun event that highlights the work of undergraduate and graduate researchers. See below for details.

Read on to learn about our faculty and students presenting at the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) conference this week. You will also learn about recent awards for our graduate students, new publications, and opportunities to engage with our community partners.

Thank you for supporting our mission to use the power of research to inform opportunities for children, youth and families, especially those from marginalized communities, to thrive. Please follow us on social media and visit our [website](#) to stay up-to-date on our events and to access the [resources](#) we share.

Upcoming Event:

Join us on for the Annual Student Poster Showcase

Come learn about the research undergraduates and graduate students are working on.

FMI 2026 Student Poster Showcase

Date: *Friday, May 1st, 2026
12:30-2:30PM*

Location: *Forbes Building
Lobby &
Courtyard
1140 E. South
Campus Dr.*

Join us & learn about
Undergrad and Grad students'
research from the Norton
School of Human Ecology



Reminder:

Deadline to submit poster for printing is April 24th!

[MORE INFO](#)

FMI Updates:



Congrats to Marissa Hettinger!

We want to highlight Marissa Hettinger, student in the HDFS PhD program, on receiving this year's Graduate Teaching Award! 🎉👏

Thank you for making an impact and helping our students succeed!

Osburn Dissertation Fellowship Announcement:

Congratulations to **Mahek Shah!**
Dissertation title: Examining the Role of Couple Financial Communication in Couple Relationships as Partners and Parents.

The fellowship provides funding for an HDFS student to complete their dissertation on a topic that contributes to the field of human development & family science by advancing our understanding of children, youth and/or families



Congrats to Baltzar Campos!

He has been selected for **the Crossing Latinidades Mellon fellowship** and **Summer Institute**, a Mellon-funded doctoral training initiative in U.S. Latino/a/x scholarship based at UIC. The program supports pre-ABD doctoral students through mentorship, research engagement, seminars, workshops, and an intensive Summer Institute designed to strengthen interdisciplinary, networking, and public-facing scholarship in Latino/a/x studies.

Research From The Institute

Dr. Jeannette Mare has been invited to this year's [National Organization of Research Development Professionals](#) as a closing keynote speaker! The conference will be hosted in Indiana from April 26-29th.

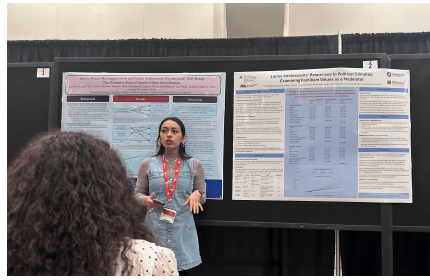


Society for Research on Adolescence Conference (SRA)

We are excited to highlight our graduate students and faculty presenting at the [Society for Research on Adolescence](#) Biennial Meeting in Toronto, Canada this week. Their work explores key aspects of Latine adolescents' identity, well-being, and responses to social and political contexts.

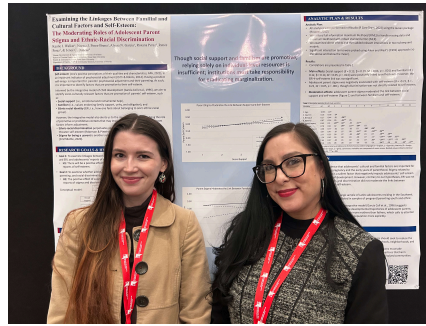


Representing FMI are current faculty and graduate students **Katie Zeiders**, **Carolina Noriega**, **Ada Wilkinson-Lee**, **Priscila Gámez Hernández**, and **Norma Perez-Brena**, alongside recent PhD alumni **Kayla Osman** and **Kealie Walker**. Faculty also contributed to an invited panel on challenges and collective strategies for equity-focused research.



Priscilla Gamez Hernandez

presenting her research *Latine Adolescents' Responses to Political Climates*.



Dr. Kealie Walker,

HDFS alum, and Roxana Perez from Texas State.

SciKind Updates

Be Kind, Bear Down: A Lasting Message at McClelland Park

Thanks to the Human Development and Family Science Ambassadors and their dedicated fundraising efforts for the successful installation of the Ben's Bells Be Kind mural at McClelland Park! This meaningful community project came to life on March 17-18, 2026, with the support of faculty and staff volunteers.

Together, participants helped create more than just a piece of art—they helped build a lasting symbol of kindness on our campus. The mural now stands as a daily reminder for all who pass by to choose kindness in both small and meaningful ways.



Be Kind. Bear Down. Wildcats!

Kind Cats in Action: Showcasing Student Research

This spring, Kind Cats students will be sharing their work across multiple poster symposiums.

As part of this effort, students will participate in the VIP (Vertically Integrated Projects) **CURE Spring 2026 Poster Session, taking place on Friday, April 24, 2026, from 1:00–4:00 PM** in the Student Union Ballroom. This event provides an opportunity for students to present their work through traditional posters or alternative formats such as demonstrations, performances, or multimedia presentations. Participants will present during designated time blocks while also engaging with peers' work, creating a collaborative and dynamic showcase environment.

