



**Dear BRNET Members and Friends of BRNET:**

Thank you for being a part of the Bullying Research Network! Below you will find updates from our network. Be sure to check our website at <http://brnet.unl.edu> for additional information and check “BRNET Member Announcements” at the end of this newsletter for several job openings and opportunities.

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**Two Tenure-Track Bullying Prevention/Intervention Faculty Positions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

For the past decade the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln has supported the Bullying Research Network (BRNET), an international network of bullying prevention and intervention researchers. Building upon the success of BRNET, the College has developed the Empowerment Initiative that conducts translational research on bullying prevention and intervention. These two tenure-track faculty positions are integrally aligned with BRNET and the Empowerment Initiative and will be part of a **cluster hire of bullying prevention/intervention-related researchers**. We are seeking two scholars to contribute to our translational research foci on youth empowerment, youth engagement, and bullying prevention/intervention across homes, schools, and communities. For more information, please contact Dr. Susan Swearer (search co-chair) at: [sswearer@unl.edu](mailto:sswearer@unl.edu) or by phone: [402-472-1741](tel:402-472-1741) (office). **Thanks!**

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**Researcher Spotlight – Dr. Erika Felix**

Erika Felix is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). She received her Ph.D. in clinical-community psychology from DePaul University. After completing a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Center for School-Based Youth Development (CSBYD) at UCSB, she continued as a professional researcher there for 10 years before joining the faculty in 2014. Her research is focused on understanding the individual, relational, and contextual factors that promote positive youth development or recovery despite contexts of risk, trauma, or stress; informing and evaluating prevention efforts; and improving service delivery. She has received funding from the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency, private foundations, and local community organizations.

Dr. Felix began her research on school bullying when as a graduate student, she read that 60% of girls reported that they were mainly bullied by boys (Olweus, 1994). At the time, there was very little research on gender and bullying, or on adolescent sexual harassment. Consequently, her dissertation focused on understanding cross-sex peer victimization, which included an assessment of sexual harassment. She has continued research on the role of gender and ethnicity in the experience of peer victimization through research using large-scale datasets to understand victim subgroups and the role of the ethnic context of the school in victimization risk.

Along with CSBYD colleagues, Dr. Felix worked to improve self-report measurement of bullying so that it would reliably distinguish bullying from peer victimization without using a definition or the term "bully." They published the psychometric properties of the California Bully Victim Survey, which is now used in research throughout the world and is included in a compendium of bullying assessment resources compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Felix recently traveled to Norway to meet with researchers there to discuss issues around defining and measuring bullying. Recently, Dr. Felix was part of the cross-university study of how past bullying experiences affect initial adjustment to college. She has also led efforts on evaluating school-based bullying prevention programs with Latino/a students, and exploring how peer victimization and bullying affect indicators of well-being and building blocks of social-emotional health.

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## **U.S. Political/Policy Updates**

**BULLYING DEBATE COMES TO CAPITOL HILL:** On the heels of the Senate HELP Committee's markup of No Child Left Behind, Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) is looking for ways to get his proposed language on bullying into the education bill. "It's a great opportunity to finally - at long last - put this issue right on the front burner," Casey told Morning Education. "Because it's a pretty difficult issue to ignore if it gets to the Senate floor and you have to cast a vote on it." Both Casey and Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) withdrew proposals aiming to curb bullying in schools during the markup after the amendments garnered little Republican support. Republicans cited concerns about federal overreach. Casey's proposal would require states to have policies that prohibit bullying based on students race and LGBT status, among other things. It is based on a bill that had two Republican cosponsors - Sens. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) - in 2013. But during last week's markup, Murkowski expressed doubt about the measure. And a national debate over Indiana's religious freedom law makes for a charged climate when it comes to debating federal policies meant to protect gay and lesbian youth.

