



FORGING CONNECTIONS AMONG EDUCATION & HEALTH PROVIDERS

RACHAEL D. GOODMAN, PH.D., LPC, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Rachael D. Goodman, Ph.D., LPC, is an Associate Professor in the Counseling and Development Program at George Mason University. Dr. Goodman focuses on trauma counseling from an ecosystemic, social justice-focused lens. She is interested in the ways in which marginalized individuals, families, and communities are impacted by ecosystemic traumas, such as discrimination, institutionalized oppression, and intergenerational trauma. Her work focuses on understanding the unique ways in which marginalized communities persist within difficult and unjust conditions, and how practitioners can develop interventions that create resilience-fostering environments. Along with her university and community partners, Dr. Goodman utilizes Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) methods to critically co-investigate the needs of underserved communities, while also developing collaborative, culturally responsive interventions. Her recent projects focus on immigrant women and families, including undocumented Central American immigrants and refugees/asylees in the DC-area. Dr. Goodman's previous community-engaged work has included leading counseling outreach projects with communities experiencing acute and/or ongoing traumas and social injustice, including the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, post-Katrina New Orleans, and South Africa. She served as the editor for a special issue on Trauma Counseling and Interventions for the *Journal of Mental Health Counseling* and was the co-editor and author of the book *Decolonizing "Multicultural" Counseling through Social Justice* (Springer, 2014). She also conducts research on how mindfulness practices may be used for trauma counseling as well as counselor training that can facilitate the development of empathy and reduction in prejudice and bias.

BETHANY LETIECQ, PH.D., GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Human Development and Family Science program at George Mason University. She received her PhD in health education/family studies and her MS in family and community development from the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Letiecq employs community-based participatory and action research approaches to conduct research in partnership with underserved and under-resourced families to promote culturally-responsive, strengths-based interventions and social justice. She is keenly interested in how social policies facilitate, regulate, or hinder family functioning and health across all families. Currently, she is working with African American, immigrant, refugee, and asylee women to build community-university partnerships and delineate pathways to resilience and wellbeing. Previously, she worked in partnership with Mexican migrants settling in new, non-traditional receiving sites in the Rocky Mountain West to build *Salud y Comunidad—Latinos en Montana*, a community-based organization focused on researching and promoting migrant family health, wellbeing, and justice. With her community partners, she also co-founded the Montana Immigrant Justice Alliance (MIJA.org), a statewide nonprofit working for immigrant rights. Dr. Letiecq teaches courses on family law and public policy; race, class, gender, and family diversity; and relationships and family systems. She serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Family Issues*, is a member of the *Family Relations* editorial board, and has published her research in such professional outlets as *Family Relations*, *Fathering*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, and *Health Education and Behavior*. She is affiliated with the National Council on Family Relations, the American Sociological Association, and the American Public Health Association.

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KRISHNA J. LEYVA, ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Krishna J. Leyva, MSW, was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She completed a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico and a Master's in Social Work at the University of Southern California. Krishna has worked over 15 years with low-income immigrant youth and families in Northern Virginia. She was the founding and award-winning director of an "exemplary" tutoring and mentoring program for immigrant high school students. She is currently working as the Family and Community Engagement Manager for Alexandria City Public Schools. Krishna was appointed to the Board of Psychology and served as a citizen's member for five years. In addition to her work with immigrant families, she is an avid community advocate and has served as an advisory member of many boards and committees. Her passion is to engage families in their children's education and to improve the lives of immigrant families. Her work focus is advocacy, family engagement, and equality.

MARLENE MARQUEZ, AMIGAS DE LA COMUNIDAD

Marlene Marquez, BSW, completed her bachelor's degree in Social Work in 2015 and is currently pursuing her MSW degree from George Mason University. She is also working as a community organizer and research assistant on the Amigas de la Comunidad project, a Community-Based Participatory Research project in partnership with undocumented immigrant families in the DC-metro region. Recently, she was also employed as a family support worker with The Child and Family Network Centers in Alexandria. Her work and interests focus on immigrant families and children. In particular, she has a great interest in family reunification. In the future, she would like to work with immigrant families on the issue of reunification and help to address the many ways in which separation and reunification affect children and parents.

COLLEEN K. VESELY, Ph.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Colleen K. Vesely, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of Early Childhood Education and Human Development and Family Science in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. Her work focuses on the experiences of diverse, marginalized young children and their families. Dr. Vesely's most recent work utilizes a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach to understand low-income immigrant and refugee families' experiences of trauma and resilience, and how these experiences shape families' navigation and negotiation of parenthood, including experiences with the child care system, in the US. A second area of work, funded by the *Center for the Advancement of Well-being* at George Mason University is focused on early childhood education teachers' ecosystemic well-being, and how this shapes teachers' interaction with young children. Dr. Vesely's work is published in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, *Early Education & Development*, *Educational Psychology Review*, *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, *Journal of Counseling and Development*, *Journal of Children and Poverty*, and the *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*. Her work has been funded by the Office for Child Care in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a Child Care Scholar, as well as the Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation and the Bernard van Leer Foundation. Dr. Vesely teaches graduate courses focused on family engagement in early childhood care and education and undergraduate courses focused on family processes and dynamics. Dr. Vesely received her Ph.D. in Family Science from the University of Maryland - College Park.