INFORMATION ITEM:
The UNCG Child and Family Research Network (CFRN) CFRN@UNCG.EDU, http://cfrn.uncg.edu

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
The Child and Family Research Network (CFRN) is a new, faculty-driven UNCG initiative designed to capitalize on the strengths of faculty whose scholarship and teaching reflects a core concern for the welfare of children and families. UNCG has a number of faculty with locally, regionally, and nationally supported scholarly and teaching activities related to the study of children and families. The goals of the Network are to (1) serve as a clearinghouse for information and resources that will facilitate faculty research and teaching; (2) leverage UNCG’s existing strengths to facilitate collaboration among individuals at UNCG and within the community who are interested in children and families, and (3) enhance scholarship, teaching, and service within the local, regional, national and international community, establishing UNCG as a leader in the area of child and family research.

CFRN’s short-term initiatives are designed to encourage faculty participation by familiarizing faculty with the range of expertise, scholarly activities, and resources that are available on campus. The initiatives underway include the establishment of:

A. Campus Database that provides readily accessible information on faculty expertise, grant funding, and community access to special populations.

B. Campus Newsletter that will inform the community about relevant courses, speakers’ series, workshops, funding initiatives, and resources to support scholarship.

C. Monthly lunch series devoted to select topics that will help faculty problem solve and broaden their perspectives on issue related to the study of children and families.

D. Web page and listserv that will provide ongoing information about local, regional, and national activities related to the study of children and families.

E. Community liaisons, who will facilitate UNCG relationships within the community, particularly to streamline research activities that involve access to community populations.

F. Workshops that provide training opportunities to local faculty, but that will ultimately place UNCG at the center of scholarly training in the area of children and families.

G. Annual Campus/Community Event that will feature a national figure in the area of child and family welfare to highlight the scholarly issues that are the focus of UNCG research.

CFRN’s long-term initiatives will be designed both to raise the level of UNCG’s visibility in the area of child and family research and to provide a unique niche for UNCG that will capitalize on our strengths in this area, making the University very competitive for external funding.

David H. Perrin
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs