Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Family Resource Center Quarterly Newsletter. We intend to share the latest unit-level news, insights into FRC work, and information about FRC events and resources.

**FRC TEAM SPOTLIGHT**

**SAM KNOX**
Sam Knox, class of 2020, joined Little BeavEarly Learning Center at OSU Cascades during November 2023. He currently works as the interim Lead Teacher in the Toddler Room after teaching for several years in upper elementary classrooms. He works to bring creativity, innovation, and a love for learning to his classroom, and specializes in introducing STEM.

**DREW CARLILE**
Drew, class of 2025, joined the FRC team in Winter 2024 as the Media & Marketing student employee. Drew is majoring in Design Innovation Management and brings several years of design expertise and creativity to the position.

**KIM ROCKWOOD**
Kim joined the FRC Team one year ago in May 2023, providing administrative support for the center. She brings an extensive background in customer service and program coordination, and enjoys sharing the wide array of FRC supports and services with working and studying parents and their families. Time outside of work is filled with hiking, live music events and cherishing time with friends and family.

**NEWS!**

**FRC Launches Free Virtual Lactation Consulting Support**

In Fall term 2023, FRC launched a new employee/student support through our existing partnership with MilkStork. OSU Employees and Students can now access 1 month of Virtual Lactation support at no cost through Simplified, a partner of MilkStork. Simplified provides online, HIPAA-compliant, and convenient support for breast/chestfeeding and infant nutrition from board-certified lactation consultants. Users can read consultant bios and select a professional who fits their preferences. Simplified offers easy scheduling and virtual appointments can happen from the comfort of your home or on the go. Simplified will not bill your insurance. There is no cost to you. To learn more about this service and how it works, click here. To access this support and other lactation resources, visit OSU’s MilkStork Portal.
NEWS!

**ECE Policy Option Package Submitted to HECC**

In March 2024, OSU, under the leadership of FRC Director Amy Luhn, led the formulation and submission of a $15 million-dollar Early Care and Education Policy Option Package as part of a consolidated funding request with the six other public universities. The funding request seeks to directly address unmet needs for FTE/staffing, ECE center operations, and need-based scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing ECE degrees across Oregon’s six public universities offering ECE degree programs and/or operating Campus ECE. If approved by the Governor, the funding request could yield ECE funding for OSU. Scan QR code to the right for more information.

*Note the ECE Policy Option Package begins on page 68.*

**FRC Receives Internationalization Grant and Community Empowerment Grant**

FRC is pleased to announce that the International Moms Group, coordinated by Sandy Goeke, received funding from the Office of Global Engagement. The funded project proposes to host several focus groups with international employees and students to understand existing gaps in resources and support access for international families living in our community. Using this information, FRC will then host convenings with community stakeholders to understand the current landscape of resources and services available for international families and build a unified framework for support. IMG also received a Community Empowerment Grant from the City of Corvallis to support the 2025 International Women’s Day Event. FRC is grateful for these impactful sources of funding!

**President Murthy Visits the International Moms Group**

On May 1, OSU’s President, Jayathi Murthy, visited the International Moms Group during one of their weekly meetings. IMG Coordinator, Sandy Goeke, and an IMG volunteer lead, Yurina Song, facilitated a discussion forum to allow IMG participants and President Murthy to learn more about each other.

The Family Resource Center thanks President Murthy for taking time to come learn about IMG!
In Fall 2023, FRC initiated a partnership with Human Development & Family Sciences in the College of Health to offer an ECE career exploration experience to undergraduate majors. The program uses a small cohort model and offers exploration and immersion into infant and toddler programs at OSU’s Dixon Kits ECE Center, as well as facilitated engagement with campus ECE professionals to explore this professional field, with a focus on infants and toddlers. Participating students can receive 1 credit towards their HDFS degree for a total of 30 hours of engagement and exploration. Additionally, students receive a $750 stipend. FRC Assistant Director - Campus Early Care & Education and Director of Dixon Kits ECE Center, Tania Henry, coordinates the program. As a long-time ECE professional, Tania provides mentorship and designs hands-on learning opportunities for each ECE Explore cohort.

