



East Carolina University
College of Human Ecology
School of Social Work
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School of Social Work Response to PPC Recommendations
March 2012

In 2003, the School of Social Work was merged with the School of Human Environmental Sciences to form the current College of Human Ecology. The merger was swift and input and consultation from faculty was lacking. The transition from a free standing school to a unit within a college was difficult and negatively impacted the functioning and productivity within the school. The loss of fiscal and human capital, low morale among faculty and staff along with multiple changes in unit leadership were some of the residual effects that impeded the growth and the progress of the unit. During the past four years, the School and the College has experienced increased stability in leadership. The School has survived in the midst of extreme budgetary difficulties, talented faculty have been recruited and productivity has increased. Reconnections with social work alumni and interdisciplinary collaborations in the College of Human Ecology have been established. Reorganization during a time of stability and anticipated excitement about the future of the School would prove to be disruptive.

If the College of Human Ecology is dismantled, the School of Social Work would like to return to the College of Allied Health which is the original home of the unit when it became the first department in the School of Allied Health and Social Professions under the leadership of Dr. Ed Monroe and Dr. John Ball. This move would position the unit to interface with other health care and medical professionals within the Division of Health Sciences. Given the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the trend toward integrative health care models, the School would be able to expand student internships, develop social and behavioral health practice models and increase interdisciplinary research opportunities for students and faculty.

Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center (IGCC)

The Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center was envisioned by Dr. Lessie Bass, former social work professor and Dr. Karla Hughes, former Dean of the College of Human Ecology. This vision led to a collaborative partnership between the community of West Greenville, East Carolina University, the City of Greenville, Pitt Community College and other grass-roots organizations. The Center is viewed as a national model for community-based, university and municipal partnerships. The community impact has been phenomenal and the lives of children and families have been positively impacted by the multifaceted programs that are offered. Dr. Kerry Littlewood, the current Executive Director is a social work faculty member with stellar grant writing skills (close to \$475,000 in grant funding for the Center). The West Greenville community has established a trusting relationship with the School of Social Work and the College of Human Ecology. The College of Human Ecology is committed to the sustainability and program development within the Center. If the College of Human Ecology is dismantled, the School of Social Work would like to maintain its close affiliation with the IGCC.

Dr. Shelia Bunch, Director
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Faculty and Staff, School of Social Work