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#### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### New Grants Secured by 4-H CYD

*by Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.*

IN MANY WAYS it seems like the worst of times. The uncertainties of the university budget are frightening. (In fact, this will be the last issue of the *Update* and *Research You May Have Missed* that are printed and mailed; from now on these will be available online to be downloaded.) In striking contrast are signs of continuing optimism for the field of youth development.

In February I attended a national conference on bridging the gap between research and practice in youth development in Tucson, Arizona, where experts in the area of youth programs, practices, policies, and research met to identify

ways to move the field of youth development forward.

More recently I attended a meeting in Washington, DC of a consortium of university-based research centers on youth development. We met with leaders at the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, National 4-H Council, the National Collaboration for Youth, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Everyone we spoke with wants to know how to bring research on youth development to the forefront in federal agencies and policy. While in Washington, DC I attended the

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#### ENGAGING YOUTH, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

### 4-H CYD To Participate in National 4-H Project

*by Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.*

THE 2003 FARM BILL set aside funds for projects to reach out to rural youth. The National 4-H Council is providing leadership for the project, which is called Engaging Youth, Strengthening Communities (EYSC). The 4-H CYD has been awarded a contract to conduct the program evaluations for the Western region. The national evaluation team is led by the University of Arizona, and includes representatives from each other region, including North Carolina State University, the Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Minnesota/Purdue University (jointly for the North Central region).

State/local projects focus in three areas: youth in governance, 4-H after-

school, and professional and volunteer development. The evaluation goals are to document the broad reach of EYSC programs, to document potential impact in each of the three program areas, and to document the challenges and effective strategies when conducting this type of national evaluation.

The national evaluation team is currently working on measures to be used in an online program evaluation system. Our role at the 4-H CYD will be to work with the Western states and the local projects in those states to facilitate the collection of evaluation data. Stephen Russell, Katherine Heck, and Stacey Doan will devote their energies to this project. ■

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES *(continued from page 1)*

inaugural William T. Grant Foundation Youth Development Prize at the National Academy of Sciences. Leaders from the practice, policy, and research fields gathered to honor a remarkable collaboration that has created meaningful change in the lives of young people – the University-Assisted Community School Program in Philadelphia.

Each of these was a first: the first national conference that intentionally brought research, policy, and practice to the same place to talk about the field; the first meeting of the consortium of research centers on youth development; and the first William T. Grant Foundation Youth Development Prize. The conversations were big – about big policy change, and big collaborations to bring resources to bear on the pressing issues in the field of youth development. I came away from each amazed at the commitment and momentum at the local, state, and federal

levels for applying research on youth development to the contemporary needs of youth, families, and communities.

And there is more good news, particularly given the university budget. In the last month we have secured **three new grants** at the 4-H CYD; each is described in this *Update*. So, these are difficult times – and yet the field of youth development offers more possibilities than ever.



Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.,  
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## 4-H Center for Youth Development

"The 4-H Center for Youth Development fosters collaborations in research and evaluation among UC Cooperative Extension professionals and UC campus-based scientists that deepen our understanding of youth development in the contexts of family and community."

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## 4 - H C Y D I N A C T I O N !

### IN PERSON

In March, **Marc Braverman** presented a short course to DANR personnel, entitled "Surveys, Tests, and Questionnaires," at the UC Davis campus. The three-day workshop provided an overview of all phases of the survey research process including conceptualization, instrument development, data collection, and data analysis and interpretation. There were 27 course participants, including 4-H Youth Development Advisors, Farm Advisors, County Directors, CE Specialists, and campus-based researchers. **Marc will present a one-day version of this course in Sonoma County on Thursday, May 8.**



In March **Ramona Carlos** met with the 4-H State Ambassadors to assist them with their research project, a survey of older members. Ramona discussed guidelines for and approaches to analyzing their data and also made suggestions on how to present their findings. The Ambassadors will present their project at the Youth Leadership Summit in August.

### ON THE ROAD

In March **Stephen Russell** presented "Linking youth development and sexual health" and "Sexual health of LGBT youth" at the Nebraska Department of Health statewide conference.



In April **Stephen Russell** and **Anna Muraco** presented "Religion, Mental Health, and Sexual Minority Youth" at the Pacific Sociological Association annual meeting in Pasadena.

### ***Mind the Gap: Bridge Methods to Allocate Multiple-Race Mothers***

#### ***in Trend Analyses of Birth Certificate Data,***

written by Katherine E. Heck, M.P.H., Jennifer D. Parker, Ph.D., C. Jane McKendry, M.Ed., and Gilberto F. Chavez, M.D., M.P.H. has been published in the *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, Volume 7, No. 1, March 2003. The article can be accessed at <http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/1092-7857/contents>.



# Grant News



## Educational Attainment of Academically Promising Latino Youth

by Anne K. Driscoll, Dr.PH.

THIS PROJECT, funded by the Pew Hispanic Center, explores the educational trajectories of academically promising Latino youth. Latinos, along with African Americans, average lower grades and test scores than whites and Asians. Nevertheless, a significant proportion of Latino youth show early promise in school; for many this achievement occurs despite disadvantaged circumstances. However, Latinos who perform well in school early on are less likely to graduate from high school, attend college and graduate from college than youth of other racial/ethnic backgrounds who show similar promise.

The project uses a data set from the U.S. Department of Education, which followed a cohort of 8<sup>th</sup> graders until they were in their mid-twenties. The analyses will use early academic performance to predict young people's educational outcomes in early adulthood. The first sets of analyses will examine the relationship between respondents' academic performance in the eighth grade in 1988 and their educational attainment in 2000. Further analyses will incorporate changes in academic performance over time, as well as changes in students' expectations and attitudes, and changes in their families and schools. ■

Next-generation CYFAR grant funded for California

## New Communities Projects Funded . . . .

by Marc T. Braverman, Ph.D.

