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#SECFR2020 @ Birmingham, Alabama April 2-4

Theme: A Vision for Families

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Call for Proposals

2020 Annual Conference

Southeastern Council on Family Relations

SECFR is pleased to distribute this Call for Proposals for our 2020 Annual Conference to be held in **Birmingham, Alabama** from **April 2-4, 2020**. The theme of this upcoming conference is “A Vision for Families: Exploring and Solidifying Professional Identity in Family Sciences.” We are seeking high-quality proposals to be presented at our conference. All conference sessions should: be informative and relevant to family well-being, promote learner engagement, and demonstrate how your research area or topic of focus applies to the professional field of Family Sciences.

In addition, we especially desire proposals that:

- Have diverse presenters (of different nationalities; or from different institutions and geographic regions)
- Have varying levels of experience in the field (ranging from students to faculty to local practitioners)
- Contain original, innovative ideas and/or stimulate and provoke discussion
- Have strong connections to practice and/or policy

For this upcoming conference, SECFR is taking a two-pronged approach to engaging participants with the theme: “A Vision for Families: Exploring and Solidifying Professional Identity in Family Sciences.”

- 1) A Vision for Families
 - a. The first part of this theme is intended to encourage **students, faculty, and helping professionals** to submit proposals for poster and oral presentations on any topic of interest that is relevant to their “vision” of *family well-being and/or family functioning* as it is related to programs, policy, research, theory, and quantitative or qualitative work.
- 2) Exploring and solidifying Professional Identity in Family Sciences
 - a. The second part of this theme is intended to encourage **faculty and helping professionals** to submit proposals for workshop and roundtable presentations on topics that can provide future “family science” professionals (i.e., students) with *information, ideas, and mentorship related to the field*.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Francesca Adler-Baeder, professor and extension specialist in the [department of Human Development & Family Sciences at Auburn University](#), the principal investigator of [The Alabama Healthy Marriage & Relationship Education Initiative](#), the director of [the National Stepfamily Resource Center](#), the co-director of the [National Extension Relationships and Marriage Education Network](#), was conferred [the prestigious fellow status](#) in 2015 by the National Council on Family Relations, and in 2016 received the [Outstanding Engagement Award](#) from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

SERVICE PROJECT: SECFR is asking conference attendees to bring with them 1-2 toiletries to Birmingham so that we can provide local donations to the [LoveLady Center](#), a local Alabama non-profit that serves to help females re-enter their communities positively and productively following incarceration.

Proposal submissions will be accepted until December 15, 2019 and notification by January 15, 2020. All submissions received by December 15, 2019 will receive full consideration and may be accepted, rejected, or recommended for resubmission (with revisions).

A special note to students. In order to promote professional development, students can expect a multi-tiered feedback process regarding this event.

- 1) Students will receive meaningful feedback on their proposals for what to revise and strengthen in order to ensure a complete presentation is ready for the upcoming conference.
- 2) Following presentations at the conference, students will be provided meaningful feedback from academic faculty on presentation strengths as well as areas for improvement.
- 3) During the conference, a social outing (with food and beverage) will be facilitated. This will provide students an opportunity to network with other professionals who share similar interests related to their proposal/presentation topics.

Please note that, in order to maintain the highest quality for all presentation sessions, all proposals will be scored and provided reviewer feedback.

In order to comply with requirements for Continuing Education Units, **clear learning objectives must be stated on each proposal.**

- For Academic faculty and community professionals, we ask that at least one of these learning objectives provide students with an opportunity to see how translating research/theory to practice is done in ways that enhance the professional field.
- If you have questions regarding content, please email the Proposal Coordinator, Dr. Sun-A Lee (slee@louisiana.edu).

Proposal Formats

Paper Presentations: A Paper Presentation involves a focused description of scholarship, practice, and/or policy information in its own dedicated room. Such information can be derived from the author(s)' publishable manuscript, published paper/article based on research or current practice (see FAQ's below), completed doctoral dissertation, completed master's thesis, or completed student paper containing fully-developed ideas and concepts of an empirical, conceptual, or practical nature. Paper Presentations lasts approximately 15 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes set aside for questions/discussion. Presentations usually occur in "breakout sessions" where there are 3-4 presenters within a session.

Workshop Presentations: A Workshop Presentation functions as a training session where attendees are exposed to a training opportunity where they are able to actively interact with learning effective techniques for practice in the professional field. These sessions will be 45-minutes in length and will be led by an expert/s in the field.

Posters: A poster involves the visual display of detailed information, utilizing graphics that summarize empirical research (initiated or completed), completed student projects, and/or practice, methodologies, or programs that have been or will soon be implemented by practitioners. All materials must be designed to fill a single 4' high by 8' wide poster board and will be presented at a session alongside other posters. All posters should refer to scholarly literature. Authors are expected to be at the poster the entire session (either 45 or 60 minutes) to answer questions and distribute handouts.

