



NORTON SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Frances McClelland
Institute for Children,
Youth & Families



Greetings from the Frances McClelland Institute,

We are off to a running start in 2025! We are looking forward to hosting three presentations this semester as part of our [Turbeville Speaker Series](#). The first hybrid talk will take place on Friday, February 7th when Dr. Michelle Tellez from the University of Arizona Mexican American Studies Department will present her research on using digital archives to understand marginalized communities in the U.S. - Mexico Borderlands. This talk will be of interest to researchers, educators and practitioners. We hope you can join us! See below for details.

We are finalizing preparation for our seven-year institute review. Thank you to all who provided feedback. The information you shared is very useful as we look back and plan for the future. Stay tuned later this spring for more details.

Finally, we want to acknowledge that the recent wildfires in the Los Angeles area and new federal policies are placing families, especially those from marginalized communities, at risk for increased hardship and stress. We remain committed to our mission to work collaboratively to use the power of research to facilitate opportunities for children, youth and families, especially those experiencing adversity, to thrive. We will continue to share research-based resources on our website and social media platforms to support practitioners, families and communities.

[View Our 2024 Annual Report](#)

FamilyLink



Frances McClelland
Institute for Children,
Youth & Families

Improving lives of children, youth, and families

FALL 2024

Greetings from the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families,

In this annual report, we highlight our accomplishments in 2024 and preview our plans for 2025. This year, we engaged in a variety of activities aimed at meeting our goals to share timely, actionable research, including hosting a speaker series, launching a redesigned website, and sharing research generated by our affiliated faculty and students. We also significantly advanced our strategies to educate the next generation of engaged scholars and leaders. Thanks to a generous gift we were able to maintain our Lang Summer Fellowships to support graduate students to write first-author peer-reviewed manuscripts and we launched the first class of Osburn Dissertation Fellows to provide funding for one year for graduate students to complete their dissertations on topics related to promoting the wellbeing of children, youth and families. We also developed and implemented a successful community-based applied internship program for undergraduate students by partnering with local non-profit and government organizations and Cooperative Extension offices.

We were honored to hold the annual Frances McClelland Vision Awards Ceremony on-campus in October. This inspirational event provided an opportunity to recognize emerging and established leaders. Collectively, this year's winners have advanced wellbeing and economic and educational equity and inclusion for marginalized populations, and in doing so they have enhanced our communities for everyone. We also continued the tradition of past awardees presenting awards to the current winners along with former FMI Director, Dr. Andrea Romero. This event truly feels like a family reunion and community celebration.

We built on our growth last year, as the newly launched Science of Kindness Community Collective (SciKind) led by Dr. Jeannette Mare engaged in multiple collaborative strategies with a variety of new partners to promote action-focused research and programming to build a community of practice to increase kind behavior. We also continued to integrate The Community Research, Evaluation & Development (CRED) team into FMI. CRED is a dynamic interdisciplinary team specializing in evaluation, research design, data analysis, and community engagement. CRED focuses on generating accessible, actionable information to support informed program and policy decision-making. CRED provided two valuable methods workshops we organized on creating data dashboards and interactive maps. CRED also successfully partnered with us to secure a three-year federal grant from the Administration on Children and Families to track equitable access to infant and toddler child care in Arizona.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will work closely with partners on and off-campus. In Spring 2025 we will host three talks in our Turbeville speaker series. Two of these talks will focus on aspects of the science of kindness and one talk will focus on the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands region. SciKind will launch their KindCats campus-wide initiative that engages undergraduate students. Thanks to a community engagement grant that we secured from the University of Arizona Office of Research, Innovation and Impact along with a group of community partners that includes the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, we will launch the Tucson Parent Villages Study. This project will focus on a program that brings parents together to build community and gain advocacy skills.

We are very grateful to our supporters, donors, students, and community partners for helping us to meet our goal to work collaboratively to build strong communities that promote family resilience so that children and youth from marginalized backgrounds have opportunities to thrive.

Please visit our website, fmi.arizona.edu, to learn about our research, events, and resources. Follow and like us on social media. Thank you for your support.

-Melissa A. Barnett, Ph.D.

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

The Frances McClelland Institute is excited to share the 2024 edition of *FamilyLink*!

This annual update highlights the impactful programs, events, and research FMI took part in throughout the year. From advancing the well-being of children, youth, and families to celebrating community partnerships, this issue is a reflection of the incredible work we've accomplished together.

We invite you to take a moment to explore *FamilyLink* and catch up on all that's happened at FMI in 2024. Your continued support and engagement inspire our mission and guide us toward a brighter future.

Thank you for being part of our community!

[READ MORE](#)

Research From The Institute

**Benefits and burdens of daily sacrifices and commitment in same- and different-gender couples: Explorations of proximity and direction of effects**Casey J. Totenhagen  Melissa A. Curran, Ashley K. RandallFirst published: 08 January 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.13093>

Former UA HDFS doctoral alumni **Drs. Casey J. Totenhagen** and **Ashely K. Randall** and HDFS faculty **Dr. Melissa Curran** authored an article recently published in the *Journal of Family Process* titled *Benefits and burdens of daily sacrifices and commitment in same- and different-gender couples: Explorations of proximity and direction of effects*.

[READ MORE](#)

SciKIND Updates



The Science of Kindness Community Collective (SciKind Team) is in full swing this January, with exciting events and poster forums showcasing how kindness transforms communities through applied research. Earlier this month, Dr. Jeannette Maré delivered an inspiring ALVSCE DEI talk on "*Creating Kind Communities*," setting the tone for a year filled with meaningful conversations and impactful initiatives.

The **SciKind VIP** (Vertically Integrated Project) independent study course, led by Dr. Maré, is now underway with 16 undergraduate students gaining hands-on experience in community-engaged research and deepening their understanding of kindness and connection.

The **KIND CATS Club** is also thriving and recruiting new members! This student-led group focuses on leadership, teamwork, and real-world community research, fostering meaningful connections and a stronger sense of belonging while building a kinder campus.



Become a KIND CAT!

KIND CATS are UA students committed to building a more connected, supportive campus community —for everyone's benefit!

Join KIND CATS and get ready to:

- Grow your leadership skills & teamwork abilities
- Dive into hands-on community research with real impact
- Make meaningful connections & build a sense of belonging
- Level up your resume with standout experiences
- Be part of building a campus that's more connected, inclusive—and a lot more fun!



Scan the QR code and fill out the KIND CATS club interest form!

We can't wait to meet you!

SCIENCE OF KINDNESS
COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

KIND CATS INTEREST FORM

SCIENCE OF KINDNESS COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

Student Spotlight: Policy Poster Forum

On December 17, 2024, the HECL 301 Policy Poster Forum highlighted the innovative ideas and dedication of undergraduate students as they presented their research and policy proposals. Led by **Dr. Payal Khosla**, an HDFS Assistant Professor of Practice, this course empowered students to develop creative and thoughtful solutions addressing critical social issues, emphasizing the power of student-led initiatives in shaping meaningful change.



Upcoming Events

The Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, & Families invites you to...

TURBEVILLE SPEAKER SERIES SPRING 2025

Speaker: Michelle Téllez, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona

Title: *Oral Histories and Digital Archives in the Borderlands*

Time: Friday, February 7th, 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Location: McClelland Park | 650 N. Park Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719 | Room 402 or Zoom



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Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth & Families

To read more about this presentation visit our [Turbeville Speaker page](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, & Families invites you to...

TURBEVILLE SPEAKER SERIES SPRING 2025

Speaker: Steve Rains, Professor of Communication at the University of Arizona

Title: *Social Support as Kindness: Properties of Helpful Emotional Support Messages*

Time: Friday, March 21st, 1:00PM - 2:15 PM

Location: McClelland Park | 650 N. Park Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719 | Room 402 or Zoom



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To read more about this presentation visit our [Turbeville Speaker page](#).

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Youth & Families

SPRING 2025 STUDENT POSTER SHOWCASE



FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

12:30 PM - 2:30PM

Forbes Building Lobby, 1140 E.
South Campus Dr.



The Frances McClelland Institute would like to invite you to take part in the Spring 2025 Student Poster Showcase on Friday, April 25th from 12:30 PM-2:30 PM at the Forbes Lobby/Courtyard. This in-person event provides an opportunity for Norton School undergraduate and graduate students, as well as students from other departments engaged in research with Norton faculty, to showcase their projects and explore other studies aimed at enhancing the lives of children, youth, and families.

No registration needed—open to everyone, including those outside the University of Arizona!



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

In Partnership,

Melissa Barnet, 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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences and Cooperative Extension, Forbes Building, 1140 E. South Campus Dr., Tucson, AZ 85721, US
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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.