OK...Get set for a lot of acronyms. . . . We have received word from USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) that they have approved funding for our proposal for a New Communities Project (NCP), set to begin in May 2003. The NCPs are the next phase of program funding from the Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Initiative. As with the state's previous CYFAR grant, this project will entail a statewide office, based at the 4-H CYD, and three community programs. The connecting theme of the community projects is *healthy lifestyles for youth*. Primary statewide staff will be Project Director Marc Braverman, Project Evaluator Robyn Caruso, and Technology Specialist Eve Bessier. *OK, Acronyms Completed [AC], Back to Normal Text [NT]*.

The community projects will be the following:

### ☞Teens 4 Teens: Teen Peer Health Education Program.

*Alameda County, Charles Go, Community Site Director.* In South Hayward, the Tennyson High School's School-Based Health Center

will work with high school age teens to develop and deliver a teen-driven peer health education program integrated into the school through a health elective class. The program will include topics in both physical and mental health. Key site staff are Yvette Leung from the Alameda County School-Based Health Center Coalition and Barbara Loza-Murieta from the Interagency Child Policy Council.

### ☞4-H Bloco Drum and Dance

**Program.** *Sonoma County, Evelyn Conklin-Ginop, Community Site Director.* Located in the city of Windsor, this project will involve middle and high school youth in creative dance and rhythm activities, with the aims of improving their health awareness and behavior through sustained physical activity, promoting healthy eating habits, and building appreciation of diverse nationalities and ethnic backgrounds through a shared love of music, dance, and rhythm. The drum and dance activities are vibrantly multi-cultural and include Brazilian, African, Cuban, and

Caribbean influences. The youth will acquire experience in public performance through participation in San Francisco's Carnivale and other events. The project's community partner is Dennis Boné of Windsor Middle School.

### ☞HRN Youth Center Project.

*Trinity County, Gail Goodyear, Community Site Director.* This project will promote the effectiveness of community-based Human Resource Network Youth Centers in the towns of Weaverville and Hayfork. The project aims to improve life skills and reduce environmental risk factors among participating youth, and will address a variety of areas including nutrition, job skills, managing money, and entrepreneurship. Numerous community agencies are collaborating on the project including Health & Human Services, the Resource Conservation and Development District, and others. The primary community partner is Jerry Cousins from the Weaverville Youth Center.

(continued on back page)



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES →

**2003 (CYFAR) Conference • Children, Youth and Families at Risk**  
May 14-16, 2003 • Minneapolis, Minnesota  
<http://www.reesda.gov/4h/cyfar/CYFAR2003/announcement.htm>

**5<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Fatherhood • National Fatherhood Initiative**  
June 11-13, 2003 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
<http://www.fatherhood.org/summit03home.htm>

**American Psychological Association • Annual Convention**  
August 7-10, 2003 • Toronto, Canada  
<http://www.apa.org/conf.html>

**American Sociological Association • 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
August 16-19, 2003 • Atlanta, Georgia  
<http://www.asanet.org/convention/2003/>

**2003 Galaxy II Conference • National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) • Exceeding Expectations Through Teamwork**  
September 21-25, 2003 • Salt Lake City, Utah  
<http://www.nae4ha.org/nconfs.htm>

**National Society for Experiential Learning • 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**  
October 15-18, 2003 • Minneapolis, Minnesota  
<http://www.nsee.org/>

**Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth Conference • Search Institute**  
October 23-25, 2003 • San Jose, California  
<http://www.search-institute.org/hchy/>

**National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention, Inc. • (NOAPPP) 2003 Annual Conference**  
November 10-13, 2003 • Arlington, Virginia  
<http://www.noapppp.org/services/resources/calendarofevents.htm>

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual AEE Conference • Association for Experiential Education**  
November 13-16, 2003 • Vancouver, British Columbia  
<http://www.aee.org/conferences/2003intlconf.htm>

**National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) • 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
November 19-22, 2003 • Vancouver, British Columbia  
[http://www.ncfr.org/conference\\_info/index.asp](http://www.ncfr.org/conference_info/index.asp)

**Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) Biennial Meeting**  
March 11-14, 2004 • Baltimore, Maryland  
<http://www.s-r-a.org/meeting.html>

## New Communities Projects *(Continued)*

These three community projects were selected in August through an open call process. In summer 2002 the 4-H CYD issued a Request for Applications that sought community projects that could potentially be included in the state's grant proposal to CSREES. Seven proposals were received and a statewide ad hoc committee of UCCE personnel selected the above three projects for inclusion in the proposal.

The NCP project will be funded for five years at \$150,000 per year, contingent on renewal each year. Of that yearly total, \$100,000 will go directly toward the community projects and \$50,000 will be used by the statewide project team for overall coordination, evaluation planning, and other activities.

The overall intent of the grant project is to develop new and effective approaches to community programs which can enhance our capacity to serve children and families throughout California. We are looking forward to these new program challenges and opportunities! ■

## SIECUS TO HIGHLIGHT SUCCESSFUL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SEXUALITY PROGRAMS

- The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) is developing a companion publication to their Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, K-12th Grade, designed to help youth development professionals infuse sexuality education into their programs.
- SIECUS aims to highlight successful youth development programs across the country that address sexuality related issues and topics and would like to include creative approaches from programs such as sports, mentoring, arts, after-school, and drop-in centers.
- If you know of any, please e-mail School Health Coordinator Kate McCarthy at [kmccarthy@siecus.org](mailto:kmccarthy@siecus.org) or call 212/819-9770, extension 304.
- Please provide general descriptions as well as overall goals, specific strategies, and implementation challenges.



## update

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