

## **W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support the investigation of adult success based on early life predictors**

CLAREMONT, Ca. – A study begun in 1979 – the Fullerton Longitudinal Study (FLS) – will explore the relationship between early life experiences and success as an adult.

Funded with a \$50,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the now 38-year-old participants, who entered the study as infants at age one, will participate in a detailed assessment of their adult lives. The FLS participants, who, along with their parents, were assessed every year of their childhood, and again at ages 17, 24, and 29, which yielded thousands of measurements of their education, family life, extracurricular experiences, and assessments of temperament and personality.

The goal of the research is to study the impact of early life experiences on adult lives, with a focus on how early experiences affect educational attainment, career choice and trajectory, attainment of positions as leaders at work and in the community, family life, and perceptions of happiness, life satisfaction and success in life.

Prior research on the FLS participants has found that motivation is a critical factor in pursuing higher education and in the attainment of positions of leadership. In addition, the study has found that the roots of adult leadership can be traced back to very early childhood temperament and experiences. This new research will continue to explore the role that early development plays in successful outcomes and lives as adults. The expectation is that this research will lead to early childhood development programs that will foster healthy and successful adult lives.

### **About the Fullerton Longitudinal Study**

Begun in California State University, Fullerton in 1979, the Fullerton Longitudinal study is composed of a dataset that includes various developmental and psychological assessments of young children investigated up to and through early adulthood. Learn more at [www.fullertonlongitudinalstudy.org](http://www.fullertonlongitudinalstudy.org)

### **About Claremont McKenna College**

Claremont McKenna College (CMC) is a highly selective, independent liberal arts college with a unique real world mission. As a member of The Claremont Colleges, CMC's dynamic programs and eminent teacher-scholars develop students into leaders in the private, public, and social sectors. Located on a beautiful residential campus east of Los Angeles, the College offers generous scholarship and financial aid, and rigorous, broad academic training in the social sciences, sciences, and the humanities, with a widely recognized expertise in economics and government. The college achieves its distinctive mission of producing responsible leaders by providing a community ethos that is committed to collaboration and the free exchange of ideas, nationally recognized athletic programs, and rich opportunities for advanced research, real world experience, and internships through student-led enterprises and 11 research institutes.

### **About California State University, Fullerton**

Cal State Fullerton, a leading institution of the 23-campus California State University system, enrolls more than 38,000 students and offers 109 degree programs. An intellectual and cultural center for Orange County, Cal State Fullerton is a primary driver of workforce and economic development throughout the region and a national model for supporting student success through innovative high-impact educational and co-curricular experiences, including faculty-student collaborative research. The University embraces its rich diversity, recognizing that it both enhances the educational experience for students and uniquely prepares them to excel as emergent leaders in the global marketplace and in their communities. Cal State

Fullerton is recognized as a top public university in the West, in particular for its work in supporting underrepresented students in earning a college degree.

### **About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation**

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich., and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).