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### IV-E

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# The Center for Children and Families

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## Title IV-E Grads Win Award

Richard Brooks, Rigoberto Montero, and Tanya Netardus finished the spring 2008 semester with good news. They won the *Outstanding Student Traditional Research Under Development Poster Award* from the Faculty Student Research Forum for their presentation of a study with Child Protective Services (CPS). Now, these Title IV-E graduates can add the word author to their resume. Their findings will be published in the *International Journal for Continuing Social Work Education*. Their topic focused on the Retention Agent Program (RAP) study, which pairs new CPS workers with CPS case

workers, tenured CPS Investigation caseworkers, and administrators (supervisors

**The survey gave participants an opportunity to provide feedback on the program's effectiveness and barriers .**

and program directors) through three months of CPS employee training. The survey gave participants an opportunity to provide feedback on the program's effectiveness and barriers. Surveys were distributed to

RAP caseworkers, supervisors and program directors via e-mail through Survey Monkey.

The first group of RAP workers graduated from training on February 22, 2008.

RAP was developed when the turnover rate for CPS Investigators soared to an all time high of 75 percent. Staff turnover increased dramatically over the last few years despite additional funding and caseworkers. RAP was developed in an effort to alleviate stress for the new caseworker, provide support, increase leadership skills and decrease staff turnover.

## Federal Program Offers Loan Relief

**T**he College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 established a new public service loan forgiveness program. The program discharges remaining debt after 10 years of full-time employment in public service. The borrower must have made 120

payments as part of the Direct Loan program in order to obtain this benefit. Only payments made on or after October 1, 2007 count toward the required 120 monthly payments. Borrowers may consolidate into Direct Lending in order to qualify for this loan forgiveness program, which began on

July 1, 2008. This contrasts with the loan forgiveness of the remaining balance after 25 years of repayment under the income-contingent and income-based repayment plans for borrowers who are not employed full time in public service jobs. For more information, go to [www.finaid.org/loans/publicservice.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/loans/publicservice.phtml).



The CCF- Swinney House

# Nancy Feyl Chavkin named director

By Jayme Blaschke  
University News Service

**N**ancy Feyl Chavkin was named director of the Center for Children and Families (CCF) at Texas State-San Marcos this fall.

Chavkin established the CCF with Karen Brown in 2002 and served as co-director until 2004. She is a Regents' Professor, a Minnie Stevens Piper

Professor, co-director of the Title IVE-E Project, and director of the Richter Research Institute. She received numerous awards for teaching, service, and research including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Research.

As an accomplished proposal writer and researcher, she has mentored faculty members throughout the university.

The CCF fosters research and grant proposal writing and experiential student learning to

improve the quality of life for children and families. It provides support for faculty members and community practitioners to write interdisciplinary grant proposals and manage grants, which offer learning opportunities for university students and research opportunities for faculty members and practitioners.

CCF promotes comprehensive, collaborative services for children and families across the lifespan.

“The first duty of a human being is to assume the right functional relationship to society—more briefly, to find your real job and do it.”

*Charlotte Perkins Gilman, writer and lecturer for social reform (1860-1935)*

## REMINDERS

- **Nov. 10: Midyear Round Table planning session in Austin.**
- **Jan 29 & 30: Ethics training for Region 8**
- **Feb. 19 & 20: Ethics training in Belton**

## Youth study funded

Dr. Raphael Travis, Jr., Assistant Professor of Social Work, received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The \$54,000 grant allows Dr. Travis to continue research in Positive Youth Development.

The New Connections grant

involves research of more than 500 African American and Hispanic Males. The stakeholders were incarcerated at Riker's Island, NY.

Dr. Travis will study the process and effects of “thriving,” and how it relates to these men and their lives 12 months after release from prison.

## RESOURCES

*Economic reality and doing the right thing: When should the state cease parenting?* is an article about the policy of the state governments toward stopping parenting for young people in foster care. By Robin Nixon. Published in *Voice*, 2008.

*Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress* is part of a series of reports from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The report promotes improvement in the delivery of child welfare services. The Child Welfare Outcomes Reports provide information about each state's performance on seven national outcomes related to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Outcomes reflect performance objectives for child welfare practice. The report is available online at: [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cwo05/index.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cwo05/index.htm).

## WELCOME MSW STUDENTS

for **Regions 7 & 8** \* Tracey Ramirez \* Nicole Curel \* Manuel Alvizo \* Montreece Green Lisa Lopez \* Hollie Linder \* Julian Apolinar \* Kristina Garcia \* Shannon Brooks \* Teresa Greenburg \* Karen Bradley-Morgan \* Robyn Gambrel \* Monette Moreno \* Willimae Fulton Vanessa Carrillo \* BSW STUDENTS \* Jodie Fisher \* Amanda Leal \* BSW GRADUATES \* Rebecca Rice \* Rebeca Santos \* Angel Cerceo