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### *A message from* Director Megan McClelland

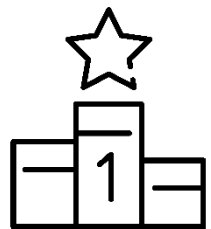


This year, the Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families continued its remarkable growth. Building on over \$60 million dollars in funding awarded to our researchers since 2020, we received over \$1.65 million in new funding in the past year and greatly expanded our trainings and outreach.

### In the Spotlight!

- **NEW! A \$657,000 grant from the Gates Foundation** will make the popular “Head-Toes-Knees-Shoulders” measure, researched and developed in the center, into an app. The new app will allow children to play the game on their own.
- **New! Endowed Lecture Series:** Through generous donor support, a new endowed lecture, the **Schild Nicholson Neurodiversity Lecture Series** has been created to be administered by the COH and HFC focusing on neurodiversity, brain and cognitive development.

### Key Achievements & Milestones



- 90 + Trainings/Workshops
- 2500+ trained
- Over \$1.65 million in new funding this year
- 85 + full/part time staff/faculty
- 60+ papers published
- 80+ Students on HFC Projects
- 7 Student Internships



# HFC Spring/Summer Updates!

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Hallie Ford Center has a new and improved donation page! With help from the OSU Foundation, we have launched a new-and-improved donation page. Visit the [HFC giving page](https://health.oregonstate.edu/hallie-ford/giving) for more info. <https://health.oregonstate.edu/hallie-ford/giving>



The HFC recently participated in OSU's Dam Proud Day for the first time and is connecting with the Beaver community to expand our research and translation efforts.

## [Friends of the Children \(FOTC\) Summer Internship](#)



The 2025 Intern is Mehwish Dawood who will focus on understanding how program staff engage with alumni.

Last year our intern was Rebekah Benkart, a Ph.D. student in Human Development and Family Sciences. Rebekah analyzed and updated the annual alumni engagement survey and advanced alumni outreach.

## [JOY: A School Based Health Services Conference](#)

The Oregon School-Based Health Alliance's (OSBHA) annual conference, in collaboration with the HFC, was held at OSU's Memorial Union on April 10-11, 2025.

The conference featured the work of over 30 youth leaders ages 15-24 and provided hands-on interactive opportunities for youth and adults to engage in youth-adult collaborative efforts. The event aims to highlight the impact of school-based health centers and their upstream approach of providing healthcare to children and youth in school settings.

## [ELSI STEAM Camp](#)

On June 25-27, ELSI's STEAM team hosted over 25 educators and coach pairs at the Hallie Ford Center for 2 ½ days of in-person learning on STEAM!

Educators and coaches learned about methods to support young mathematicians, nature and outdoor learning, engineering, and more! The team are now planning for **Full STEAM Ahead** to provide support in the '25-26 school year.



# News from Cores, Centers, & Programs

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## Research Cores

### Healthy Eating & Active Living

- The **CARE (Community Engaged Research and Practice) Group** is expanding Community Engaged Scholarship and external partnerships. More information can be found [here](#).

### Parenting and Family Life

- 300 parent educators participated across the in-person (April 29-30<sup>th</sup>) and virtual (May 6-8<sup>th</sup>) [Oregon Parenting Educators Conferences](#).

### Youth and Young Adult

- [The JOY Conference](#): the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance's (OSBHA) conference, was held on April 11<sup>th</sup>, and **The AASP Pacific Northwest [Regional Student Conference](#)** was held April 25-26<sup>th</sup>
- Dr. Will Massey testified in congress to advocate for 30 min mandatory recess every day.

### Early Childhood

- [A \\$657,000 grant from the Gates Foundation](#) will adapt the "[Head-Toes-Knees-Shoulders](#)" measure into an app and is part of the Gates Foundation's Early Measures Initiative to develop innovative school readiness measures for children.
- A gift from **Dinah and Steve Nicholson** will fund the newly created [Schild Nicholson Brain Injury and Neurodiversity Lecture Series](#) and focus on brain injury, neurodiversity, brain development and cognitive development.

## Centers & Programs

### [Advancing Science, Practice, Programming and Policy in Research Translation for Children's Environmental Health \(ASPIRE\)](#)

- [ASPIRE Research Funding Presentation Series!](#)
  - **The Big Swing: How to Make Your Research Program Attractive to Donors** was held on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) or on the link above to watch this and previous research funding seminars.
- Learn more about ASPIRE via their newsletter [here](#).

