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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

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CYFS  the
nebraska
center
for research on
children youth families & schools

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NEBRASKA CENTER FOR RESEARCH
ON CHILDREN, YOUTH,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN**

May 7, 2004

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

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The mission of the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools is to improve through cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, our understanding of optimal ways that parents, teachers and other service providers in family, school and community contexts can promote the intellectual, socio-emotional, physical and behavioral adjustment of children and youth. Central to all of this is enhancing our understanding of how these systems can all work together to support the future of our nation.

Goals:

The **long-term goal** of the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools is to become a nationally recognized center of excellence in research related to children and youth, and the multiple interrelated contexts in which they function (i.e., families, schools, and communities).

- Enhance the scope, quality and prominence of Nebraska's research related to children, youth, families and schools.
- Create, nurture, and develop an interdisciplinary academic environment that will foster new basic and applied research in all areas related to children, youth, families and schools.

Objectives:

- ❖ Provide Support and Build Capacity for Research Excellence
- ❖ Conceptualize, Develop, Submit, and Secure Competitive Research Grants
- ❖ Foster Interdisciplinary Research
- ❖ Provide Opportunities for Interaction with National Researchers
- ❖ Increase Visibility of the Center and Center Faculty
- ❖ Ensure Center Supports are Responsive to the Needs of Faculty
- ❖ Conduct Research Related to the Land-Grant Mission of the University



MILESTONES

◆ **Faculty Research Retreat Held – October 2002**

Thirty-one UNL faculty members, along with three deans and two vice chancellors, met in a day-long retreat and identified areas of strength and developed interdisciplinary teams that served as a foundation for Center-based research. Many research partnerships formed and continued to collaborate actively as an outcome of the retreat.

◆ **Nebraska Research Alliance on CYFS Approved as an NU Program of Excellence – June 2003**

During the 2002-03 academic year, the Nebraska Research Alliance on Children, Youth, Families and Schools was one of 14 priority programs at UNL to receive Board of Regents support as a “Program of Excellence.”

◆ **Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools Established – February 2004**

University of Nebraska Regents approved the establishment of the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools, recognizing the opportunity to achieve prominence through interdisciplinary research initiative.

◆ **Anticipated Opening of New Location in Mabel Lee Hall – August 2004**

Remodeling of space in Mabel Lee Hall is currently underway and will provide a central location for interdisciplinary research meetings, grant support activities, and future Center development functions.



WHO WE ARE:

DIRECTOR

Susan M. Sheridan, Ph.D., Willa Cather Professor and Professor of Educational Psychology and Editor, *School Psychology Review*

CENTER STAFF

Gina M. Kunz, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor

Holly Sexton, Administrative Assistant

Ariadne Schemm, Graduate Assistant

Kelly Love, Graduate Assistant

Reagan Rosenberg, Graduate Assistant

Daniel Buser, Technology Assistant

Mark Hiatt, Webmaster

STEERING COMMITTEE

Lisa Crockett, Ph.D.

Carolyn Pope Edwards, Ed.D.

Richard Hoffmann, Ph.D.

Marjorie Kostelnik, Ph.D.

Susan Sheridan, Ph.D.

Brian Wilcox, Ph.D.

FACULTY AFFILIATES

Sixty faculty members from numerous disciplines across the campuses of UNL, UNO, and UNMC are affiliated with the Nebraska Center for Research on CYFS (see a complete listing of the faculty affiliates in Table 1).

**Table 1: Faculty Affiliates of the Nebraska Center for Research on Children,
Youth, Families and Schools**

Name	College/Department
Michael Bonner, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology; University of Nebraska-Omaha
Kathy Bosch, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences
Dawn Braithwaite, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Communication Studies
Eric Buhs, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Leon Caldwell, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Gus Carlo, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology
Deborah Carlson, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Juan Casas, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology; University of Nebraska-Omaha
Connie Chapple, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Sociology
Susan Churchill, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences
Lisa Crockett, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology
Rochelle Dalla, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences

Edward Daly, III, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
David DiLillo, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology
Beth Doll, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Carolyn Pope Edwards, Ed.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; College of Education & Human Sciences
Craig Enders, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Joseph H. Evans, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Munroe-Meyer Institute
Gloria Gonzalez-Kruger, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences
Ruth Heaton, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education
Richard Hoffman, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Dean
Dan Hoyt, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Sociology
Heidi Inderbitzen-Nolan, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology
Jody Isernhagen, Ed.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Administration
Barbara Jackson, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Education & Child Development



