



Message from WFRN Co-Presidents

Dear WFRN Membership,

In less than a decade, WFRN has grown into a vibrant academic membership group that embraces and celebrates scholars who are engaged in exciting new studies that affirm and/or challenge some of “what we think we know” about diverse work and family experiences. How impressive!

Whether you have contributed your leadership to WFRN, supported WFRN with your membership, and/or attended conferences, we thank you for your affiliation.

Planning for the [June 21-23, 2018 conference](#) has already begun. We will soon be able to announce the members of the Conference Program Committee, which includes amazing leaders from around the world who will bring the insights and perspectives of a range of disciplines.

The conference will be held at the Capital Hilton hotel in Washington, DC. Please bookmark [this url](#) for quick access to updates about the conference:

<https://workfamily.sas.upenn.edu/content/faq/when-conference-where-will-conference-be-held>

The 2018 conference will continue to build on some of the themes that started to emerge in the 2016 conference. In particular, we want to deeply explore the opportunities for moving our studies a bit closer to the space of translational research – studies that have the potential to transform our understandings of work and family issues as well as make a positive impact on people who can “use” the information generated from our scholarly endeavors.

Our **pre-conference training day on June 20th** will engage researchers who want to think creatively about relationships with “end users” of information derived from our studies, including decision makers at the workplace, policy makers, the media, and groups committed to the quality of working life. This pre-conference day will be filled with meaningful dialogue, provocative presentations, and an end of the day “pitch-a-thon.” (Some of the participants might even win a prize!)

The core activities of the 2018 WFRN conference on June 21-23 will revolve around the research that you and other members are conducting. We also anticipate that during the conference innovations which have been introduced in earlier years – such as the early career scholars program, the Kanter Award, and the Special Interest Groups – will continue. We hope you will send us your ideas for some additional special features. We will be announcing some of the plenary speakers over the next few months.



Please feel free to **send your ideas for making this conference “the best ever”** to:
Kathleen Christensen (christensen@sloan.org),
Marcie Pitt-Catsoupes (pittcats@bc.edu), or
Executive Officer **Jerry Jacobs** (jjacobs@sas.upenn.edu).

While WFRN is a small organization, it has the potential to have a significant impact on workplaces, communities, and diverse families. The officers and the members of the Executive Committee are volunteers. So, please [renew your membership](#) “today.” As you may know, your membership is “rewarded” with access to the *Community, Work, and Family* journal and other [benefits](#).

Let’s work together, so that 2018 becomes a benchmark year for WFRN.

All the best,

Kathleen Christensen and Marcie Pitt-Catsoupes
WFRN Co-Presidents
June 2017