

KIMBERLY A. KOPKO

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D., CHILD DEVELOPMENT**, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (May 2005)
- **M.Ed., HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND PSYCHOLOGY**, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
- **B.A., PSYCHOLOGY**, BROWN UNIVERSITY, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, With Honors

MAJOR APPOINTMENTS

- **MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE PURPOSE SCIENCE AND INNOVATIVE EXCHANGE (PSiX)** (August 2025-present)
The Managing Director (MD) partners with the Associate Dean of Outreach and Extension and Director of the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (BCTR) and the founding Director of the Purpose Science and Innovation Exchange (PSiX) to design vision, strategy and a sustainable business model for the BCTR and PSiX and acts as the day-to-day driver of this vision, strategy, operations, business model, and strategic initiatives and relationships. The MD supports leadership, budget and financial management and project management as well as novel strategies and serves as the face of PSiX attending internal meetings on behalf of the Associate Dean and Director and as the first point of contact for questions from collaborators.
- **UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (OMEP)** (November 2019-present). OMEP is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization, which has worked for all aspects of early childhood education and care (ECEC) since 1948. Currently in over 70 countries, OMEP has special consultative status with the UN, UNESCO and ECOSOC, defends and promotes the rights of the child to education and care worldwide and supports activities which improve accessibility to high quality education and care.
- **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION** and **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION AND OUTREACH IN THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY** (January 2015-August 2025)
- **CORNELL UNIVERSITY, SENIOR EXTENSION ASSOCIATE** (March 2012-present) and **DIRECTOR** (January 2015-present) **OF THE PARENTING PROJECT: HEALTHY CHILDREN, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES, BRONFENBRENNER CENTER FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH.**
Duties include providing University level support to parent educators in the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) System across 40 counties and in New York City by linking county-level programs with the research-based resources of the College of Human Ecology; building connections between Cornell faculty, staff and educators by organizing professional development opportunities including In-Service trainings, Program Work Team Meetings and curriculum trainings; promoting and supporting the use of evidence-based curricula among CCE educators working with families and youth; and building a strong research base among county level educators by sharing the results of original research through Research Briefs, Parent Pages and other translational research materials related to families and youth.

MAJOR DISTINCTIONS

- **FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST ROSTER CANDIDATE** (April 2016-2021). This recommendation is on behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Institute of International Education's Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). The Roster is a list

of selected candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming project requests from overseas academic institutions for Fulbright Specialists.

- **LEADING CORNELL:** (October 2016-April 2017). This capstone leadership program is designed to engage and develop staff who have demonstrated potential for advancing to key leadership positions within the University. A limited number of candidates are identified for their senior leadership potential and nominated by Deans and Vice Presidents in partnership with College Officers and Human Resource Directors.

TEACHING

Courses Designed and Taught at Cornell University:

- Population & Public Policy Practicum. Faculty-Led Program; DIS Copenhagen
- Population & Family Policy Practicum. Faculty-Led Program; DIS Copenhagen

Courses Designed and Taught Elsewhere:

- Child Development: Theory And Practice. DIS Copenhagen
- Introduction to Developmental Psychology 01 (for minors). Ithaca College
- Introduction to Developmental Psychology 02 (for minors). Ithaca College
- Proseminar in Development. Ithaca College
- Development in Adolescence. Ithaca College
- Psychology of Aging. Ithaca College
- Senior Seminar in Development: Socioeconomic Status, Parenting, and Child Development. Ithaca College

*all courses developed for undergraduate students, taught in-person, using Blackboard and Canvas and range from 8 students (Senior Seminar in Development) to 75 students (Introduction to Developmental Psychology)