Julie Johnson, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences
Lisa Kelly-Vance, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology
Marjorie Kostelnik, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Dean
Gina Kunz, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Margaret Latta, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education
Robert Larzelere, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Psychology
Li-Wen Lin, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences
Chris Marvin, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Special Education
Merilee McCurdy, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Tom McGowan, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education
Julia McQuillan, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Sociology
Jim O'Hanlon, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education
Reece Peterson, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Special Education

Jodi Polaha, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Munroe-Meyer Institute
Marcela Raffaelli, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology
Michelle Rupiper, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family and Consumer Sciences
G. Bradley Schaefer, M.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Munroe-Meyer Institute
Michael Scheel, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Marilyn Scheffler, Ed.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Special Education
Susan Sheridan, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Mark D. Shriver, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Munroe-Meyer Institute
Kaye Stanek-Krogstrand, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Nutrition & Health Sciences
Rosalie Torres Stone, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Sociology
Elizabeth Suter, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Communications Studies
Susan Swearer, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Educational Psychology
Lauree Tilton-Weaver, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Psychology; University of Nebraska-Omaha
Julia Torquati, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences



Guy Trainin, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education
Kimberly Tyler, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Sociology
Rachel J. Valleley, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Munroe-Meyer Institute
Les Whitbeck, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Sociology
Brian Wilcox, Ph.D.	College of Arts & Sciences; Center for Children, Families, and the Law
Susan M. Wilczynski, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska Medical Center; Munroe-Meyer Institute
Kathy Wilson, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education
Yan (Ruth) Xia, Ph.D.	College of Education & Human Sciences; Family & Consumer Sciences

2004 RECIPIENTS OF MONETARY AWARDS FOR FEDERAL GRANT SUBMISSIONS

- ◆ **Kathy Bosch, Ph.D.**, UNL Extension Program
- ◆ **Edward Daly, Ph.D.**, UNL Department of Educational Psychology
- ◆ **Merilee McCurdy, Ph.D.**, UNL Department of Educational Psychology
- ◆ **Kimberly Tyler, Ph.D.**, UNL Department of Sociology
- ◆ **Yan (Ruth) Xia, Ph.D.**, UNL Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Faculty affiliates who submit federal grant proposals through the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools in the amount of at least \$200,000 receive a \$1,000 award to support professional research and scholarly activities.

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT: Thematic Areas of Research Strength

- Early Childhood Education and Intervention
- Academic Interventions and Learning
- Youth Risk Factors and Behaviors
- Child and Youth Health Promotion

WHAT WE DO: Research Specialties of the Faculty Affiliates

- ◆ Academic Interventions and Reading
- ◆ Adolescent Risk-Taking Behaviors and Outcomes
- ◆ Adults
- ◆ Bullying and School Violence
- ◆ Culturally Relevant Social, Educational and Familial Topics
- ◆ Dual-Language Programming and Outcomes
- ◆ Early Childhood Development, Early Literacy and Play Skills
- ◆ Families and Step-Families
- ◆ Homeless and Runaway Youth
- ◆ Immigrant and Migrant Families
- ◆ Mental Health
- ◆ Social Development in Children/Adolescents
- ◆ School-Family Connections
- ◆ School Environment
- ◆ Teacher Preparation and Professional Development

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES BY OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1:

PROVIDE SUPPORT AND BUILD CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

The capacity of UNL faculty to compete broadly and successfully for extramural funding will be strengthened to the extent that faculty affiliates are supported in their efforts. The Center on CYFS assists faculty in grant writing and proposal development in numerous ways.

Scout grants and inform faculty affiliates of federal and foundation funding opportunities:

- Research federal agencies for the latest grant announcements
- Research foundation funding opportunities for priorities and funding opportunities
- Ensure faculty affiliates receive the most up-to-date information

Summarize federal grant announcements and foundation funding opportunities:

- One hundred twenty federal grant announcements summarized and categorized by Center thematic strengths
- Thirty foundation funding opportunities summarized and categorized by Center thematic strengths
- E-mail notifications of all federal and foundation funding opportunities, specific to research interests, sent to faculty affiliates

OBJECTIVE 1, CONTINUED

Maintain grant library:

- Electronic and hard-copy files kept of all grant announcements and summaries
- Previously funded grants archived and available to faculty affiliates as sample proposals
- Additional information provided on specific types of grants and federal initiatives