For more info on ECE Explore, contact Tania Henry (tania.henry@oregonstate.edu)

Check out some student feedback from this exciting new program:

**Quotes from past ECE participants**

One ECE Explore participant, Ava Shager, shared:

Meeting with so many incredible ECE professionals was not only interesting, but empowering. I was given many chances to apply knowledge from previous HDFS classes to real-life scenarios while in the classroom, and any questions or concerns I had could be discussed with the many professionals we met with. I left the program feeling so incredibly empowered as a future early education professional. Being able to hear and ask questions about the wide array of jobs within the ECE field was eye-opening, as many people, myself included, assume it is really only preschool teachers.

Madilynn Denniston, another ECE Explore student, reflected:

From the ECE Explore internship I learned what it is like to work in a state-regulated childcare center. The main insight I had not anticipated was some of the regulations for state certified centers. For example, washing the children’s hands and my own after changing a diaper, even the infants. Another was documenting everything on the tablets, such as what each child was eating for lunch. Overall, I really enjoyed my time at Dixon Kits! The staff I worked with were immensely helpful and gave me guidance and advice when I needed it. I also felt welcomed and comfortable in my position as an intern. I would be highly likely to recommend this program to a friend or colleague!
In February 2023, the Division of Student Affairs and the Family Resource Center announced Child Care Pathways, a new consultative service offered to assist employee parents and supervisors in planning for family leave, early bonding, dependent care, and return-to-work needs. This planning resource creatively leverages existing university and employee assets that broaden the horizon of options for early care and education and the employees’ return to work. Child Care Pathways also helps employees access other community-based, institutional, and Family Resource Center-specific supports related to campus child care, infant feeding and lactation, financial assistance, peer support and connection, parenting and mental and physical health, and advocacy.

Want to learn more about Child Care Pathways?

Please visit our Child Care Pathways site for more information and resources. Employees and supervisors may contact the Family Resource Center’s Assistant Director - Family Programs & Engagement Coordinator, Cari Maes, cari.maes@oregonstate.edu, to plan for employee bonding leave, dependent care needs, and the return to work. Cari can also provide unit-level and supervisor-specific presentations to support proactive planning and support strategies for employee parents.

LATEST EVENTS

Student Parent Graduation Celebration

On June 6th, the Family Resource Center celebrated OSU’s graduating student parents with a reception in the lower level of Milne. Graduates and their families posed for photographs in their cap and gown. Thank you so much to Hope Stephens for her excellent photography!

CONGRATS TO ALL OUR GRADUATING STUDENT PARENTS!!
International Women’s Day:

On March 5, OSU’s International Moms Group commemorated International Women’s Day with a culture-sharing event in partnership with HOME Group. Participants representing a dozen countries hosted tables featuring the sights, smells, tastes, and textures from their cultures. Visitors received a “passport” incentivizing them to travel to each country table, tasting treats like baklava, teas, hummus, and candies. IMG Coordinator Sandy Goeke and her volunteer team also organized a panel of international moms to share their unique experiences living here in Corvallis. A flag processional followed with participants donning traditional clothing representing their countries. IMG and FRC thank Northwest Community Church, HOME Group, Crossroads International, and the IMG volunteer team for making this event a success.
On Friday, April 19, 218 families and a total of 365 kids came to campus to celebrate the 12th annual "Bring Your Kids to Campus Day" on the Corvallis campus. Hosted annually by the Family Resource Center, this event is designed to help promote the value of a college education as well as share with our children the fun and exciting place where we are fortunate to work, study, research, and teach. 18 generous (and creative!) campus offices offered 21 different activities throughout the day, including bowling, archery, swimming, and plenty of arts and crafts. Out on the SEC Plaza, arriving families were greeted by a Starship robot and got to visit hands-on activity tables hosted by CAPS and OSU Parking & Transportation. Families were also able to visit President Murthy’s office in Kerr Hall. Special thanks to Kim Rockwood for coordinating this wonderful event!

