

Laura Nelson

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Education

Current	PhD student, Family Studies, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Virginia Tech
2016	Master of Public Health, Dual Concentration Public Health Education and Infectious Disease College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech
2016	Graduate Certificate- Global Planning and International Development Studies, Virginia Tech
2014	Master of Science, Animal and Poultry Science College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech Thesis: Dietary macronutrient composition and exogenous neuropeptide Y affect feed intake in broiler chicks
2012	Bachelor of Science, Biology Honors Program College of Arts and Science, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2012	Bermuda Study Abroad- contributed to the creation of a GPS mapping application for the Bermuda Maritime Museum
Spring 2011	South Africa and Swaziland Study Abroad- studied African wildlife conservation, environmental health, and cultural anthropology

Research Experience

Current	Project Associate at the Virginia Tech Center for Public Health Practice and Research <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ New River Regional Jail Project: Needs assessment of contraceptive needs and plans for pregnancy upon reentry in addition to contraceptive and pregnancy education for female inmate population
2015- Current	Graduate Research Assistant at the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vibrant Virginia- Building Healthy Families and Communities through Collaboration Strategies to Reduce Opioid Use Disorder

- USDA Rural Health and Safety Education- Preventing Opioid Abuse in Rural Virginia: Implementation and evaluation of the Strengthening Families Program in school-based intervention for at risk youth and families
 - Evaluation of the Comprehensive Service Act funding in Montgomery County VA
 - Loudoun County Non-profit Organization Assessment and Network Analysis of community needs
 - CAPE II: Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation: Working on collaborative networks to strengthen program development and implement an evidence-based strategy and improve health outcomes for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

- Current

Human Development Research Team-SBIRT: Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment education among service providers in Appalachia

 - Conducting semi-structured interviews and analyzing data from service providers and medical students to gain insight on stigma and substance use disorder within the medical field in southwest Virginia

- Current

Human Development Research Team-Project SMYLE: Disclosing to Family: Parents, Siblings, & Extended Family Perspectives

 - Conducting skype interviews to investigate the relational and family context of the disclosure process for relatives of an LBG individual

- 2015-2016

Blue Ridge Behavioral Health

 - Developed evaluation plans for a Family Wellness Initiative program for families with children in the Juvenile Justice system
 - Analyzed outcome data and finalized report on the Strengthening Families program

- 2015-2016

Center for Public Health Practice and Research

 - Created template for automated data entry of Youth Risk Behavior Survey
 - Tazewell County Cancer Project: alongside of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisions tested radon and water quality levels of residential housing

- 2014-2015

Herpes Simplex Virus- Research lab assistant

 - Conducted research to further knowledge on correlations between HSV and Alzheimer's disease

Teaching Experience

- 2016-Present Virginia Tech, Department of Human Development
Independent Instructor- Human Sexuality
- Spring 2017: in-class lecture
 - Summer 2017: online
 - Winter 2017: online
 - Fall 2018: online
- Virginia Tech, Department of Human Development, Graduate
Teaching Apprentice- Human Sexuality
- Fall 2016: in-class lecture
- 2014 Virginia Western Community College
Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences
- Biology 101 lecture
 - Biology 102 laboratory
- 2013-2014 Virginia Tech, Department of Animal and Poultry Science,
Graduate Teaching Assistant
- Instructor of Record: Anatomy and Physiology lab
 - Graduate Teaching Assistant: Introductory to Neuroscience: lecture

Peer Reviewed Publications

- Allen, K, Molloy, S., Sonnier-Netto, L., Naar, J., **Nelson, L** (2017). Family Ideologies and Realities: Still Challenging the Status Quo. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. 9: 403-07.
- Nelson LA**, Gilbert ER, Cline MA. (2015) Effects of dietary macronutrient composition on exogenous neuropeptide Y's stimulation of food intake in chicks. *Neuroscience Letter*. doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2015.02.017.
- Wang G, Brumfield B, DiCroce M, **Nelson LA**, Newmyer BA, Flower J, Hipkind K, Sharma S, Gilbert ER, Cline MA. (2014). Anorexigenic effects of central adrenomedullin are associated with hypothalamic changes in juvenile Gallus gallus. *General and Comparative Endocrinology*. 204:223-8. doi: 10.1016/j.ygcen.2014.05.032.