Provide supporting information to assist with development of grant proposals:

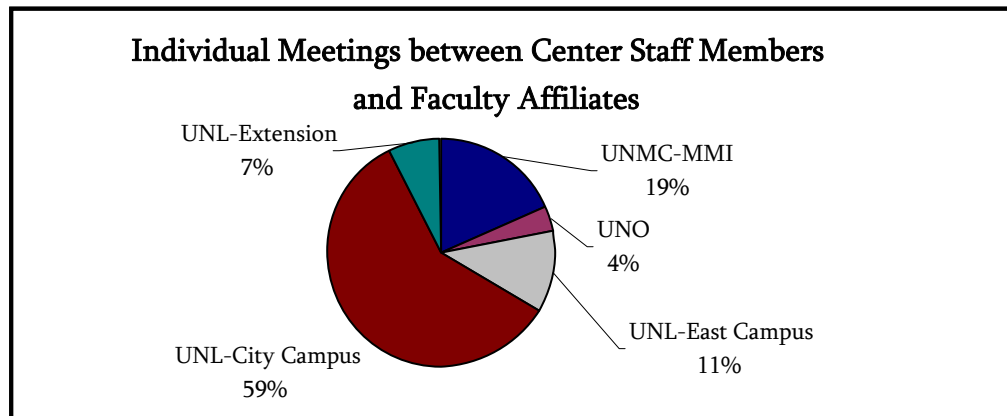
- Useful statistical information and needs data researched and stored in Center library
- Monthly e-mails of needs data that support grant proposals disseminated to faculty affiliates via listserv

**OBJECTIVE 2:
CONCEPTUALIZE, DEVELOP, SUBMIT AND SECURE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH
GRANTS**

UNL's ability to make significant strides in important research on children, youth, families and schools rests in large part on the external grants secured by its teams of interdisciplinary researchers. The Center staff is active in assisting faculty affiliates to conceptualize, generate, submit and secure competitive research grants.

- Meet with faculty affiliates to discuss their research ideas
- Help identify funding sources for faculty research projects

Since October 2003, Center staff members have met individually with 27 faculty affiliates to discuss their research ideas and grant proposals. Twenty-eight distinct projects were discussed during these meetings. Of the 28 projects discussed, 7 are currently in submission for grant funding and 9 are in progress.



- Assist with budget development:
 - Help faculty affiliates develop budget items and calculate costs
 - Assist in completing budget forms
 - Coordinate efforts with the Office of Sponsored Programs
- Assist with grant writing and assemble proposals:
 - Receive, review and edit sections of grant narratives
 - Compile final documents and make copies for submission to the funding agency

OBJECTIVE 2, CONTINUED

Some large-scale federal grants were funded in 2003. In addition, numerous federal, foundation and local grants were submitted, with several more in progress.

- Three grants **awarded** totaling **\$6,561,727**
- Ten grants **in submission** totaling **\$4,760,580**
- Nine grants **in progress** totaling **\$9,135,000**

