

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



NORTON SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Frances McClelland
Institute for Children,
Youth & Families



Greetings from the Frances McClelland Institute,

Campus is quiet this time of year, but we still have plenty of updates to share in this mid-summer newsletter. Check out our newest research brief authored by Dr. Norma Perez-Brena and her colleagues, including Trusting News, who share the findings from their recent study on adolescent engagement with news in the social media era. See below and on our [website](#) for more details.

July is Pride Disability month, a time for individuals with disabilities to celebrate their identities, and for us all to recognize the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, which protects equitable access and inclusion. This is a good reminder that in all of the work we do here at FMI, we honor the legacy of Frances McClelland, a childhood polio survivor who didn't let her physical disabilities hold her back from pursuing her own ambitions. She worked tirelessly as an advocate and philanthropist to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities and those with other

marginalized identities to thrive and reach their full potential. Coming just after Pride Month in June, we encourage you to check out this [**LGBTQ+ Disability Media List**](#) compiled by the University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

We are sharing our own leadership transition. After seven years as Director of FMI, I will be leaving the position at the end of the summer. It has truly been an honor to work with our dynamic and committed stakeholders, including staff, faculty, students, Advisory Council members, and community partners. I am thrilled to welcome [**Dr. Katie Zeiders**](#) as the next director of FMI, starting in the Fall semester. I am excited to see the new opportunities FMI will pursue under her leadership. Thank you for your support of our mission to work collaboratively to use the power of research to inform opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive.

Read on to learn more about our latest activities and achievements, including the work of SciKind over the last year. 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.

FMI Updates:

FMI Supports Graduate Student Participation in Farmworker Health and Resiliency Meeting

The Frances McClelland Institute recently supported three graduate students in participating in the 2026 Working Meeting on Farmworker Health and Resiliency, hosted by the Arizona Farmworker Health and Resiliency Institute. Founded in 2024, the Institute brings together public health researchers and community-based organizations committed to advancing the health, well-being, and resilience of Arizona farmworkers.

The working meeting convened approximately 30 researchers from across the region to share their expertise, build connections, and identify opportunities for collaboration and resource development to better support farmworker communities.

FMI supported the participation of Carolina Carrasco (Master of Public Health, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health), Lilian Noriega German (Master of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, College of Education and past FMI Youth Vision

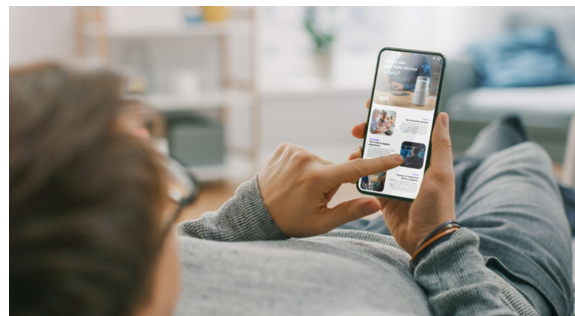
Award Winner), and Rachel Figueroa (Master of Public Health, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and Norton School HDFS alumna).

By supporting student involvement in collaborative, community-engaged initiatives such as this, FMI helps prepare the next generation of professionals and scholars committed to improving the lives of Arizona's children, youth, families, and communities. If you'd like to learn more about the Arizona Farmworker Health and Resiliency Institute and/or get involved, please contact Priscila Ruedas at priscilaruedas@arizona.edu or Dr. Rietta Wagoner at rwagoner@arizona.edu.



Discover our newest FMI Research Brief, **Teen Engagement with News in the Social Media Era**, which explores how Tucson teens interact with news in today's digital landscape. Read the full brief on the FMI website under **FMI Research Briefs**.

[READ MORE](#)



HDFS Updates:

JOURNAL ARTICLE

The co-occurrence of ethnic-racial identity, skin tone, and skin tone satisfaction among U.S. Latine Youth: A person-centered approach [Get access >](#)

[Kayla M. Osman](#) , [Stefanie Martinez-Fuentes](#), [Katharine H. Zeiders](#), [Antoinette M. Landor](#), [Ada M. Wilkinson-Lee](#), [Lindsay T. Hoyt](#)

Explore the latest research from HDFS Ph.D. alum **Dr. Kayla Osman** and co-author **Dr. Katie Zeiders** in their recent publication, *The Co-occurrence of Ethnic-Racial Identity, Skin Tone, and Skin Tone Satisfaction Among U.S. Latine Youth: A Person-Centered Approach*.

[READ MORE](#)

Learn more about the latest research from HDFS Ph.D. alum **Dr. Rayni Thomas** and co-author **Dr. Melissa Delgado** in their recent publication, *Examining Changes in Active Coping Strategies Among Latinx Adolescents: Latent Growth Curve*.

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BRIEF REPORT [OPEN ACCESS](#)

Examining Changes in Active Coping Strategies Among Latinx Adolescents: Latent Growth Curve

[Rayni Thomas](#)¹  | [Rajni L. Nair](#)²  | [Melissa Y. Delgado](#)³ 

SciKind Updates:

Science of Kindness Community Collective Highlights 2025-2026 Impact

This year, the Science of Kindness Community Collective (SciKind) continued to bridge research and practice by advancing evidence-based strategies that strengthen kindness, belonging, and well-being across campus and in the community. Through partnerships with organizations such as Ben's Bells, The Haven, and the University of Arizona, SciKind developed implementation guides and assessment tools that help organizations put kindness research into action.

More than 400 University of Arizona students, faculty, and staff participated in kindness research, while undergraduate Kind Cats researchers gained hands-on experience conducting behavioral science research, presenting at conferences, engaging with the community through Science City at the Tucson Festival of Books, and creating science communication resources.

SciKind also expanded its national reach through a five-part SAGE Publishing educational video series, presentations to academic and community audiences, and collaborations that engaged nearly 800 Eller College of Management students in applying the science of kindness to real-world challenges. Together, these efforts reflect the Frances McClelland Institute's commitment to research that not only advances knowledge but also creates meaningful, lasting impact in our communities.



Building a Kinder Campus

The University of Arizona's **Be Kind, Bear Down** initiative was recently recognized by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as a national example of building campus belonging and employee morale through acts of kindness. The campaign was supported by Haydn Rae, an undergraduate student in FMI's Spring 2026 community-based internship program, and reflects the growing impact of kindness initiatives across campus. Under the leadership of

Jeannette Maré, PhD, MA, the Science of Kindness Community Collective continues to advance research-informed approaches to kindness and well-being, expanding its influence through partnerships that connect research with practice in meaningful ways. Read the full story to learn more about this national recognition.

[READ MORE](#)

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!



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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