Now in its third year of operation, the Center for Family and Community Engagement has built solid networks with youth, family, community, government, academic, and international partners. These partnerships make it possible to move forward the center’s mission.

Our mission is to advance safe, healthy, and productive families and communities

To achieve this mission, the center seeks to widen the circle of supports around families and communities. Four pathways for widening the circle are cultural safety, family leadership, community partnerships, and inclusive planning. These pathways are based on research conducted in North Carolina (Pennell, 2004, 2006) and serve as principles guiding our work.

Cultural safety means that people tap into their own values, experiences, and traditions to resolve issues. When families are safe in expressing their culture, they can assume leadership with the support and protections of involved agencies to make decisions about their own affairs. When families are pivotal to planning, they can work in partnership with others who bring their specific roles and resources to realizing common goals. This makes for an inclusive planning process.

In keeping with our mission, the center this year ensured that we took the following action steps:
- Our training team included youth and family partners and practitioners.
- Our curricula incorporated the voices of youth, family, and practitioners.
- Our technical assistance and learning supports responded to emerging issues in the field.
- Our evaluation and research sought out diverse perspectives in assessing programs and their impacts.
- Our publications and presentations disseminated our findings to varied audiences from youth to families to practitioners to researchers.
Our advisory council, referred to as the “Networking Alliance,” was composed of members from youth and family advocacy groups, community organizations, government agencies, and universities. Our state, national, and international partnerships linked us to global efforts to democratize decision making.

The center supports the university’s mission as set forth in its drafted strategic plan. In particular, the center contributes to “the creation and application of knowledge,” “engagement with public and private partners,” and an “integrated approach to problem solving [that] transforms lives and provides leadership for social, economic, and technological development within the state, the nation, and the world.”

### Major Accomplishments of Center in 2010-2011

- In-state Training and Technical Assistance: 57 scheduled training workshops, 30 technical assistance and learning support sessions, 8 in-person facilitator forums, 8 online facilitator forums, and 5 online policy and good practice events for a total of 108 events; 685 training workshop participants, 205 technical assistance and learning support participants, 48 online facilitator forum participants, 19 online policy and good practice participants, and 138 in person facilitator forum participants for a total of 1,095 training participants. (estimated to end of year)
- Student Involvement: 2 advisory council members, 3 trainers, 47 training participants, 2 MSW interns, 5 students providing research assistance, and 5 communications/filming students, for a total of 64 students.
- Dissemination: 12 publications, 7 peer-reviewed and 5 non-refereed; 11 presentations/workshops, 6 national/international and 5 local/state.
- Awards: $603,822, of this $580,810 external and $23,012 internal
- Task Orders: $19,608.
- Community Engagement: 16 by staff and faculty.
- University and Professional Service: 19 by staff and faculty.

The Networking Alliance was comprised of 17 Advisory Council members, 9 affiliates, 2 MSW interns, and all 12 Center team members. The council members represented family and youth partners, public and nonprofit agencies, legal advocates, and universities. The affiliates provided for flexibility in rounding out cultural, community, and university perspectives as demanded by emerging issues in the community and the work of center.

The center offered high-impact learning opportunities for students. These opportunities included internships, research assistance, proposal development, brochure design, film production, and participating in training sessions with seasoned professionals. Students repeatedly stated how much they learned from these real-world opportunities, preparing them for their chosen careers.
Awards Granted

External

2010-2011, J. Pennell, Principal Investigator and Project Director, North Carolina Family-Centered Meetings Project, funded by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, prime US Department of Health & Human Services, contract of $544,084.

2010-2011, J. Pennell, Principal Investigator and Project Director, Outcome Evaluation of Strong Fathers Program, subcontract from Family Services Inc., Forsyth County, NC, funded by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, prime U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, contract of $36,726.

Internal Included

2010-2011, J. Pennell Principal Investigator and Project Director, CenterPeace for Youth, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University, grant of $16,119.

Donation

Anonymous donor, CenterPeace for Youth, $700.

Publications

Refereed

Articles


Chapters


Non-refereed

Monograph


Reports


**Presentations and Workshops**

### National or International Forums

**Presenter**


### State, Provincial, or Local Forums

**Presenter**


## Community Engagement


Allen-Eckard, K. - North Carolina Tribal Collaboration Planning Workgroup through the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues and the National Resource Center for Tribes.

Allen-Eckard, K., & Meadows, E. (co-chairs), Gasman, S., & Latz, M. - Family and Agency Collaborative Training Team (FACTT).

Kearney, C. - Commission on Children with Special Health Care Needs.


King, J. - Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Regional Task Force.


Pennell, J. - Advisory Council for National Center on Family Group Decision Making, Children’s Division of the American Humane Association, Englewood, CO.