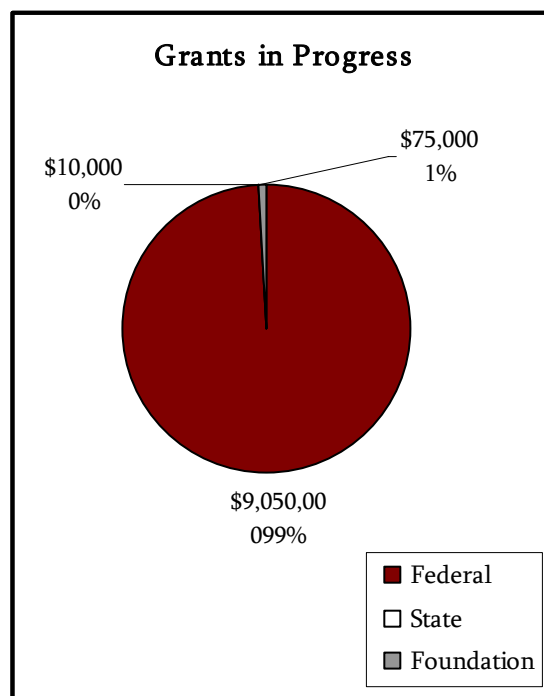
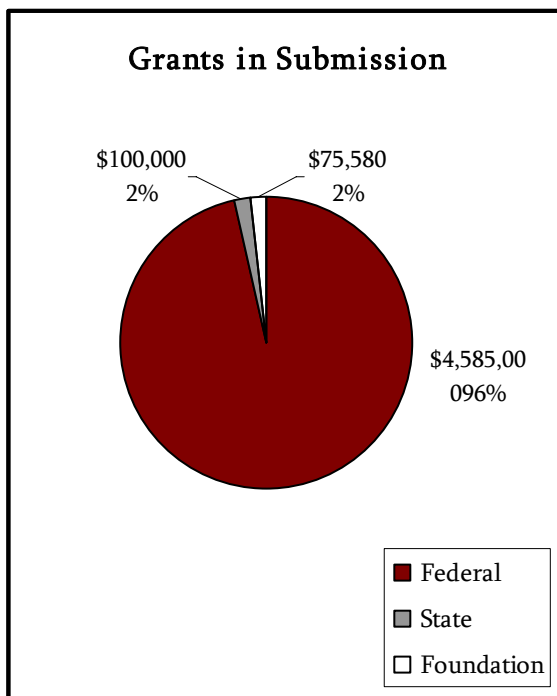
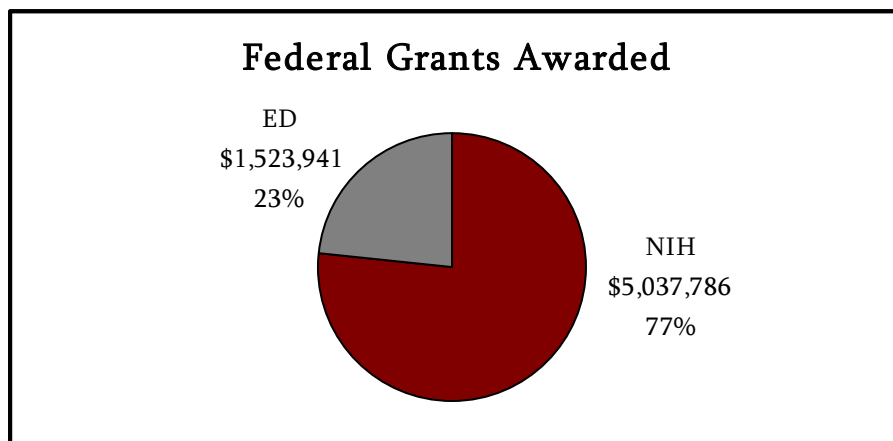


Table 2a: Grants Awarded

PIs (Faculty Affiliates)	Agency	Grant Title	\$ Amount	Award Date
Susan Sheridan, Carolyn Pope Edwards	NIH/NICHHD	Parent Engagement and Child Learning Birth to 5	\$5,037,786 total for 5 years	9/26/2003
Susan Sheridan	Dept of Ed/OSEP	Leadership Specialization in Home-School Consultation & Support for Students with SED	\$723,941 total for 5 years	9/1/1999
Susan Sheridan, Cynthia Ellis	Dept of Ed/OSEP	Leadership Training in Interdisciplinary Collaboration	\$800K total for 4 years	9/1/2003
TOTAL			\$6,561,727	

Parent Engagement and Child Learning Birth to Five:

This project is a five-year, longitudinal study of early development and learning to support school readiness in young children at risk. The focus of the project is on strengthening relationships in children's lives, including relationships between parents and their young children, and parents and their children's caregivers and educators. The project will investigate the effects of a comprehensive (child- and parent-focused), strengths-based intervention on child outcomes, as well as on parent engagement behaviors, across the birth to five spectrum. Partnerships with Lincoln Public Schools, Blue Valley Community Action Program, and Central Nebraska Community Services are essential to the implementation of this project.

Leadership Training in Interdisciplinary Collaboration:

This project represents a partnership between the School Psychology program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Munroe-Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Through the project, graduate students are trained as leaders in interdisciplinary collaboration across medical, educational, and family systems. The project merges two empirically supported models (conjoint behavioral consultation and interdisciplinary leadership) as a means to support students with disabilities, their families, and their teachers.

Leadership Specialization in Home-School Consultation:

The leadership specialization assists graduate students develop skills and competencies to promote active, meaningful partnerships between families and educators through an evidence-based consultation model. Students engage in conjoint behavioral consultation activities, research, and other scholarly activities as part of this project.



