

Children, Youth & Family Consortium

CYFC Monthly

CYFC Monthly – March 2013

Wonder Years Field Experiences: A New Way to Learn

In a world where traditional conceptualizations of education and learning are constantly changing because of the evolution of technology, it is crucial to be adapting to the ever-shifting definition of what constitutes a learning environment. This is especially true for institutions of higher learning. Though online learning can provide a more pedagogically diverse experience than traditional classroom methods, tactile and experiential learning coupled with in-person dialogue can provide additional value to both classroom and online learning environments.

CYFC is currently providing this type of experiential learning experience within the context of a museum setting for classes of graduate students studying children, youth and family sciences. Called field experiences, these tours through the [Wonder Years: The Science of Early Childhood](#) exhibition at the Science Museum of Minnesota provide a unique mechanism of communicating the complex science of human development into engaging and interactive hands-on experiences. For example, by putting on the “[Baby Goggles](#)” students can experience what it’s like to see through the eyes of an infant. This experiential learning can have a more visceral impact on a student than reading about infant vision and perception from a textbook.

Students participating in the field experiences are then asked to reflect on their reactions to the exhibition and think about how what they’ve learned might be applicable to their current coursework and their future work as leaders in their field. These engaging discussions often bring to light challenges within their field of study, as well as reflections on how science can be used in practical applications.

Recently, CYFC brought together an interdisciplinary group of students from a family law course offered at the University of Minnesota Law School, and child welfare scholar graduate students from the University of Minnesota School of Social Work for a Wonder Years field experience. The engaging discussion about the child welfare system brought to light many differences in training and perspectives, but also highlighted the commonality of all students wanting the best outcomes for children. Students also reflected on the need for interdisciplinary training opportunities like the Field Experience to provide ways to talk across fields of study and take on different perspectives on the same problems. Students gained a greater understanding and appreciation for the challenges faced by both lawyers and social workers in the child welfare system. These field experiences provide an opportunity to change not only the way that students view the experiences of young children, but also have the power to shift the way they think about or approach their future work with children.

Last year alone, nearly one hundred students, staff and faculty took part in CYFC’s Field Experiences. We are currently in the process of evaluating the impact of the Field Experiences within the various graduate student audiences, and look forward to further growth in the number and depth of these

experiences in the future. If you'd like to sign-up your class for a field experience, contact [Sara Langworthy](#) or [Judy Myers](#).

Sara Langworthy, Ph.D
Policy Coordinator

Consortium News

CYFC's new Children's Mental Health Assistant

Brittany Henn has joined the Consortium and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education. She received her BA in Psychology with an emphasis in Behavior Analysis at the University of Wisconsin — Eau Claire, and has worked closely with children with autism in both clinical and home-based settings. Originally from Appleton, Wisconsin, Ms. Henn plans to reside in the Twin Cities area as a preschool or kindergarten teacher after receiving her degree. Hobbies of Brittany's include spending time with her family, friends, and cat, reading, running, cooking, and online shopping.

Lessons from the Field — Homeless Children and Youth: Opening the Doors of Intervention and Policy

[Registration is now open!](#)

Date: April 5, 2013

Location: University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center and broadcast live via web stream and ITV

Cost: \$60 Metro, \$25 Web Stream, \$20 Student

Discount available until March 5. (Use code: LFTFMPLS for \$15 discount in Metro and LFTFGRMN for \$5 discount for Web Stream)

This seminar features intermediate content and a team of professionals who will discuss causes, as well as intervention and prevention strategies that address the growing number of homeless children and adolescents in Minnesota. An intervention program that members of the presentation team designed for Ramsey County will provide one model for discussion. Presenters include: Laurel Edinburgh, Midwest Children's Resource Center, Beth Holger-Ambrose, Homeless Youth Services Coordinator, MN DHS and Emily Huemann, Supervisor, Sexual Offenses Services (SOS), Ramsey County.

National Public Health Week Film Festival

University of Minnesota School of Public Health co-sponsored by CYFC

Dates: April 1-5, 2013

Location: Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St. SE, Minneapolis

Time: Doors open at 5, expert introductions at 5:45 with films promptly following

The ninth annual National Public Health Week Film Festival is free, open to the public, and screens films fit for all interests. This year's topics include agriculture and food, marketing health issues, mental health, environmental health and disaster, and gender identity. View the film schedule and make plans to attend.

University and Community Announcements

Using the Internet for Parent Education

[University of Minnesota Extension Family Development](#)

Available until April 20, 2013

Location: Online

Cost: \$50

[Learn more about using the Internet for parent education](#) including ways parents use the Internet, differences in Internet users, current research on how professionals have incorporated technology into parent education and enhance your ability to effectively use technology.

Bridging Education and Mental Health

University of Minnesota Center for Early Education and Development (CEED)

Dates: March 11 - May 13, 2013

Cost: \$225

Cynthia Croft, Director for Inclusive Child Care, Concordia University will lead this 9 week online course offered by CEED. Find common ground between behavioral and therapeutic approaches to supporting children who engage in challenging behavior. Explore what causes and sustains maladaptive behavioral patterns in children's actions and interactions and learn how early childhood professionals can support the healthy social and emotional development of children. Clock hour certificates will be given for 24 continuing education hours, approved and issued by the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. Registration and additional information are available [online](#).

Living with Autism: Hopeful, Helpful Tips from Moms Who Know

This [podcast](#) from Momenough, originally broadcast February 11, 2013 features child psychiatrist Elizabeth Reeve and author Elizabeth Verdict who share their lives as mothers to sons with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Listen to the Mom Enough Show to hear stories about life with their sons and how they have helped them navigate the social and emotional challenges they face at home, school and the larger world.

2013 Health Disparities Roundtable: Engaging Communities in Public Health Research, Practice and Policy

University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Date: April 26, 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Coffman Memorial Union Theater

University of Minnesota East Bank

Cost: Free but registration required

This event features keynote speakers Byllie Avery and Amy Jo Schulz and Latino Voices.

Community Based Research Programs Call for Proposals

University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)

CURA is inviting proposals for the summer 2013 semester for its Community Based Research programs. Community-based groups who could benefit from a research assistant are encouraged to apply. Students are paid by the programs for the part-time research assistantships over the summer and will run from May 27 - August 25, 2013. Students are selected by and report to the community organization who define and direct their research projects. [Applications are due March 15, 2013.](#)

Healing Complex Trauma in Daily Life

Wilder Foundation

Date: April 12, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$130

Location: Wilder Center

451 Lexington Parkway North

This event will provide strategies for trauma informed therapy and life skills work while integrating research-informed trauma interventions to help children and families shift from negative to positive ways of coping. Krista Nelson, Project Coordinator of the Wilder Foundation Center for Children with Reactive Attachment Disorder will facilitate with other staff from Wilder Foundation's Mental Health Programs. CEUS from MN Board of Social work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Licensed Professional Counselors will be available. [Register](#) or contact [Krista Nelson](#) for more information.

Job Opportunities

Youthprise

- [Youth Focused Group Facilitators](#) (2 openings)
- [Youth Innovator Development Associate](#)
- [AmeriCorps Promise Fellow — Research & Communications](#)
- [AmeriCorps Promise Fellow — Research & Evaluation](#)

Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- [Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Position](#)

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