World-class faculty and students make a difference

Engaging in innovative, game-changing and compelling scholarship that impacts children, youth and families.

Ranked No. 3 as a national leader in family and human development by the Human Development and Family Science Report.

Professor Roy Levy was awarded a Presidential Early Career Award for scientists and engineers.

Home to one of the oldest, continuously operated early-childhood centers in Arizona, founded in 1942.

Part of an international team that received more than $6 million from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study children’s social competencies in countries across the globe.

Your support can change the world

Through the generosity of our donors, cutting-edge research opportunities and our devoted faculty, the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics is a global force for improving the well-being of individuals, youth and families. Your charitable contributions enable our school to achieve the highest standards of excellence, access and impact.

The Sanford School has provided me with nothing but great opportunities. It is through programs like the Summer Undergraduate Program for Engaging in Research that I was able to realize my passion for research. Not only are the opportunities limitless within the school, but the faculty and staff are beyond supportive. I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to not only be a recent graduate of this school, but also continue my education in the Family and Human Development doctoral program.

–Robert Tover,
first-year doctoral student in the Sanford School

T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics

Fact sheet

thesanfordschool.asu.edu

Social sciences
At the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, our faculty and programs focus on the most important challenges of the 21st century – namely, the well-being of children, youth, families and their communities across their lifespans. We build on our rich heritage and focus our diverse resources on cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative action to generate meaningful impact.

Through cutting-edge research and its translation, high-quality instruction and community engagement, we are dedicated to improving the lives of all children, youth and families – without exception. We believe individuals and families should be defined by their best qualities and not by their shortcomings. This strengths-based focus is key to recognizing the importance of diversity and maximizing the benefits of this diversity in a fair, equitable and compassionate manner.

We are making a difference in a diverse world

At the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, our faculty and programs focus on the most important challenges of the 21st century – namely, the well-being of children, youth, families and their communities across their lifespans. We build on our rich heritage and focus our diverse resources on cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative action to generate meaningful impact.

Cultivating an inclusive environment

Through cutting-edge research and its translation, high-quality instruction and community engagement, we are dedicated to improving the lives of all children, youth and families – without exception. We believe individuals and families should be defined by their best qualities and not by their shortcomings. This strengths-based focus is key to recognizing the importance of diversity and maximizing the benefits of this diversity in a fair, equitable and compassionate manner.

Leading global impact and innovative solutions

We are driven by inclusion and diversity. Our faculty and students focus on the best practices for influencing how we relate to one another and navigate a complex social world. At the intersection of access and excellence, we create opportunity.

Combatting racism in research

In June 2020, over 1,700 professionals attended the webinar “Becoming an Antiracist Society: Setting a Developmental Research Agenda.” Hosted by the Society for Research in Child Development, this webinar was developed by associate professor Eleanor Seaton, a developmental psychologist in the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics who examines the implication of racism related experiences on Black youth’s overall development.

In Innovation through hope

ASU’s Center for the Advanced Study and Practice of Hope, directed by Richard Miller, professor of practice in the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, aims to provide a space where researchers and community partners can work together to support all individuals through a strengths-based, goal oriented, cognitive-motivational approach.

At the forefront of school safety

Associate professor Sarah Lindstrom Johnson was selected by the Arizona Department of Education to be a member of the first-ever School Safety Task Force. The task force was created to generate solutions to safety, health and violence issues in Arizona schools. Lindstrom Johnson’s work involves identifying ways to prevent youth involvement in risk behaviors and focuses on supporting development assets and improving the environments in which youth learn and grow.