Panel Session/Roundtables: This type of presentation allows a group of presenters to discuss a topic with significant time allotted for interaction among the presenters and with the attendees.

The SECFR board reserves the right to suggest alternative formats that may optimize participant experience, available space, and/or available time (for example, if a proposal is submitted as a Poster, the SECFR Board reserves right to accept the proposal as a Paper presentation).

STUDENT AWARDS

Student Awards Competition: Undergraduate Students and Graduate Students have the opportunity to apply for consideration of special recognition within one of the following categories:

1. Undergraduate Paper Presentation Competition: All undergraduate students are invited to apply for the Undergraduate Paper Presentation Award, where they will have their Oral Paper presentation reviewed at the annual SECFR conference. One award will be given to the top undergraduate paper presentation.
2. Graduate Paper Presentation Competition: All graduate students are invited to apply for the Graduate Paper Presentation Award, where they will have their Oral Paper presentation reviewed at the annual SECFR conference. One award will be presented to the top graduate paper presentation.
3. Undergraduate Poster Presentation Competition: All undergrad students are invited to apply for the Undergraduate Poster Presentation Award where they will have their Oral Poster presentation reviewed at the annual SECFR conference. One award will be given to the top undergraduate poster presentation.
4. Graduate Poster Presentation Competition: All graduate students are invited to apply for the Graduate Poster Presentation Award where they can have their Oral Poster presentation reviewed at the annual SECFR conference. One award will be given to the top graduate poster presentation.

**These awards are peer-reviewed and scored. If you are awarded, you are invited to add it to your CV.*

Please note that you **MUST INDICATE** whether or not you want to be considered for any of these awards **during the submission of your proposal** to the SECFR annual conference.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

A complete submission includes following the link (<https://dc.etsu.edu/secfr-conf/>) to submit your proposal(s) electronically.

- Complete relevant information for all authors electronically.
 - Name
 - Affiliation
 - Co-authors information (if applicable)
 - Appropriate contact information
 - Student Status

If you are a student, you must indicate if you would like to be considered for a student award according to one off the categories listed above in the *student awards section*.
- Select your preferred presentation format (i.e., session, poster, or panel).
- Enter a title.
- Submit an abstract of up to 150 words.
- Submit at least three keywords.
- Submit a single file for uploading with no identifying information.

This “blind” document shall include the following:

 - A 500-word (maximum) summary of the presentation.
 - An APA reference list.
 - A list of at least 3 learning objectives associated with your proposal, using the stem “After viewing this presentation, attendees will...”
 - Up to 2 supplemental figures and/or tables (optional).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

I am a student and am not currently involved in any empirical research projects. May I submit a recently completed course paper or project to present at the conference? Absolutely! As a regional conference, we strongly encourage student participation in our conference, both as attendees and presenters. Papers completed for a course may be submitted for presentations and completed projects of other sorts may be submitted as posters. Students are also free to propose a panel discussion session, perhaps on a topic with relevance to other students. Students are also encouraged to submit a paper for the new writing awards (see above).

I am a practitioner and don't typically do empirical research. May I submit something related to my work that I feel would benefit the conference attendees? The first stated goal of the SECFR is "to provide a NETWORK for collaboration among family professionals" of all kinds, both university- and community-based. We desire for this conference to be a unique amalgamation of academics, practitioners, and students, all joined together with one cause in mind – to help families in the Southeast. Therefore, we welcome submissions from practitioners of a non-empirical nature, whether conceptual, practical, and/or programmatic as either a presentation or poster.

I am a student and interested in applying for one of the student awards. May I submit something that includes co-authors or must I submit a proposal as a single author? As long as you are **first author** on the proposal than you may submit a proposal that includes co-authors. Co-authors may be fellow students, advisors, or other professionals.

What if I need A/V equipment? SECFR will provide computers and video projectors in every meeting room. All you need to bring is your presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint (or Adobe PDF) format on a flash drive. We also encourage you to bring handouts.

May I submit a published paper for presentation? If you have recently completed a paper that has not been presented at a conference, please propose it.

How many proposals can I submit? There is no limit on the number of proposals you may submit.

When should I register for the conference? Authors of accepted proposals are expected to register for and commit to attend the conference. **Completed registration forms, and the necessary fees, should be completed online (or postmarked) by the deadline.**

*To ensure full consideration, proposals must be received by the stated deadlines.
All proposals must be submitted using the above link to the Digital Commons system.*

Questions? Contact the Proposal Coordinator, Dr. Sun-A Lee (slee@louisiana.edu).