

University of New Orleans

Department of Psychology

UNO Psychologist Paul Frick Named Juvenile Justice Champion for Change

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Paul J. Frick, University of New Orleans Research Professor of Psychology, has been named a *Champion for Change* in juvenile justice reform efforts by the Louisiana Models for Change initiative.

Frick will be honored on Wednesday, December 10 at a luncheon of juvenile justice reformers from across the country at the Third Annual Models for Change national conference in Washington, D.C.

"Paul's great accomplishment is integrating his understanding of child and adolescent psychology and immense data collection expertise with an understanding of politics and policy," said Debra DePrato, director of Louisiana Models for Change. "He knows how important data collection and research are in developing effective interventions that lead to lasting reforms and better lives for kids."

As the lead for UNO's Models for Change grant, Frick has developed a comprehensive mapping process of the juvenile justice system in each Louisiana parish, formed a state data group which he continues to coordinate, and developed a plan to help evaluate the effectiveness of reaching the goals of the Louisiana Models for Change Initiative. He has also developed a proposal for a multi-state database, expected to become a statewide standard by 2009.

"Paul's data is giving us concrete information about how youths are entering the system, what interventions are being provided and the outcomes. This gives us a rock-solid foundation for reform," DePrato said.

Working with the Louisiana Board of Regents as the lead entity, UNO has been awarded Models for Change grants for \$150,000 providing funding from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, and \$600,000 providing funding from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.

Models for Change is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's \$120 million national initiative to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform through targeted investment in key states. Sixteen states are now involved with four, including Louisiana, working on a range of state and local reforms, and 12 as part of three action networks focusing on disproportionate minority contact, mental health and juvenile indigent defense.

The Models for Change program is working toward a juvenile justice system that holds young offenders accountable for their actions, provides for their rehabilitation, protects them from harm, increases their life chances and manages the risk they pose to themselves and public safety.

Louisiana was selected for the Models for Change initiative because of the progress it has made since the 1990s in improving its juvenile justice system and the commitment of its state and local leadership to building on this momentum. The Louisiana Models for Change initiative, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, focuses on system reforms in three major areas: alternatives to formal processing, evidence-based community services and disproportionate minority contact.

For more information on the Models for Change program, visit www.modelsforchange.net.