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**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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**Tenure-Track Bullying 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. This position is integrally aligned with the Empowerment Initiative and will be part of a **cluster hire of bullying-related researchers**. We are seeking scholars to contribute to our translational research foci on youth empowerment, youth engagement, and bullying prevention across homes, schools, and communities. Please see the attached job descriptions. For more information, please contact Dr. Susan Swearer at: [sswearer@unl.edu](mailto:sswearer@unl.edu) or by phone: [402-472-1741](tel:402-472-1741) (office).

Please find attached copies of the two tenure-track bullying faculty position ads at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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**Researcher Spotlight – Dr. Thomas Farmer**

Tom Farmer is a professor in Special Education and Disability Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University and Co-Editor of the *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*. After completing a BA in philosophy at William and Mary, he worked with adults with disabilities in supported community-based living and employment programs. He then completed a master’s in special education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) and worked for several years with children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders as a teacher-counselor and as a treatment foster parent. Following this work, he completed his Ph.D. at UNC-CH with a focus on the application of developmental science to the education and treatment of students with social, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.

A central feature of Farmer’s research involves examining the peer relations and social network placement of students with disabilities and youth with high levels of aggressive and disruptive behavior. Based on a person in context perspective, this work investigates differential linkages between students’

interpersonal characteristics, their social network centrality, peer group membership, and sociometric status. In collaboration with Philip Rodkin and other colleagues, this line of inquiry identified distinct subtypes of aggressive youth (i.e., Tough, Troubled) who appear to play different roles in classroom social systems. Extending this research, Farmer and colleagues went on to hypothesize that there are two social words of bullying: those who are well integrated and influential in the social system and those who are socially marginalized and at increased risk for peer victimization. Additional work by Farmer and colleagues suggests that students with disabilities tend to have social experiences that may place them at increased risk for being identified as victims and bully-victims but not as bullies.

With Jill Hamm and David Lee, Farmer has built upon this research to create a professional development training model to help teachers integrate information about social dynamics into their classroom management practices. *The Supporting Early Adolescent Learning and Social Success (SEALS) Program* was designed to help teachers support early adolescents with an emphasis on the transition to middle school. The SEALS model has been examined in efficacy trials in both rural and metropolitan settings and has been shown to promote a positive peer culture for academic effort, enhance students' perceptions of the peer culture, and reduce social risk for involvement in aggressive behavior. Current efforts are focusing on creating a SEALS model that extends across the middle school years and that includes the use of a "scouting report" approach to guide teachers in individualizing and intensifying interventions for students who are at high-risk for significant academic, behavioral, and social problems.

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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 Epplin Strategic Planning's Robert Epplin, 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! One new member has joined this past month. Welcome to the BRNET, Dr. Ron Slaby! Please see below for his brief biography:

**Ron Slaby, PhD**, is a developmental psychologist, research scientist, and educator who currently serves as a Senior Scientist in the Center on Media and Child Health in Children's Hospital Boston/Harvard Medical School. He has previously served for 25 years in Harvard's Graduate School of Education as Associate Professor, Lecturer, and National Merit Fellow, and as a Senior Scientist at Education Development Center, an international nonprofit applied research organization. Through his research, teaching, and strategic development of programmatic interventions, Dr. Slaby has helped to develop national and international strategies and programs for preventing violence and bullying, and he has advanced our understanding of media influences on children's health and development.

Dr. Slaby coauthored America's first national plan for the *Prevention of Violence and Injuries Due to Violence* for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two national reports on *Violence and Youth: Psychology's Response* for the American Psychological Association, and an international program for *Violence Prevention for Health-Promoting Schools* for the World Health Organization. He has developed effective strategies and intervention programs for preventing youth violence/bullying in the U.S. and through his international consultations in Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Pakistan, and Uruguay. He has also presented testimony to the U.S. Senate on the prevention of youth violence and to the U.S. House of Representatives on television violence effects and remedies.

Known for introducing a "bystander intervention strategy" into the field of violence/bullying prevention, Dr. Slaby has co-created a variety of violence/bullying intervention programs, including: *Viewpoints; Aggressors, Victims, & Bystanders; Mentors in Violence Prevention; Eyes on Bullying; and Saturdays for Success*. He has also co-authored the books: *Early Violence Prevention; and Social Development in Young Children*. Dr. Slaby serves as educational advisor to bullying prevention educational campaigns, including *Stop Bullying: Speak Up* (by Turner Broadcasting and Time-Warner), and *Boston vs. Bullies*. For his distinguished contributions to the field of educational psychology, Dr. Slaby was elected Fellow by the American Psychological Association.

- 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) Bullies, Bullied, and Bystanders Conference**



**Bullies, Bullied  
and Bystanders:**  
Advancing Knowledge,  
Understanding and Practice  
in Education

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)

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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