



Connecting Researchers, Advancing Scholarship

Preparing for the 2016 WFRN Conference

Thank you so much for submitting such great papers and sessions for the 2016 WFRN Conference! It looks like a very exciting conference, replete with workshops, gatherings, posters that invite conversations, and of course paper sessions and panels. Some "nuts and bolts" information about presentations is noted later in this message. But first, as students, colleagues, and friends know, I am not reluctant to give advice. Here goes:

- In keeping with several of my goals for our conference (to have it be interesting and informative) I am asking presenters to **SUMMARIZE (not read)** their main question, design, findings, and implications.
- Feel free to hand out tables or figures, but **please DON'T put up tables on powerpoints that are too hard to read**. People can send for your paper to get all the technical details. For presenting, tell a story, make a claim, let us know why this issue is important, and why what you have done promotes understanding of this important issue.
- Discussants and moderators, **PLEASE INVOLVE THE AUDIENCE** as much as possible. We want every session to be as interactive as possible. This is in keeping with another of my goals: to have the meetings be more interactive.
- Go to several (or more) Discussion Forums, Workshops, and Poster Presentations! These are designed to be interactive, and that is what many of you said you wanted . . . **more discussion, less being lectured to**.
- **Sit in on something you know nothing about!** What I have learned in my time here at the Center for Advanced Study (where we are forced to listen to one another's presentations) is that there is lots of interesting scholarship out there, and that I should connect with topics that force me to reach.

• **Ask questions! Make comments!** We can only have audience participation if, well, the audience participates . . . !

• My last goal for the meetings? **That they will be fun!** Go to the coffee/tea times, the Special Interest Group (SIG) and other gatherings, the reception, the Networking dinner, etc. But also:

- **Talk to at least 3 people** you don't know every day of the meetings. It is fun to greet old friends, former students, and colleagues from across the world. But you remember that feeling of knowing no one, right? Reach out!
- And consider going to **Education and Policy Day** the day before (Wednesday, June 22), and **engaging with practitioners** the day they will be attending (Thursday, June 23). More information about these events, the conference preliminary program, hotel rates, and other conference information can be accessed [here](#).

• Please also **remember to reserve your room at the Capital Hilton**. We have a block of discounted rooms available. The sooner you make your reservation, the better.

And now for the guidelines:

Symposium and regular session presentations: Please try to keep presentations to 10 minutes. Many sessions do not include a discussant so that there will be more time for conversation.

Discussion forum presentations should also have a goal of being 10 minutes long. There will not be AV equipment provided, so perhaps handouts should be made available if appropriate.

Posters: a 3 foot high and 2 foot wide poster mounted on an easel will be provided. Tiger clips will also be available. Presenters can clip as much material as will fit on this size presentation. They can also prepare handouts to distribute if they are so inclined.

Nuts and bolts: Laptop computers with projectors and screens will be provided for all symposium and regular sessions (but not for discussion forums or workshops). Internet access will not be available in the conference meeting rooms.

This is an exciting time for work and family scholars, policy analysts, and practitioners. Work is changing, families are changing, and policies may well be changing. It is time for sharing what we are doing, how we are doing it, and learning from one another.

See you in Washington, D.C. in June!

With best wishes,

Phyllis Moen, WFRN President

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Work and Family Researchers Network
University of Pennsylvania, 3718 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104