The Alverno College Research Center for Women and Girls generates and applies scholarly research, develops curricula, and conducts program evaluation and outreach for the purpose of supporting, transforming and inspiring initiatives to improve the lives of women and girls in the state of Wisconsin and beyond.

RESEARCH

Bullying: A Prevention Toolkit
Authors: Katie Krueger, B.A., Jennifer Saucerman, B.A. and Kris Vasquez, Ph.D.
Bullying: A Prevention Toolkit answers common questions about bullying; outlines action-oriented tips for parents, educators, and community members; and provides resources for learning more about the topic. Bullying research sponsored by the Alverno College Research Center for Women and Girls has been shared with educators, community organizations, and representatives from the business community. In addition, it has been featured on Kiss FM, Sports Radio, and Morning Blend. The toolkit is also a resource on the government website stopbullying.gov.

STEM Literature Review
Authors: Jennifer Saucerman, B.A. and Kris Vasquez, Ph.D.
Women continue to be underrepresented in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), which has implications not only for individual women and their families but also for the productivity of society. Our literature review examines psychological factors over the course of development that contribute to the ongoing underrepresentation of women in these fields. We discuss how girls are dissuaded from STEM field through negative messages, stereotypes, and ideas about intelligence.

CURRICULA

Anti-Bullying Curriculum
Research Center Curriculum Coordinator, Nancy Athanasiou, Ed.D., is developing an anti-bullying curriculum to be used in middle schools and high schools. The curriculum will assist middle school and high school students and the adults who work with them to understand and address the issues created by bullying. Differences in gender will be considered and relational aggression will be addressed so that its tactics do not go unnoticed or remain "under the radar." Attention will be given to who does the bullying and why, as well as to characteristics of the victim and why s/he may not speak up.

PEARLS for Teen Girls Self-Development Curriculum
The Research Center is collaborating with PEARLS for Teen Girls Inc., ("PEARLS") a nonprofit leadership development organization serving at-risk youth ages 10 to 19, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Research Center has signed on to update the PEARLS Self-Development Curriculum to coincide with the PEARLS 10,000 girls initiative. The Research Center PEARLS Team includes: Curriculum Coordinator Nancy Athanasiou, Ed.D., and Curriculum Writer, Kayla Fraley, B.S.E.

Sleepovers Discussion Guide
The Research Center has been asked by filmmaker Laj Waghray to create a discussion guide for her film Sleepovers. Featured at the Milwaukee Film Festival, Sleepovers chronicles the lives of four girls for ten years, from adolescence to young adulthood. Through this film, the audience not only shares in the stories of the girls’ journeys to womanhood but realizes how important it is that girls know they are not alone. The discussion guide will provide a chance for the audience to further analyze the film and engage in an informative discussion. The discussion guide developed by the Research Center Special Projects Coordinator, Desiree Pointer Mace, Ph.D., will provide a chance for the audience to further analyze the film, and engage in an informative discussion.
EVALUATION

From January 2011 – June 2012, the Research Center completed an outcomes evaluation for PEARLS for Teen Girls. Phase I of the evaluation answered basic trend questions about growth in the number of girls enrolling in and completing one or more semesters in the PEARLS program. Phase II focused on evaluating the organization’s in-house data management system and offering particular support in relation to its plans to build internal program evaluator and assessment capacity. Research Center PEARLS Project Coordinators Glen Rogers and Jeana Abromeit oversaw this project.

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

♦ Facilitated a discussion of the film Half the Sky at Discovery World. This innovative documentary focuses on the oppression of women and girls worldwide. Discussion addressed the prevalence of gender-based violence and the necessity of educating girls.

♦ Presentation in conjunction with ACT Now! and the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, “Combatting Bullying: Handling Hatred and Harassment: Tools and Techniques.”

♦ “Tips for Teachers, Parents and the Community to Deal with Bullying” was featured on 103.7 KISS FM, SportsRadio 1250, and WMYX-FM 99.1.

♦ Bullying: A Prevention Toolkit is a listed resource on the government website: stopbullying.gov