### [Early Learning System Initiative \(ELSI\)](#)

- Free Workplace Wellbeing Guide: Download our [FREE yearlong guide](#) filled with activities, connection and reflection prompts.
- **Free Infant-Toddlers ePyramid Modules** now available! To receive an access code for the Infant-Toddler ePyramid Module, fill out the form here: [English](#) / [Español](#)
- **2024-2025 professional development opportunities to support the Pyramid Model and Inclusion Frameworks** are now available on the [Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion \(OEI\) website](#).

# Upcoming Events & Trainings

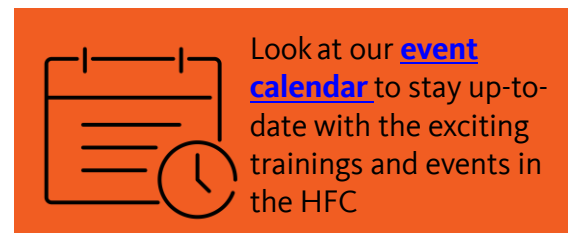
## Practice Based Coaching Summer Intensive

This three day in person training, aimed at improving coaching effectiveness among educators and early childhood professionals, will be happening in the HFC again this year **August 12 – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



## ELSI Oregon Inclusion Initiative Workshops Fall 2025

The Inclusion team is anticipating holding a number of workshops covering Pyramid Model, Inclusion Indicators, and other topics in the fall. To keep up to date on these and more, please see the Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion Initiative [OEI dashboard](#).



## New Initiatives



### Program Evaluation

We are launching a new Program Evaluation group that will help partners assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and impacts of a program or intervention.

Red Light,  
Purple Light  
A SELF-REGULATION  
INTERVENTION



### Expanded Trainings

We continue to expand our trainings in promoting children's [self-regulation](#) and [physical activity](#). [Contact us](#) for more information!

### Interested In Collaborating With Us?

Contact us at [halliefordcenter@oregonstate.edu](mailto:halliefordcenter@oregonstate.edu)  
Visit our [website](#) to learn more!

# Hallie Ford Center Leadership



## **Megan McClelland, Ph.D. Hallie E. Ford Endowed Director**

Megan McClelland is the Katherine E. Smith Professor of Healthy Children and Families at Oregon State University (OSU) where she serves as Endowed Director at the Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families. Her research focuses on optimizing children's development, especially as it relates to children's self-regulation, early learning, and school success.



## **Megan MacDonald, Ph.D. Early Childhood Core Lead**

Megan MacDonald, PhD is a professor of kinesiology, the early childhood research core director at the Hallie E. Ford Center for Children and Families and the OSU IMPACT for Life faculty scholar - all housed within the College of Health and. Her vision is that every child is active and accepted.



## **Will Massey, Ph.D. Youth and Young Adults Core Lead**

Dr. Massey's line of research focuses on the intersection of play, physical activity, and child development. His current line of research is dedicated to understanding how recess quality impacts healthy development in elementary school-aged children.



## **Kathy Gunter, Ph.D. Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Core Lead**

Kathy has a majority appointment in Health Extension and is a member of the Kinesiology program faculty. She serves as director of the Healthy Lifestyles and Obesity Prevention Research Core at the Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families. Her research focuses on developing, implementing and evaluating physical activity programs.



## **Shauna Tominey, Ph.D. Parenting and Family Life Core Lead**

Shauna Tominey, PhD is an Associate Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University. She is honored to be serving families and parenting educators across the state through the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative and early childhood through the Early Learning System Initiative.

## How To Get Involved

Support Our Mission!

[click here](#) or scan the QR code to Donate Now



Learn [more about](#) the Hallie Ford Center by following us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, or by visiting our website, or dropping us a line!



# Glossary

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## **Early Childhood Core**

Focuses on optimizing children's development and well-being in families, early education settings, and communities.

## **Parenting and Family Life Core**

Examines the role of parenting and family dynamics in child and youth development.

## **Healthy Eating & Active Living (HEAL) Core**

Promotes nutrition and physical activity to prevent obesity and enhance children's well-being.

## **Youth & Young Adults Core**

Supports adolescent and young adult health through programs that foster resilience, engagement, and development.

## **Early Learning System Initiative (ELSI)**

ELSI is a state-wide center developed through an agreement between Oregon State University(OSU) and the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to increase early access to high-quality, professional learning opportunities and technical assistance for the early learning and care professionals in Oregon.

## **Advancing Science, Practice, Programming and Policy in Research Translation for Children's Environmental Health (ASPIRE)**

The ASPIRE Center is one of [six centers](#) in the United States funded by the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#) (NIEHS) to develop strategies to translate key children's environmental health research findings—focusing on accelerating the adoption of evidence-informed policies, programs, and practices that can reduce harmful environmental exposures where children live, play, and go to school.



Oregon State University  
Hallie E. Ford Center