Table 2b: Grants in Submission

PIs (Faculty Affiliates)	Agency	Grant Title	\$ Amount	Submission Date
Yan Xia, Kathy Bosch, Gina Kunz, Susan Sheridan	CDC	Risk and Resiliency for Adolescents and Dating Perpetration	\$300K per year for 3 years	2/18/2004
Jodi Polaha, Sue Sheridan, Gina Kunz, Rachel Valleley, Joe Evans	UNL-UNMC Collaboration Grant	Portability of Evidence Based Practices for Pediatric Behavioral Health in Primary Care: An Interdisciplinary Model for Rural Communities	\$50K	2/22/2004
Rachel Valleley, Gina Kunz	Watt Foundation	Watt Proposal	\$40,840	3/12/2004
Kim Tyler	NIH/NIDA	Pathways into HIV Risk Behavior among High-Risk Youth	\$275K total over 2 years	3/16/2004
Deborah Carlson, Gina Kunz, Richard Levy, David Harwood	UNL Seed Grant (Learning and Teaching Seed Grant Program)	Development and Evaluation of Innovative Teaching and Learning Models that Prepare, Support, and Sustain K-12 Science Educators	\$10K	3/22/2004
Susan Sheridan	APA/IES	Post-doctoral Education Research Training (PERT)	\$55K per year for 2 years	3/22/2004
Susan Wilczynski	NIH/NIDCD	Director's Pioneer Award	\$500K per year for 5 years	3/29/2004
Edward Daly, Merilee McCurdy, Susan Sheridan, Gina Kunz	Dept of Ed/ OSEP	School Psychology Leadership Specialization in Response-to-Intervention Research and Systems Change	\$200K per year for 4 years	4/9/2004
Yan (Ruth) Xia	ARD (Agricultural Research Division)	Risk and Protective Factors for Dating Violence Perpetration Among Youth: A Pilot Study	\$20K per year for 2 years	4/16/2004
Beth Doll	Spencer Foundation	Relations between Learning Contexts and Academic Success	\$34,740	5/5/2004
TOTAL			\$4,760,580	

Table 2c: Grants in Progress

PIs (Faculty Affiliates)	Agency	Grant Title	\$ Amount	Submission Date
Richard Bischoff, Craig Smith, John DeFrain	DHHS/ACF	Healthy Marriage Resource Center	\$900K per year for 5 years	6/14/2004
Susan Wilczynski	NIH-NIMH	Increasing Skill Acquisition, Generalization, and Motivation in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder	\$275K total over 2 years	6/1/2004
Susan Wilczynski	NIH-NIDCD	Increasing Verbal Communication Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders	\$275K total over 2 years	11/15/2004
Deborah Carlson, Gina Kunz, Richard Levy, David Harwood	UNL Research Cluster Planning Grants	Interdisciplinary Research Planning Team: Enhancing K-12 Science Education	\$5K (one year)	5/28/2004
Deborah Carlson, Gina Kunz, Richard Levy, David Harwood	Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)	Redesign of K-12 Science Education in Rural Nebraska	\$5K (one year)	5/8/2004
Deborah Carlson, Gina Kunz, Richard Levy	NSF-TPC	Enhancing K-12 Science Education through a Model Professional Development Research Experience in the Antarctic	\$300K per year for 5 years	9/10/2004
Deborah Carlson & Gina Kunz	Dept of Ed/Transition to Teaching	Transforming In-Service and Pre-Service Reading Education Proficiency in Rural Nebraska for Middle School Students	\$2 million total for 5 years	Summer 2004
Margaret Latta	Ford Foundation	Defraying Costs Associated with Graduate Courses for Students in Education for Diversity	\$75K	Revolving
Jodi Polaha	NIH/NIMH: K23 Award	Rural Tele-Health & Transportability of Evidence-based Programs	\$100K per year for 5 years	10/1/2004
TOTAL			\$9,135,000	

**OBJECTIVE 3:
FOSTER INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH**

The collective strength of the Nebraska Center for Research on CYFS is found in its interdisciplinary, collaborative endeavors in research and scholarship. Thus, an integral function and central objective of the Center is to bring together faculty from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to address broad and far-reaching issues through joint, collaborative research partnerships.

- ❖ Opportunities for networking occur in part through Center-sponsored research luncheons.

Luncheons for Faculty Affiliates			
Thematic Area of Research	Date	Number of Faculty Affiliates	Number of CYFS Staff
Academic Interventions and Learning	11/21/2003	11	4
Youth Risk Factors and Behaviors	1/30/2004	19	5
Early Childhood and Health Promotion	4/16/2004	15	5

- ❖ Faculty share expertise around a number of specialty areas, increasing the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration. **Table 3** identifies the research specialties of the faculty affiliates and areas of overlap.

