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Carol Darling

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Margaret R. Sandels Professor Emerita of Human Sciences, Department of Human Development and Family Science, Florida State University and Docent in Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland

Carol A. Darling, Ph.D., CFLE, is the Margaret R. Sandels Professor Emerita of Human Sciences in the Department of Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) at Florida State University and Distinguished Teaching Professor at Florida

State University. Along with other university and national teaching awards, she was the recipient of two Fulbright Awards.

She used both Fulbright experiences to teach family life education and conduct research in Finland at the University of Helsinki in 1995 and 2004 and became a Docent in the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Helsinki.

During her career, Darling was president of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), a NCFR Fellow, a recipient of various NCFR teaching awards, and co-creator of the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) program for which she has served the program in numerous roles since its inception.

Darling has continued to engage in professional activities, research, and writing publications throughout her retirement. She was the lead author in both the 3rd and 4th editions of the textbook, *Family Life Education: Working with Families across the Lifespan*. The 4th edition was published in 2022.

A native of Virginia Minnesota, Darling earned her B.S. from the University of Minnesota, M.S. at Utah State University, and Ph.D. in Family Ecology from Michigan State University. She taught in the public schools in Silver Spring, Maryland, as well as Utah State University and the University of Minnesota, Duluth prior to her professional roles at Florida State University.

After a long commitment to teaching and research in family life education, Darling is investing in the future and assisting the next generation of scholars. In 2022 the inaugural Anderson-Darling Family Outstanding Teaching Award was presented to a doctoral student in Human Development and Family Science at Florida State University. The second part of this award was for travel for two HDFS doctoral students who were first authors of a research paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Annual Meeting. Darling and her husband, Paul Anderson, are the primary donors of this award in recognition of her parents Harry, Eileen, and Leah Anderson, who all believed in the value of education.

The Carol Darling Family Life Education Research Initiative Grant for NCFR members is a biannual grant designed to creatively contribute to the discipline of family science and specifically family life education by bridging research and practice related to family life education. It will be awarded for the first time in 2024.

Since being in first grade, Darling always wanted to be a teacher which evolved into becoming a university professor. Not only has she loved teaching, but also has found joy in research and service. She likes creating new courses and learning experiences, delving into research topics about children and families, being involved in activities that move the profession forward, and connecting with students. It has been rewarding and pleasurable for her to interact with former students and learn what they are doing and who they have become. In addition to writing books and doing research, Darling enjoys travel and staying connected with family, friends, colleagues, and former students in the U.S. and abroad.