In addition, a medical student affiliated with the initiative will be presenting at a poster symposium at the College of Medicine, further extending the reach of Kind Cats scholarship across campus.

Kind Cats students will also contribute to the annual Student Poster Showcase hosted by the Frances McClelland Institute on **Friday, May 1, 2026, from 12:30-2:30 PM in the Forbes building Lobby.**

Stronger Together: Community News & Events

Community Connections

Whether you're hosting a workshop, highlighting a resource, or want to share a success story (no identifying info, please)—we'd love to help spread the word. If you have something to share, please email us at families@arizona.edu with:

- **A short description of your event or opportunity**
- **Any relevant links or contact info**
- **Image or flyer (if applicable)**

To be included in the following month's issue, please send your submission by the 15th of each month.

We're looking forward to uplifting the great work happening across our community!



Interfaith Community Services presents:

We're teaming up with the Community Food Bank for our Free Produce Giveaway, and we need a few helping hands. Think of it as an assembly line of kindness, sorting, bagging, and loading fresh produce into cars, all with teamwork, laughter, and feel-good vibes.

Why volunteer?

- Help fresh food reach families
- Fun for friends, family, or coworkers
- No experience needed, just bring your energy!

Dates & Locations:

- **Friday, April 24th** | El Pueblo Community Center | 7–9:30 AM

Questions? Phil Lynn is your go-to contact he'll make sure you have everything you need for a great day.

Phil's Email: plynn@icstucson.org

Phil's Phone number: 520-526-9312

Children's Advocacy Center presents:



PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING

A practical intervention for helping people in distress.



A highly engaging and interactive workshop with directly applicable skills. PFA is an intervention grounded in humanitarian principles which provides humane, supportive, and practical assistance to distressed children or adults.

Certification from UNICEF for those who complete the whole six hours.

Friday, May 1st 9am - 4pm

In-person at the Children's Advocacy Center.

Lunch provided.



Register now to reserve your spot:



REGISTER HERE



Free Produce Giveaways November 2025 - May 2026

Area	Location/Time	Days
Ina/Shannon	ICS Food Bank 2820 W. Ina Rd. 5:30 to 7:30 a.m.	Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 2
Ft. Lowell/1st Ave	Sacred Heart Catholic Church 601 E. Fort Lowell Rd. 8 to 10 a.m.	Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 10, May 8
Ft. Lowell/Tucson Blvd	Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E Fort Lowell Rd. 8 to 10 a.m.	Nov. 13, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 16, May 14
Valencia/6th Ave	Unleashed Christian Church 265 W. Valencia Rd. 8 to 10 a.m.	Nov. 14, Jan. 16, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 17, May 15
6th Ave/Grant	Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 210 E. Lester St. 8 to 10 a.m.	Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 17, Feb. 14, Apr. 18, May 16
Invington/6th Ave	El Pueblo Community Center 101 W. Invington 8 to 10 a.m.	Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 24, May 22

No Documentation Required. Receive Produce From:



Schedule of Free Produce Giveaways November 2025 - May 2026

Location	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Campus of Sacred Heart Catholic Church 601 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.	7th	5th	9th	6th	6th	10th	8th
ICS Northwest Food Bank 2820 W. Ina Rd.	8th	6th	10th	7th	14th	11th	2nd
Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.	13th	18th	15th	12th	12th	16th	14th
Unleashed Christian Church 265 W. Valencia Rd.	14th		16th	13th	13th	17th	15th
Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 210 E. Lester St.	15th	13th	17th	14th		18th	16th
El Pueblo Community Center 101 W. Invington	21st	19th	23rd	20th	20th	24th	22nd

INDIGIWELLBEING PRESENTS:

INDIGIWELLBEING PRESENTS:
5th Annual National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day of Awareness Symposium

Monday, May 4th 2026
9:00am-530pm (Tucson, AZ Time)
Health Sciences Innovation Building
University of Arizona

Free Hybrid Event: In-person - lunch (Indigenous food) provided for attendees

REGISTER (registration required):
<https://tinyurl.com/26MMIPSYMPOSIUM>

Questions/Comments/to sponsor or donate:
indigiwellbeing@gmail.com

INDIGIWELLBEING PRESENTS:
6th Annual Southern AZ Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Awareness 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, May 9th, 2026, 6am- 9am
Pima Community College West Campus

Register (must register to attend):
tinyurl.com/26MMIPRUNWALK

Logos of sponsors including IndigiWellbeing, Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families, Pima Community College, Pima County Health Department, and the University of Arizona Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Day of Awareness Symposium
MAY 4th, 2026

[REGISTER HERE](https://tinyurl.com/26MMIPSYMPOSIUM)

MMIP 5K Run/Walk
May 9th, 2026

[REGISTER HERE](https://tinyurl.com/26MMIPRUNWALK)



Thank you for your support of the Institute. Stay in touch with us by following FMI on **[Facebook](#)**, **[Instagram](#)**, and **[LinkedIn](#)**.

In Partnership,
Melissa Barnett, Ph.D.

Director, Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families

Norton Endowed Chair in Fathers, Parenting, and Families

Professor, Human Development and Family Science

Please support our work by making an investment in the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families.

GIVE NOW



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Land Acknowledgment