FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forthofer presents at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Dr. Melinda S. Forthofer, director of the Institute for Families in Society, delivered an invited colloquium presentation at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on November 1, 2006 in Troy, NY. The presentation was entitled "Navigating the Philosophical and Fiscal Mandate for Interdisciplinary Research: Observations from a Disciplinary Crossroads."

Increasing globalization of our economy, constraints on availability of funding for research, and increased demand for applications of research evidence are dramatic forces in the landscape of knowledge production in the U.S. and internationally. In her presentation, Forthofer examined the implications of such trends for developing scientists. She also reviewed current trends in research on innovation and knowledge production and discussed the implications of these patterns on interdisciplinary research. The seminar drew upon examples from her experience as a participant and administrator supporting interdisciplinary teams and from her research linking architecture, urban planning, civil engineering, environmental science, criminology, sociology, public health, and biological medicine to understand the role of social context in health promotion. This evidence was used to outline strategies for developing "survival skills" for research careers in this shifting landscape.

If you would like more information on this presentation or topic, please contact Renée Gibson at the Institute for Families in Society at gibsonr@gwm.sc.edu or 803-777-1121.