OBJECTIVE 4:**PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION WITH NATIONAL RESEARCHERS**

Reaching out to scholars nationally and internationally is an important feature of the Center's work, which includes increasing dialogue with prominent researchers in the areas of children, youth, families and schools. Likewise, increasing the opportunity for Center faculty and students to interact with top researchers is essential in staying abreast and keeping UNL at the center of important research dialogues. The Center provides opportunities for interaction with national researchers through its series of "Spotlights on Research," held throughout the year.

SPOTLIGHTS ON RESEARCH				
Title	Date	Presenter	Affiliation	Format
Real boys and young men: Hearing their voices, understanding their pain, healing their disconnection- From bystanders to change agents, from violence to empathy, from research and theory to policy	3/7/05	Dr. William S. Pollack	Centers for Men and Young Men/McLean Hospital/ Harvard Medical School	Individual Presentation
Preventing bullying among children and youth: How can research advise our efforts in a post-Columbine Era?	3/21/05	Dr. Susan P. Limber	Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life/ Clemson University	Individual Presentation
Bullying and aggression in schools and families: What works, what doesn't work	4/25/05	Dr. Andy Horne	University of Georgia	Individual Presentation

Research and Practice on RTI	4/15/05	Dr. Sharon Vaughn	Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts /The University of Texas in Austin.	
Childhood aggression and gender: Boys will be boys, but what about girls?	5/16/05	Dr. Nicki R. Crick	Institute of Child Development/ University of Minnesota	Individual Presentation

OBJECTIVE 5:

INCREASE VISIBILITY OF THE CENTER AND CENTER FACULTY

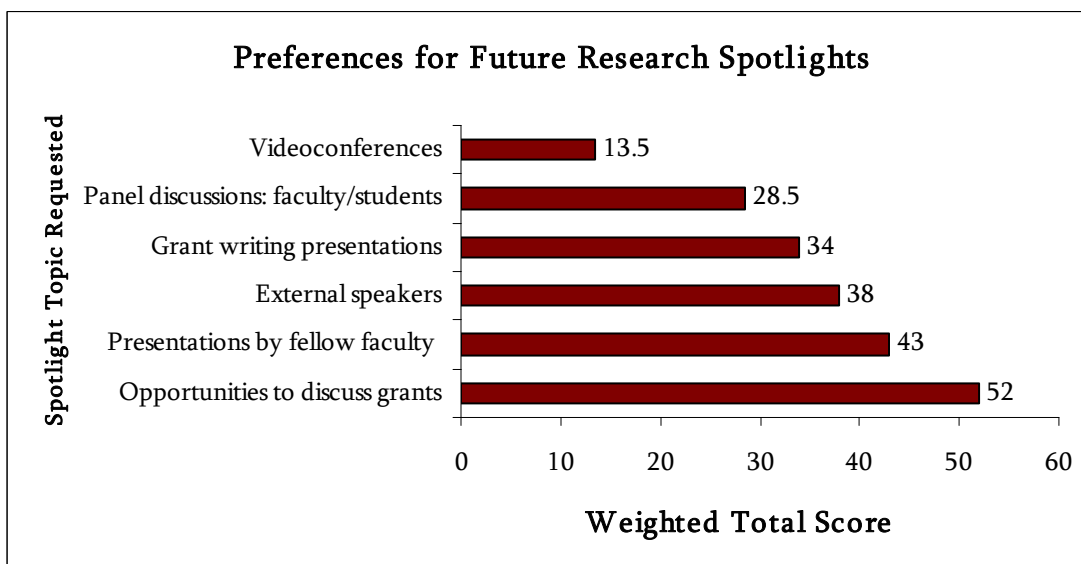
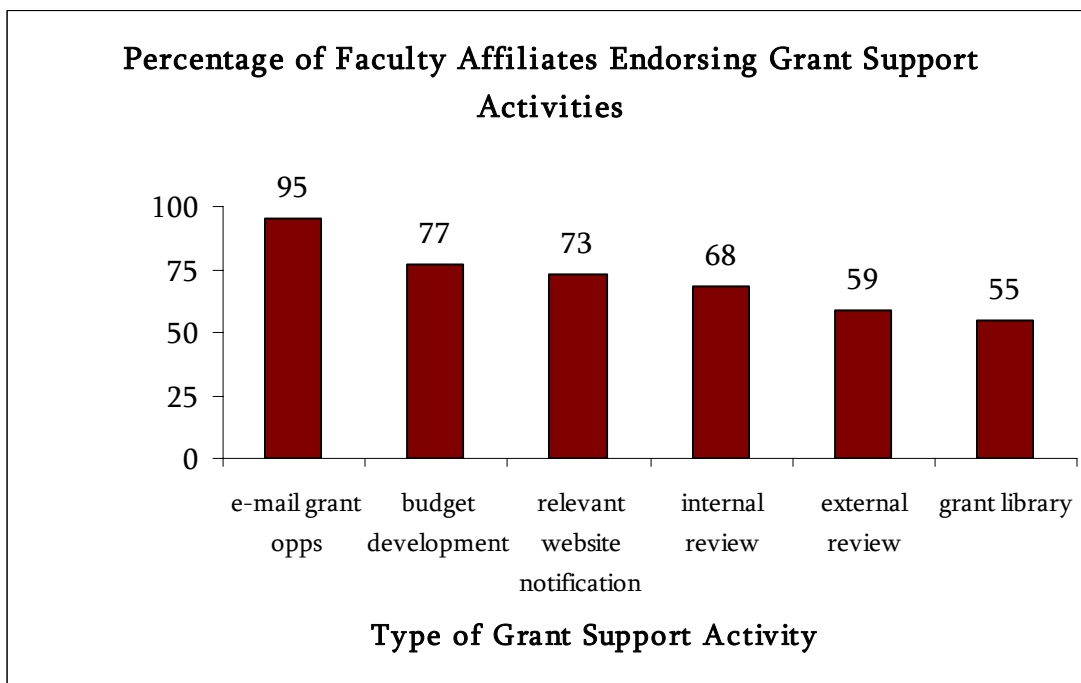
The recognition of UNL as a premier research institution in children, youth, families and schools requires increased visibility and outreach to national and international audiences. Thus, an important objective of the Center on CYFS is the assurance of opportunities to increase visibility of faculty affiliates and their projects.

