Welcome to all Networking Community Chairs and Those Interested in Serving!

Thank you for your leadership or your interest in forming a Networking Community. These communities are one of the most valuable resources created by the WFRN and we are delighted by your involvement. The primary role of Networking Communities is to build community within the WFRN through sustained engagement and conversation around research and policy that relates to supporting work and families. As such, your role as a leader of a Networking Community is to help drive this engagement. In this document, you will find ideas, suggestions, and resources. Please reach out to the Executive Office with any questions or requests at wfrnet@gmail.com and we will do our best to assist you.

How Do I Start a Networking Community?

The following process is identified in the WFRN bylaws.

*Networking communities, also known as Special Interest Groups, provide opportunities for members with shared concerns to engage in conversations to advance collective interests. The WFRN will support Networking Communities through its website and conferences. Leaders are identified at the biennial conference by members of the Networking Communities through processes developed and implemented by each Networking Community. Formation of a new Networking Community requires identification of fifteen or more interested members, reported to the Executive Officer. Continuation of a Networking Community requires sustained leadership and interest.*

Here are Some Ideas to Engage Your Networking Community

- Keep your listserv active by posting announcements and/or by creating a regular newsletter.
- Organize smaller events such as writing groups and/or book clubs
- Organize larger events such as virtual conference events
- Submit one or more symposia to the WFRN conferences. In the description of your symposia, be sure to make clear that it is organized by your networking community, and it will be given priority.
- Organize “best networking community paper awards” at the WFRN conferences.
- Organize social events at the biennial in-person conferences.
What the Executive Office Can Do for You

- Provide a list of all members interested in your networking community. You will receive that list in early March each year.
- Create a listserv that includes any member that registered their membership by February 15 of that year. You will manage communications on that listserv.
- Establish a webpage for you on the WFRN website or link the WFRN website to a webpage of your own creation. We can also update your webpage when you send us information to do so.
- Help you create virtual conference events, open to the entire membership using the WFRN’s Zoom platform. We can also publicize these events to the entire membership. If you want to organize an event that is exclusive to your community (if needed) we can provide you with a Zoom link and a platform for registrations. However, you would need to organize communications from your desk.
- Make the membership aware of your networking community’s initiatives and interests via the Newsfeed.
- Provide letters documenting your service as a Networking Community leader for your tenure/promotion files.

What the Executive Office Needs from You

- Every December, we ask that you send the Executive Office a brief report (1 page) that should include:
  - The activities that occurred during the year
  - Your present leadership
  - The leaders for the year to come
- If you forget to submit your report, we will send you a reminder. If a report is not filed, the community could potentially be listed as “inactive” until a report and leaders are identified.