On Wednesday, April 26, FRC and many other campus units took part in the annual DAM Proud Day fundraising event. This year, FRC raised money for an emergency fund to support students with children. Erika Woosley, FRC Assistant Director – Facilities & Operations, served as the team’s ambassador. Kim Rockwood and Cari Maes represented the FRC team at the Dam Proud Day Street Fair. Kristi King, FRC Assistant Director – OLV & Student Engagement, served as the spokesperson for FRC’s fundraising on the DAM Proud Day livestream. She spoke passionately about the need to provide holistic support for parenting students, particularly those who face unexpected financial challenges that might interrupt their degree progression. Overall, FRC brought in 76 individual donations totalling more than $23,000. We are grateful for all our donors!
Summer Camp Fair

On April 4, FRC hosted more than a dozen community-based and campus-based organizations offering summer care and educational opportunities. Representatives from groups like the Boys & Girls Club, Timberhill Athletic Club, 4-H, OSU Kid-Spirit, and the Corvallis Environmental Center set up tables in the MU Ballroom to share their summer options.

FRC Staff Engagement & Professional Development

FRC team members have been busy engaging with colleagues at several state-level and national conferences over the past few months. Check out some of the conference highlights below!

Generation Hope National Conference

Kristi King traveled to New Orleans to participate in the Generation Hope 2024 National Conference and engage with colleagues on innovative ways to support student parents. On behalf of OSU, Kristi also received the Generation Hope FamilyU Seal for 2023-2026, a national certification for higher education institutions making significant strides in intentionally serving parenting students. OSU joins a distinguished cohort of 13 other institutions of higher education who received the FamilyU Seal.

N4C Conference

In March, Amy Luhn, Tania Henry, and Kristi King traveled to Salt Lake City to participate in the N4C Conference [National Coalition for Campus Children’s Centers]. The team presented on the development of a new Oregon-based organization called HEELPO (Higher Education Early Learning Partnership of Oregon). Amy Luhn, Director of the Family Resource Center, also currently serves on the N4C Board of Directors. Learn more here: National Coalition for Campus Children’s Centers
Oregon Early Learning Conference

Several FRC team members presented and participated in the annual Oregon Early Learning Conference in Bend, Oregon in late April. Kristen Wright, Assistant Director at Little Beavs, Dayna Swanson, Director at Little Beavs (OSU Cascades) presented a session entitled, “Organizing and Hosting a Family STEM Event for Early Learners” and Dana Westbrook, MA, Infant-Toddler Specialist, Lead Infant Teacher (Dixon Kits) led a session called, “Brains Are Built, Not Born: A Discussion on the Connection Between Relationship Building and Brain Building.” Learn more about this conference here: Early Learning Conference

CUWFA-College University Work Life & Family Association

Cari Maes traveled to the University of Arizona (Tucson) in April to present at the annual CUWFA Conference. She and Amy Luhn co-authored a presentation on building truly multi-generational campuses that support employees, students, and their families across the age spectrum. Cari also hosted a table on the Child Care Pathways program at OSU which offers individualized consultations to help employees plan their return-to-work following birth or adoption. Cari also joined the CUWFA Board in 2024 and participated in strategic planning at the conference.