- Website in progress (<http://cyfs.unl.edu>)
- Research Digests
 - Recent faculty affiliate publications summarized
 - Distributed to faculty based on research interests
- Local Outreach/Panel Presentations
 - Center Open House: April 6, 2005
 - Co-sponsorship of Sharon Vaughn (national expert on Reading Interventions) lecture with Lincoln Public Schools: April 15, 2005
 - Co-sponsorship of the Youth Violence and Aggression in Families, Schools, and Communities: Research and Policy Implications with the Center for Children, Families, and the Law : Spring 2005
- Community Outreach/Presentations
- National Outreach/Presentations
 -

OBJECTIVE 6:

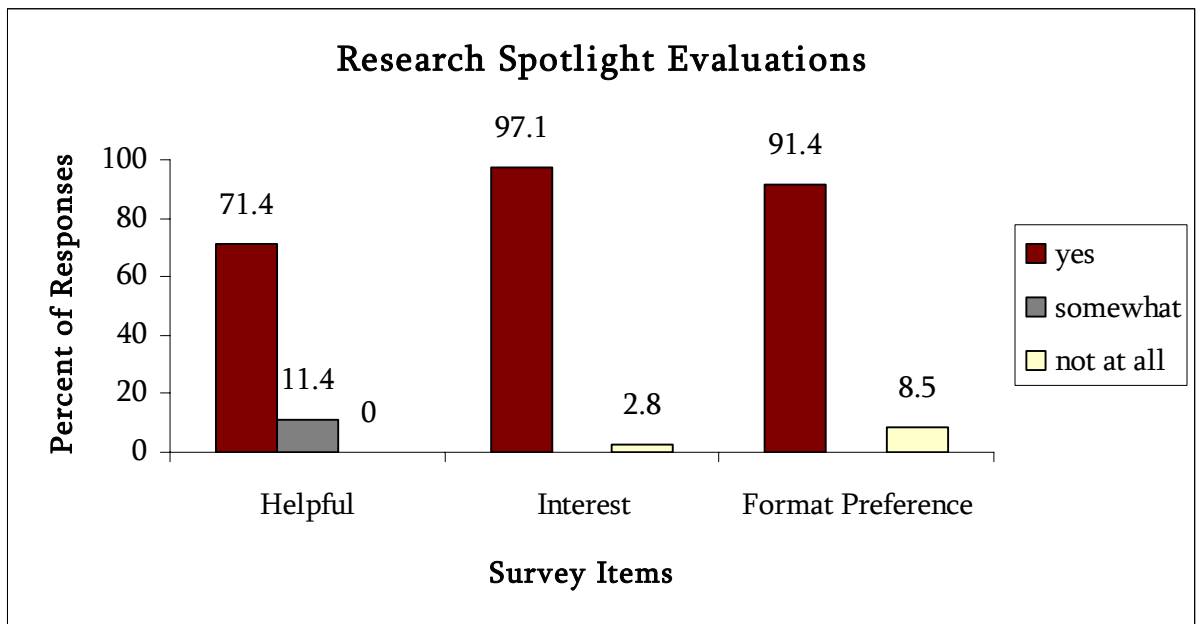
ENSURE CENTER SUPPORTS ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF FACULTY

