



## UNDERSTANDING ALEXANDRIA'S FAMILIES

### **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.

### **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.