

*Alphonsus P. Niec, EdD Memorial Award for Applied Research in Child & Family Intervention*

Dr. Alphonsus P. Niec (1942-2012) was a psychologist and an educator who saw the potential of each child to succeed. Through research, teaching and community service, Dr. Niec sought to enhance the lives of children who were at risk for school failure, peer and parent conflict, or delinquency. Dr. Niec continuously sought to foster a love of learning in others and to raise awareness of the needs of underserved children and families. This memorial award in his name is meant to further his legacy by supporting graduate student research projects designed to make a positive impact on the lives of at-risk children and families and maximizing the potential of qualified graduate students to succeed in their research.

*Student Eligibility:*

- Student must be enrolled in a masters or doctoral program within the realm of human services or social and behavioral sciences (e.g., clinical psychology, school psychology, education) at Central Michigan University.
- Student must have a cumulative GPA in their program of at least 3.70.
- Student must be engaged in research likely to have a positive impact on the lives of at-risk children and families in at least one of the following domains: behavioral functioning, emotional or relationship functioning, and school adjustment/achievement.

*Project Eligibility:*

- Project must be supported by a faculty research advisor in the field.
- Project must focus on children 17 years-of-age or younger.
- Project must be applied research—that is, they must have the potential to make a direct impact on the functioning of children and families. Examples of applied research studies include an evaluation of an HIV prevention program for gang-involved teenagers or the testing of a dissemination strategy for a parenting intervention.
- Basic research will not be supported by the award. Examples of basic research include a study of the development of children’s reading skills or a study comparing the problem-solving abilities of children with and without behavior problems.

*Award Amount:* \$800

This award is not renewable.

*Application Process:*

- Applicants must submit an application form and a current “Unofficial Transcript” from the Registrar’s Office.
- Applications must include the following:
  1. A brief description of the research project including the rationale and purpose, the population and setting to be targeted, the methodology and analyses. (Maximum 3 pages)
  2. An explanation of how your project could feasibly be transported to other settings (e.g., from university to community). (Maximum 1 page)
  3. A description of your career goals (e.g., how do you intend to use your degree?). (Maximum 1 page)
- Applicants must submit a sealed letter of recommendation from the research advisor who is supervising your project. The letter should particularly address:
  1. Student’s ability to successfully complete the project.
  2. The potential impact of the project on the lives of at-risk children and families.
- Applicants should file a 2018 - 2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). (For additional FAFSA information, please contact the [Student Service Court](#).)

*Project Evaluation:*

A committee composed of faculty volunteers within the college and a co-Director of the Center for Children, Families and Communities will review all applications. Projects will be rated higher when they:

1. Use a strong, scientific methodology.
2. Demonstrate innovation (i.e., move the science forward rather than replicate previous work).
3. Are community based (e.g., the evaluation of a school-based tutoring program; implementation of a child abuse prevention program in a community agency).
4. Demonstrate good transportability (i.e., the readiness to be moved from a university setting to a community setting).

*Timeline:*

Announcement of the competition:	Fall and Spring Semesters
Papers submitted to the college:	October / February
Reading of papers:	October / February
Committee meeting and determination of winners:	November / March
Announcement of winners:	December / April

*Graduate Student Research Award*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Campus ID \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

G.P.A. \_\_\_\_\_

Class standing as of date of application:  Graduate Student  Doctoral Student

Program \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Sought \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Research Project Title \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Letter of recommendation written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Attached  Submitted Separately

The completed application with all supporting materials should be submitted to:

**College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**  
**Anspach Hall 106**  
**Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859**