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **PROMOTING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (PYD) THROUGH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING (2024-current).** This project integrates research and extension activities in youth development and parent education and provides youth from diverse locations across New York State the opportunity to evaluate community spaces through their own unique lens by engaging youth and parents in supporting youth-friendly changes to their local environments.
- **PARENTAL APPROACHES TO “PLAY”: CREATIVITY OR SCHOOL READINESS? (2024-current).** This project examines play materials in homes of families with children aged 5 to 6 years. Characterizing which play materials in the home parents consider optimal for school readiness and how these play materials may relate to the language input that parents provide to their child, which play materials parents identify as optimal for promoting children’s creativity, and observing parent-child interactions with these play materials identified as ideal for math and creativity will yield insights into the diversity of play materials in homes and how these play materials may relate to children’s school readiness.
- **PLAYING HARD OR HARDLY PLAYING? DO PARENTS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFANT LEARNING THROUGH PLAY? (2021-2024).** This project examines the ways in which infants’ play enhances learning. Parents’ choice of infant play materials, how toy marketing may shape these choices, and whether parents view play as more effective for learning in infants than preschoolers will be assessed. Results will highlight the relation among parental views on infant learning, different forms of play and learning activities, and toys first-time parents of young children value.
- **PARENTING AND CHILD LEARNING: THE ROLE OF PARENTAL BELIEFS ABOUT CHILD LEARNING AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (2018-2021).** This project examines the ways in which

young children's play with certain types of toys can promote learning and cognitive development. Caregivers' beliefs about early learning, their rationale for toy selections, and interactions with their toddlers in a play session will be assessed. Results will highlight the relation among parental beliefs about learning, access to quality toys and infant learning.

SELECTED EXTENSION PROJECTS

- COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE PARENTING EDUCATION (2024-current). This extension project identifies and expands mechanisms and strategies for creating and maintaining partnerships between Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) county associations and community organizations to enhance programming in support of effective parenting and caregiving among vulnerable populations in rural communities of New York. The Community Partnerships Library Project is demonstrating the feasibility of embedding CCE parenting educators in current library story hours in an upstate urban/rural county.
- EXPLORING SCHOOL-EXTENSION PARTNERSHIPS WITH A FOCUS ON PARENTING EDUCATION (2021-2024). This extension project explored potential mechanisms to develop and pilot-test strategies and tools for creating structured long-term partnerships between county extension organizations and rural schools in New York State with a specific focus on parenting education. The pilot intervention demonstrated the feasibility of a community-based approach to healthy families through coordinating efforts of a parent support specialist for families whose children receive healthcare services through School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in a rural school. The intervention identified specific parenting needs and improved access to parent education for parents and caregivers, successfully targeting families that are most in need of supports. Outcomes demonstrate that rural schools may serve as a hub for parent education programming with positive implications for youth and families.

SELECTED MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- The Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (2025, November 11). What cell phone bans mean for students. Psychology Today: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/evidence-based-living/202511/what-cell-phone-bans-mean-for-students>
- Kopko, K. (2025, October 26). The Contribution Project (Polo Sandoval, Interviewer) [Video clip]. CNN, <https://video.snapstream.net/Play/6iMi4RpBunlWoR1ISt0r9R?accessToken=bmib29mzxkagd>
- Kopko, K. (2025, May 6). WBNG 12 News: Homeschooling rates soar after COVID-19. (Erin Lawlor, Interviewer) [Video clip]. Retrieved from <https://www.wbng.com/2025/05/06/homeschooling-rates-soar-after-covid-19/>
- The Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (2025, February 28). How harsh parenting affects kids. Psychology Today. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/evidence-based-living/202502/how-harsh-parenting-affects-kids>
- Kopko, K. (2025, January 17). Capital Tonight: Hochul targets impact of social media use on young people in and out of the classroom in State of the State. (Jack Arpey, Interviewer) [Video clip]. Retrieved from <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/01/18/hochul-targets-youth-social-media->
- Kopko, K. (2024, September 12). Newsmakers: Cell phones in schools (Andrew Donovan, Interviewer) [Video clip]. Retrieved from <https://www.localsyr.com/news/newsmakers/newsmakers-cell-phones-in-schools/>
- Kopko, K. (2022, March 14). Listen, validate, guide: How to best talk to children about the war in Ukraine (Joe Salzone, Interviewer) [Video clip]. Retrieved from <https://soundcloud.com/whcuradio/kimberly-kopko->

[cornell?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing](https://www.cornell.edu/news/2019/02/14/special-report-disconnect-to-reconnect)