Gain Conference

Cari Maes presented at the annual Gender Advocacy & Inclusion Network in Higher Education annual conference in Seaside, Oregon. Her participation was generously supported by the President’s Commission on the Status of Women. Her talk, entitled “Who Cares on Campus?: Addressing Inequalities Between the Campus Care Workforce and Other Campus Professionals” explored ways to build more equity and solidarity between faculty/staff and the campus-based early care and education professionals who care for their children. To learn more about GAIN, click here: GAIN

National Student Parent Support Symposium

Kristi King and Mackenzie Barrett, OLV Assistant Coordinator, traveled to the other OSU (Ohio) to engage with other higher education professionals who serve and support parenting students. Kristi co-presented, “Short Term/Drop-In Child Care: Could I Offer This Type of Care For Parenting Students At My Campus?” with a colleague from Mount Wachusett Community College. HDFS graduate student Jezz Brown-Hamlet also received funding from the Division of Student Affairs to present her current research in a session entitled, “Filling in the Gaps: Researching Student-Parents from an Intersectional Perspective.”
Beaver Dads Connections
Fathers’ Day Celebration and June Lunchtime Gathering

Join other self-identified OSU dads for lunch and conversation. Facilitated by Tarron Anderson (UHR).

Thursday, June 13, noon-1:30pm
MU Lanes (MU basement)

Snacks and bowling included. No registration required.

For accommodations, please contact cari.maes@oregonstate.edu, 541-737-4906.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Moms Group Summer Family Potlucks!
June 28th          July 26th          August 30th
Orchard Court Community Center
6-8pm

For more information email Sandy Goeke (sandy.goeke@oregonstate.edu)
**Kids Clothing Exchange & Kids Gift Closet**

**Have your kids grown out of last season’s clothing?**

Come check out the Kids Clothing Exchange in OLV Milne! The KCE offers OSU’s parenting employees and students an opportunity to donate and/or shop for gently-used, laundered clothing. Please email familyresources@oregonstate.edu to set up a time to visit the clothing exchange.

FRC also houses a Kids Gift Closet in OLV-Milne! Student and employee parents can shop the closet for a birthday, holiday, or other special occasion gift at no cost. Please email familyresources@oregonstate.edu to set up a time to visit the gift closet.

Interested in donating to the Kids Gift Closet. Scan the QR to learn how.

**Our Little Village Summer Care Options**

Are you needing care during the summer for your child, ages 5 months to 10 years, so you can work and/or go to class on campus? Our Little Village will be offering care this summer: both reservable and drop-in care. Check out the website for more information. Email ourlittlevillage@oregonstate.edu with any questions you have.

**Kids Spirit Summer Day Camps**

Offered weekly on the OSU Corvallis Campus. Each camp is filled with a variety of engaging activities - everything from swim lessons, ceramic art, social-emotional learning classes, rock climbing, coding, and so much more! Your kiddos will stay active, ignite their curiosity, and unleash their creativity while school's out! And through it all, they'll forge lifelong friendships in our vibrant camp community.

Open to students from grades K-8, our camp caters to every interest and age group. Scroll the full calendar of offerings and find more information here: https://kidspirit.oregonstate.edu/summer
Summertime Family Fun in the Valley

Need some ideas for family-friendly activities this summer? Scan the QR for our list of opportunities around the valley.

Ongoing Caregiver Support Opportunities

Would you like to connect with others who are caregiving for children, elders, and/or loved ones with disabilities? Check out these community-based resources that provide both summer and year-round options for support.

Note: these resources are shared as information only and are not sponsored by, nor specifically endorsed by the Family Resource Center or Oregon State University.

Lumina Hospice & Palliative Care: Regular caregiver support options, as well as specialized trainings, events, and resources. You do not need to be a client to access their supports.

Samaritan Grief & Bereavement Support Group: Options available in Benton, Linn, & Lincoln Counties. Online and in-person opportunities.

Corvallis Community Center Support Groups: Several specialized support groups that meet regularly, including memory care support, Parkinsons’ support, and senior social club.

Lebanon Senior Center: Classes, social events, and support programs for seniors and their caregivers.

Grace Center Adult Day Services (Corvallis): In addition to their day support offerings, Grace Center hosts a monthly caregiver support group open to anyone in the community.

ARC of Benton County (Corvallis): Monthly support group for the family and loved ones of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Hosted at Good Samaritan Church.

Parenting Success Network (Benton, Linn, & Lincoln Co.): Various workshops, classes, and opportunities to connect for parents and caregivers of children across the region.