Professional Meetings and Conference Presentations

- Nelson. L. (2018). Mother's seeking substance use treatment in rural Appalachia. Lightning Paper Presentation National Council on Family Relations conference. San Diego, California.

Nelson, L., Grafsky, E., (2017). Parenting Obstacles for Women with a Substance Use Disorder: Mothers and Service Providers' Perspectives. Poster session presented at the Advancing the Human Condition Symposium. Virginia Tech. Blacksburg Virginia.

Nelson, L., Dunkenberger, MB. (2016). Developing a Continuum of Care for Prenatal Substance Use Disorder in the New River Valley. Poster session presented at the American Public Health Association. Denver, Colorado.

Nelson, L. (2014). Dietary macronutrient composition and exogenous neuropeptide Y affect feed intake in broiler chicks. Oral presentation presented at the Annual Graduate Research Symposium, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia.

Invited Presentations

Guest speaker at the American Mock World Health Organization (2018). Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: The Infant and Mother Dyad. Virginia Tech Chapter.

Guest speaker for the Panel on the Opioid Epidemic in the New River Valley (2017). The need for a gendered approach to substance use disorder treatment. NRV Chapter of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy Community Conversation.

Workshop facilitator at the Virginia Higher Education Conversation on Opioid Abuse and Addiction (2018). Policy and Regulation Summary at the "World Café Working Session with key stakeholders"

Grants and Funding

Proposals Funded

Vibrant Virginia- Seed Funding Proposal. Investigating Parental substance use disorders influence on multigenerational use and policy implications to prevention and treatment in rural and urban communities of SW Virginia. \$12,000 requested. Awarded \$10,000.

Proposals Under Review

National Institute of Justice-Graduate Fellowship in Social and Behavioral Science Dissertation Funding. Pathway from Crime to Recovery: A mixed methods investigation to model desistance and recidivism of mothers at the intersection of maternal distress and substance use \$32,000 requested.

Professional Memberships

Member, National Conference on Family Relations

Student Representative, Virginia Rural Health Association
Member, American Public Health Association
Member, Public Health Association at Virginia Tech
Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Member, Tri-Beta Honors Biological Science Fraternity

Awards

James D. Moran Memorial Scholarship, \$2,200 College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Ryan C. Aday Award in Health Promotion \$750, Virginia Tech Master of Public Health Program

Family Studies Research Presentation and Travel Award \$700, Virginia Tech

Lead teaching assistant award \$500 scholarship in Animal and Poultry Science for Anatomy and Physiology laboratory, Virginia Tech

Leadership

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| 2014-2018 | Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly
Graduate Student Delegate <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Represented the Human Development and Family Sciences and Master of Public Health Program at Graduate Student Assembly meetings |
| 2014-2016 | Public Health Association at Virginia Tech
President <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Raised \$10,000 as an organization for Relay for Life▪ Developed and facilitated community-based education programs on mindfulness in the workplace |
| 2014-2015 | Virginia Tech Student Center and Activities
Advisory Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Serve as an ambassador for Student Centers and Activities' programs |
| 2008-2012 | Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Honors Program Community Service Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Collaborated with campus groups and local schools for fundraising and outreach▪ Implemented community outreach projects to build campus and town relationships |

University Engagement and Professional Development

- 2016-Present Human Development and Family Science Teaching Seminar
- Enrolled in the professional teaching seminar within the HDFS department where evaluation and support are provided to instructors of record.
- 2014-2016 Medical Reserve Corps
- Epidemiology team certified
 - phone interviews of members of communities afflicted by disease outbreak
- 2014-2015 Virginia Tech Graduate Honor System
- Served on judiciary panel
- 2014-2015 AmeriCorps with the American Red Cross
- Community disaster preparedness educator
 - Develop presentation material to encourage disaster readiness and volunteer recruitment
- 2013-2015 Graduate Student Assembly
- Review board for graduate research funding