We envision a world where adults and children, of all gender identities and expressions, can live safe, healthy, productive and meaningful lives at home, school, work, and in their communities. We are particularly interested in advancing the health, wellness and quality of life of girls, women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Housed within the School of Health and Human Sciences CWHW seeks to (1) advance solutions to social problems, at local, national and global levels, through research, collaboration, knowledge dissemination, action and service, and (2) contribute to student learning and a vibrant UNCG.

Initiatives

- **Breastfeeding and Feminism International** supports the annual Breastfeeding and Feminism International Conference and related publications, research and education.
- **Program to End Gender-based Violence** seeks to reduce gender-based violence. Stacy Sechrist, program director, is faculty in the Dept. of Psychology, and Senior Research Scientist at UNCG’s NC Network for Safe Communities.
- **Program for the Advancement of Girls and Women in Sport and Physical Activity** advances safety and gender equity in sports and physical activity. Our program director is Donna Duffy, faculty in the Dept. of Kinesiology.
- **LEARN: LGBTQ+ Education and Research** advances the health, wellness, and quality of life for people who are or identify as LGBTQ+. The LEARN Leadership team is Brad Johnson, Dept. of Teacher Education and Higher Education and Jay Poole, Dept. of Social Work.

Research

- **Reducing gender-based violence at UNCG.** In partnership with the Dean of Students and other units on campus we conducted a student survey to better guide policy and practice to improve UNCGs’ capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. We are helping to build a network of faculty, staff and students interested in this area of research and practice.
- **Helping NC domestic violence (DV) service providers better meet the needs of LGBTQ individuals who experience partner violence.** In partnership with the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence we received a two-year grant (2017-2019) from the NC Governor’s Crime Commission to advance our work in this area. This project aims to advance the capacity of programs in NC to deliver safe, effective and culturally relevant services to LGBTQ+ survivors.
- **Helping universities prevent and respond to sexual violence experienced by LGBTQ+ students.** In partnership with the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault we completed a statewide study to provide guidance to colleges as they improve their sexual assault prevention and response programs.
- **The Female BRAIN Project.** This project is comprised of several designed to build our knowledge of the causes and consequences of head injury in female athletes, with a specific focus on concussive and subconcussive events. This groundbreaking work has partners across UNCG as well as Boston University, University College of Cork (Ireland), Louisiana State Univ., and Temple Univ.
- **Breastfeeding and the Status of Women:** This series of studies and papers explores and highlights the impact that the status of women has on breastfeeding rates and experiences, and the implications for policy and practice.
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Social Media
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BFIC
http://www.breastfeedingandfeminism.org
Facebook:
Breastfeeding and Feminism

Community Education and Research Dissemination
- **Breastfeeding and Feminism International Conference**, co-sponsored with the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute, UNC-Chapel Hill, has been held annually since 2005. BFIC is the only breastfeeding conference in the world that focuses on the sociocultural, economic, health and political impacts on, and of, women’s infant feeding decisions. We generally have 70 presenters and 200 participants, and have published 4 books and 2 sets of abstracts in key journals. BFIC 2018 is set for March 21-23. [www.breastfeedingandfeminism.org]
- **Violence Prevention Network.** We coordinate this countywide network of professionals in Guilford County who are collaborating to expand programming in Guilford county to prevent domestic violence.
- **Women’s Sport and Physical Activity Journal:** We have been publishing this unique journal since 2014 (2x year). Three special issues are planned: perspectives on international athletics in the upcoming winter Olympics; contemporary issues for women coaches; and women and head injury.

Student Learning and a Healthy UNCG
- LEARN is sponsoring the Spring 2018 Ashby Dialogue on “HB2: Bad Policy, Fake News and Real Impact”. Faculty, staff and students come together to discuss this topic through 2 dialogues and 1 symposium.
- CWHW along with the Campus Violence Response Center, is hosting NC WAVE (Working Against Violence for Everyone), a free student summit sponsored by the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (February, 17, 2018).
- CWHW has led the initiative to make UNCG breastfeeding friendly, including supporting the ongoing effort to establish nursing mothers rooms and breastfeeding support policy.
- Stacy Sechrist participates in several campus initiatives designed to make UNCG safe for all.
- The LEARN Leadership Team participates in activities across campus to make UNCG welcoming and affirming for all.

Students
- The CWHW Loretta M. Williams Undergraduate Research Assistantship allows us to fund undergraduate students to work with faculty on their research. For two years, students from Kinesiology, Victoria Belvins and Katelyn Costner, have been funded to work with Donna Duffy on the FEMALE Brain Project.
- Our graduate students are generally funded from our private gifts to the center or grants. Our students gain excellent experience in: grant writing; survey development; data analysis; event planning; establishing and maintain community-university partnerships; team work; and writing. This year we funded three students:
  - **Stephanie Sistar Hill**, a 2nd year MPH student in Public Health Education; she has been a graduate assistant since August 2016. She supports the Breastfeeding and Feminism International Conference, the Program to End Gender-based Violence, and the Campus Climate Survey Initiative.
  - **Peace Okpala** is a 1st year MPH student in Public Health Education. She supports LEARN, the work in the Program to End Gender-based Violence and manages our bi-weekly e-newsletter.
  - **Danielle Laplace** supports the LGBTQ+ Domestic Violence Project. She is a 1st year master’s student in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program.

Spring 2018
Past copies of our newsletters and our annual reports are available on our website