

and experiences expressed are similar to or different from those of parents and staff from other ECE centers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area or centers in greater Minnesota. This issue is compounded by our inductive methodology. Although we view our approach as the most appropriate for the research question that we asked, the themes regarding barriers and challenges experienced by ECE staff and parents may be specific to those we interviewed. This situation may be especially true for the parents, as we spoke with relatively few of them.

It is interesting to note that, despite the mostly negative and unpleasant content discussed throughout the interviews, the majority of the interviews ended on a positive note. The respondents felt valued that we cared about their views, and seemed to feel a bit better after expressing them. However, we also received responses that issued a call to action, and see these testimonials as a first step toward change that will improve the lives of all of the children of Minnesota. This call to action emerged in both parent and staff

interviews, but this parent excerpt best captures the spirit expressed:

I think a better question would be, “why won’t they listen?” They obviously see the struggle and everything if we’re applying for like WIC or food stamps. They know that we are reaching out there trying to get help and then people are on it for years and years and years. We can say we need the help, but it’s just like they just won’t listen. So I think a better thing is—is why won’t you listen?

Moin Syed is assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on identity development among ethnically diverse youth and the implications of identity development for educational experiences. **Anita Patel** is vice president for racial justice and public policy at the YWCA of Minneapolis. The YWCA Racial Justice and Public Policy programs focus on living the YWCA mission of “eliminating racism and empowering women and girls” through individual and

systemic change. **Lovey H.M. Walker** is a doctoral student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Minnesota. Her current research involves qualitative and quantitative approaches to examining identity development, particularly how people integrate their cultural background into everyday life domains (e.g., academic or professional pursuits).

The authors express their gratitude to the YWCA staff for their assistance with all phases of the project, the graduate students and YWCA facilitators who served as interviewers, and most of all the YWCA staff and parents who took the time to share their experiences.

The research upon which this article is based was supported by a grant from CURA’s Faculty Interactive Research Program. The program was created to encourage University faculty to conduct research with community organizations and collaborators on issues of public policy importance for the state and community. These grants are available to regular faculty at the University of Minnesota and are awarded annually on a competitive basis.

29th Annual Conference on Policy Analysis, Oct. 16

The 29th Annual Conference on Policy Analysis will be held October 16, 2013, at the Continuing Education and Conference Center on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus. The theme of this year’s conference is “Access and Opportunities: All Things *Not* Being Equal.”

The Founding Fathers of the United States declared that “all men are created equal” and that the government had a responsibility to ensure the unalienable rights tied to this equality. Despite the rhetoric often used about the American Dream and the United States as the Land of Opportunity, we cannot seem to eliminate disparities, and many inequalities continue to grow. What is the cost of these disparities to our society? Whose responsibility is it to reduce or eliminate them? Why does it matter? This year’s conference is designed to look at these questions and consider the policy, political, and implementation aspects of proposed solutions. The

keynote and concurrent sessions will consider these questions at both the macro- and microlevel. In addition, hands-on workshops will provide tools and data resources that might help in the development and analysis of policy related to inequalities and disparities.

The conference is organized with one plenary session and four concurrent sessions in the morning, followed by eight concurrent sessions in the afternoon that address current policy issues and processes. Immediately following the conference, attendees are invited to stay and attend a reception, which will provide further opportunity to network with peers, meet and converse with session presenters, and receive information from cosponsoring organizations, as well as enjoy complimentary hors d’oeuvres, wine, beer, and nonalcoholic beverages.

Founded by the Economic Resource Group, this year’s conference is sponsored by the College of Continuing

Education at the University of Minnesota. Cosponsors of the event include CURA, the Hamline University School of Business, the Center for Policy Studies, and the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

The registration fee for the conference is \$175 if postmarked by October 2 (\$75 for students), or \$200 if postmarked after October 2 (\$100 for students). Student registrations must include a current college or university fees statement to qualify for the student rate. Once again this year, CURA is supporting a limited number of partial scholarships for attendees from Minnesota nonprofit organizations. Applications for scholarships are due September 19. For more information about the conference or nonprofit organization scholarships, or to register for the event, visit www.cce.umn.edu/policyanalysis or contact Nick McArdle at cceconf3@umn.edu or 612-625-5969.