

CONTACT: Allison Elliott, (859) 257-1754

FOR RELEASE

UK Launches Search for Studies on Violence Against Women Chair
Center for Research on Violence Against Women partners with colleges in national model

LEXINGTON, Ky. (June 8, 2006) – The University of Kentucky's Center for Research on Violence Against Women has launched the national search for the Verizon Wireless Endowed Chair of Studies on Violence Against Women – the first in a series of appointments that will place UK in the forefront of research into the complex and multifaceted dimensions of violence against women.

“With our announcement today, we are taking the first step on the national stage to advance the empirical study of violence against women. This first endowed chair will focus on the health implications of violence, and we are pleased to have the partnership in this effort of the College of Medicine”, said Carol Jordan, the Center’s Director.

“We believe this chair of studies is a phenomenal first step in advancing the study of violence against women, its etiologies, its treatment and its preventions,” said Dr. Jay Perman, dean, UK College of Medicine, and university vice president for clinical affairs.

“While we believe this research will have a profound impact on women in Kentucky, our goal is to define safe treatments and preventions for women across the nation.”

The Verizon Wireless Chair of Studies on Violence Against Women will focus on women’s health and will be appointed in the College of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Funded through a combination of local fundraising efforts by the Center, a \$250,000 gift from Verizon Wireless and matching funds from the Kentucky Research Challenge Trust Fund, the endowment for the chair totals \$1 million.

A national search for a researcher to fill the position is now ongoing, led by a search committee assembled by Jordan and Perman. The committee is co-chaired by Jordan and Dr. James E. Ferguson, Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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UK Studies on Violence Against Women

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"The Center for Research on Violence Against Women is striving to advance the nation's research agenda in the most far reaching way. We are taking an innovative approach to that mission by placing endowed chairs within five UK colleges. This cooperative approach between the Center and the colleges fosters an outstanding interdisciplinary research environment involving the Center, the Deans and outstanding scientists from across campus who share an interest in studying violence against women," Jordan said.

The Center is currently working to raise funds for the other endowed chairs. The second chair, to be funded through a project called the Women's Circle Endowment, will focus on women's mental health and will result from a partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology. The third endowed chair will concentrate on children who witness violence in the home; the fourth chair will provide a multicultural focus to the study of violence against women and the fifth endowed chair will focus on forensic mental health including offender typology and treatment.

Each endowed chair will be active at both the university and national level in four core activities: conducting research on violence against women; contributing to graduate education through teaching and curriculum development; mentoring graduate students, residents and other faculty who are engaged in research and clinical practice related to violence against women; and working with other universities across the country to advance the body of knowledge in the field.

"Advancing the national and international research agenda in the violence against women area is no small task, but the motivation to do so comes from a love of knowledge and a desire to protect the innocents of the world," Jordan said. "We believe our approach at UK is an innovative national model and is the best way to research, understand and ultimately end violence against women", she said.

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In striving to become a Top 20 public research institution, the University of Kentucky is a catalyst for a new Commonwealth – a Kentucky that is healthier, better educated, and positioned to compete in a global and changing economy. For more information about UK's efforts to become a Top 20 university, please go to <http://www.uky.edu/OPBPA/Top20.html>