To ensure that the Center is responsive to the needs of faculty affiliates, input and feedback is solicited at various times throughout the year. Information about support activities and research presentations is collected.



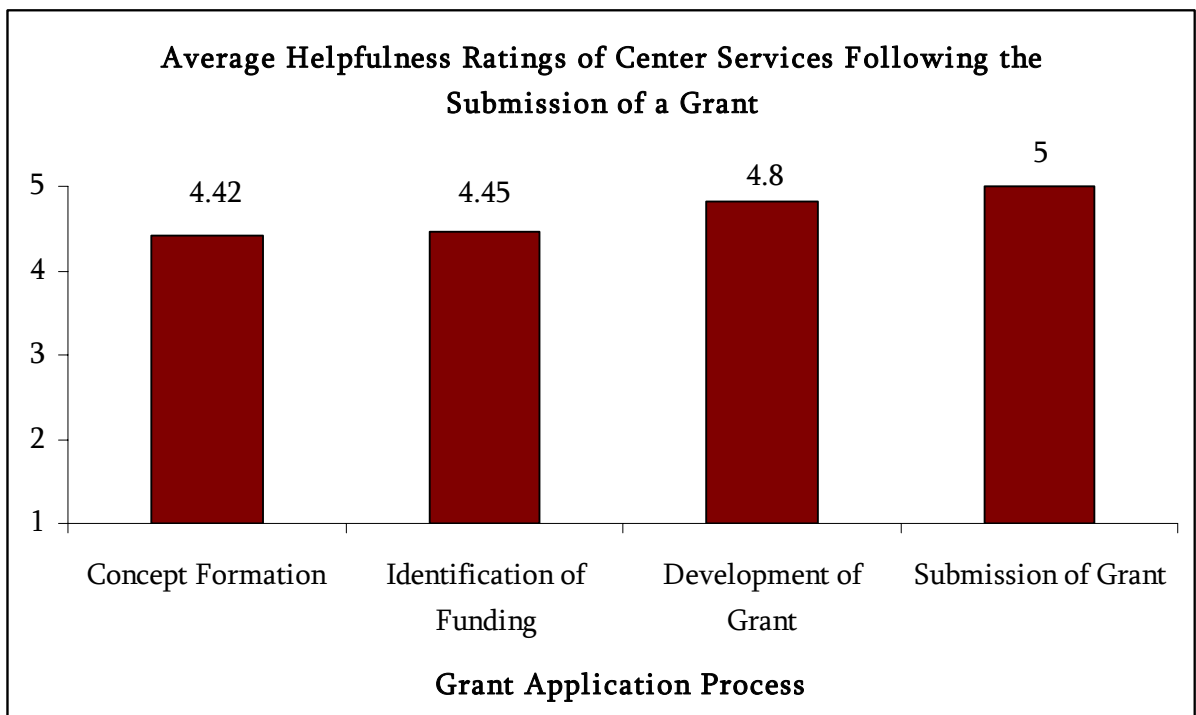
OBJECTIVE 6, CONTINUED

Participants attending the research spotlights complete brief evaluation surveys. Information regarding helpfulness, interest, and preference is collected.



OBJECTIVE 6, CONTINUED

Information is collected from faculty affiliates who submit grants through the Center. Perceptions of their experience and the usefulness of Center support services are solicited.



94% of the faculty affiliates indicated that “I had such a positive experience in working with the Center, I would work with them again in future grant submissions.”

44% of the faculty affiliates indicated that “I was pleased that I submitted the grant through the Center and believe the potential funding of this grant was enhanced due to their assistance.”

None of the faculty affiliates indicated they “did not find the assistance provided by Center staff very helpful in the grant development and/or submission.”

None of the faculty affiliates indicated that they “did not think I will ask for help in the future from the Center Staff when submitting a grant proposal.”