- Casey plans to keep in talks with Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander and others as NCLB moves ahead, but he said he doesn't think Alexander's proposed language on bullying is strong enough. "It might be we're still at loggerheads" by the time the bill gets to the floor, Casey said.
- Meanwhile on K Street: The Human Rights Campaign hired Eppin Strategic Planning's Robert Eppin, former legislative director for Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), to lobby issues including bullying of LGBT youth. HRC Government Affairs Director David Stacy said the group is "strongly urging" lawmakers to include both Franken and Casey's anti-bullying language in NCLB. "We will continue to push for those bills to be included when the bill moves to the Senate floor," Stacy said.
- And in bullying news outside the beltway: Montana is no longer the only state in the country without an anti-bullying law. The law Gov. Steve Bullock signed into law will ban students and

teachers from bullying students in all K-12 public schools and give parents and authorities a path to go after bullies and others that break the law. More: <http://gftrib.com/1DAXmRy>.

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## **BRNET New Members!**

BRNET has a current total of 162 members!

- Please send recommendations for potential BRNET members (i.e., faculty, researchers, and clinicians who are conducting research on bullying or related topics) to Dr. Shelley Hymel, Dr. Susan Swearer, or to [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com).

*If you have recently joined BRNET and have not yet provided your information, please send the following to [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com).*

- 1) contact information that can be posted on the website,
  - 2) a brief biography of you and your work,
  - 3) a list of current/ongoing projects in this area,
  - 4) an annotated bibliography of your work in this area (i.e., full reference plus a few sentences about the work), and,
  - 5) relevant web-based links you would like to share.
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## **Friends of BRNET**

Friends of BRNET is a group of graduate students, administrators, parents, and individuals who are interested in learning more about the Bullying Research Network. Friends of BRNET receive our monthly e-newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of BRNET or to refer someone to Friends of BRNET, please click on this link: <http://cehs15.unl.edu/cms/index.php?s=2&p=711>

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## **BRNET Member Grant/Funding Announcements**

Receipt of funding facilitates the BRNET mission to conduct interdisciplinary research related to bullying and aggression, with particular attention being paid to the link between basic and applied research. Thus, the BRNET directors are excited to offer members a new opportunity to share grants (and other sources of funding) they have received for their research projects.

Funding varies across countries and is not limited to federal grants. If you are interested in sharing your grants or funding with other BRNET members, please send an abstract of the research funding along with the funding source to [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com) and we will post the information on our website.

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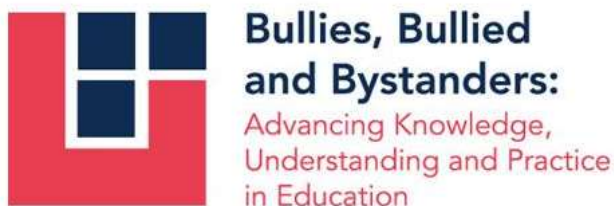
## **BRNET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(1) SAVE THE DATE!**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bullying Research Network Think Tank will be June 13, 14, and 15, 2016 at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL). The public conference on June 13<sup>th</sup> is being co-hosted by the

College of Education and Human Sciences and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. The Think Tank will be held at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute on UNL's campus. Stay tuned for more details!

## (2) Bullies, Bullied, and Bystanders Conference



9th - 10th June 2016  
ABC, National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre  
School of Education Studies  
Dublin City University

### CALL FOR PAPERS

education, comparative studies, business studies, media and communications, law, geography, art, literature, comparative literature, visual studies, psychology, sociology, anthropology, intercultural studies, women studies, gender studies, history, bio-medicine, neuroscience, ICT and the natural sciences.

Deadline for Submission of Abstract proposals: Friday 4th December 2015.

Submission of Abstracts and Registration: [www.bully.ie](http://www.bully.ie)

### Call for Papers

Papers are invited from those who are undertaking research that seeks to reconceptualise or present new theoretical or empirical research perspectives related to bullying, especially (but not confined to) those that focus on cultural and ethnic differences and/or the role of bystanders in online and offline environments.

We invite abstracts related to the above topic from academic fields such as

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Thank you for your involvement in the Bullying Research Network! If you have any news, information, research, suggestions for new members, or other materials that our members would find useful, please do not hesitate to email us at [bullyresearchnet@gmail.com](mailto:bullyresearchnet@gmail.com).

Most sincerely,

Dr. Shelley Hymel  
University of British Columbia  
BRNET Co-Director

Dr. Susan Swearer  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
BRNET Co-Director