History of the Early Career Work and Family Scholars Program

In 2005, the directors of the Sloan Centers on Working Families discussed the challenges that their doctoral students experience as they transition from their Ph.D. granting institutions into their entry level jobs (most commonly as assistant professors). Their concern was that their former students reported feeling isolated and missed the support that was extended through the Sloan Centers. In identifying this concern, the center directors considered strategies for extending supports to their graduates to maximize the career prospects of the next generation of work family scholars, and thereby help secure the future of work and family scholarship. In response, the Sloan Foundation funded an initiative called “The Early Career Work and Family Scholars Program” to identify promising academics who had recently received their doctorates and integrate them into a wider community of work and family scholars. To date, 50 newer Ph.D. recipients have participated in this program, many of whom have now moved from on from their “early career” stage to become recognized leaders in the work and family community.