- Kopko, K. (2019, February 14). Special Report: Disconnect to reconnect (Christina L. Episcopo, Interviewer) [Video clip]. Retrieved from <http://www.weny.com/story/40012115/special-report-disconnect-to-reconnect>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Kopko, K. (2025, April 4). Bell-to-bell ban on cellphones in schools is best approach. *Albany Times Union*. <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/commentary-bell-to-bell-ban-cellphones-schools-20255348.php>
- Kopko, K. (2023, October 5). Want better school outcomes? Prioritize play in the classroom. *Albany Times Union*. <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/want-better-school-outcomes-prioritize-play-18406131.php>
- Kopko, K. & Oliveira, P. (2023). [Push pause: The pressing case for play](https://www.crslearn.org/publication/sel-at-home/push-pause-the-pressing-case-for-play/). *Journal of Social and Emotional Learning*, 4(4), 14-18. <https://www.crslearn.org/publication/sel-at-home/push-pause-the-pressing-case-for-play/>
- Kopko, K. (2022, September 15). Ask Amy: I yell at my teenage daughter almost daily. How can I change? *The Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/advice/2022/09/15/ask-amy-mom-yells-daughter/>
- Dunifon, R., Kopko, K., Chase-Lansdale, P.L. and Wakschlag, L. (2016). Multigenerational relationships in families with custodial grandparents. In M. H. Meyer & Y. Adbul-Malak (Eds.), *Grandparenting in the United States*. New York: Baywood Publishing.
- Dunifon, R., Ziolo-Guest, K., & Kopko, K. (2014). Grandparent co-residence and family well-being: Implications for research and policy. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 654(1), 110-126.

SELECTED EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

- Chapman, J., & Kopko, K. (2025). [Supporting Children's Development through Parent-Child Attachment](#)
- Chapman, J., & Kopko, K. (2024). [Outcomes of Participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension Parent Education Programs: 2023-2024](#)
- Cañas, A.M., Kopko, K. & Casasola, M. (2020). [Parenting and Child Learning: The Role of Parental Beliefs about Child Learning and Language Development](#).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS + WEBINARS

- Kopko, K. (2025, June 10). *Parent-child interaction through the lens of play and generational shifts in parenting* [Plenary Session]. Office of Children and Family Services, Family Strengthening and Support Training Institute. Albany, NY.
- Kopko, K. (2025). *Parent Education: Promoting the importance of play* [webinar]. New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP).
- Kopko, K. (2025). *Parenting Pressures and The Surgeon General Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents* [webinar]. New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP).

- Kopko, K. (2025). *Navigating Modern Parenting: Parenting Styles, Generational Shifts and Trends* [webinar]. New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP).
- Kopko, K. (2024). *Parenting and Youth Social Media Use* [webinar]. New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP).
- Kopko, K. (2024, May). Applying parenting education practices to contemporary issues: A research-based approach. NYS Parenting Education Partnership Annual Training Institute: The Development of the Parenting Educator Across Their Career, Albany, NY.
- Kopko, K. & Casasola, M. (2022, April). Parenting and child learning: The role of parental beliefs. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Special Topic Meeting: Learning through Play and Imagination: Expanding Perspectives, St. Louis, MO.
- Sandahl, I. & Kopko, K. (2019, December). *The Danish Way of Parenting*. Presentation to the Young Presidents Organization (YPO), Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, PA.
- Kopko, K. (2019, February). *Parenting: The influence of affluence*. Presentation to the New York Athletic Club Parents' Club, New York, NY.
- Kopko, K., Tennyson, S., Sipple, J.W. (2018, October). *Enhancing the impact of school-based health centers in rural New York via parenting education*. Presentation at the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (BCTR) Talk at Twelve Series, Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, K., Tennyson, S., Sipple, J.W. & Sanchez Arrieta M.J. (2016, May). *Enhancing community impacts of school-based health clinics in rural New York*. Presentation at the Community & Regional Development Institute (CaRDI) Research Roundtable Series, Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, K. (2016, April). *Parenting In Context: An overview of program and research activities*. Presentation at the Rockwool Foundation, Copenhagen, DK.
- Dolbin-MacNab, M., Kopko, K., & Dunifon, R. (2015, November). *Custodial grandparents and the middle generation: A qualitative metasynthesis*. Poster presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.

SELECTED EXTENSION PRESENTATIONS

- Kopko, K. & Loebach, J. (2025, April 7- 9). *Promoting positive youth development (PYD) through youth engagement in community environmental assessment and planning* [Conference presentation]. Cornell Human Ecology Inaugural Extension In-Service, Ithaca, NY.
- Purington-Drake, Kopko, & Speck-Glennon (2025, April 7- 9). *Families & digital/social media* [Conference presentation]. Cornell Human Ecology Inaugural Extension In-Service, Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, K. (2024, September 12). *CCE and CHE Past, Present and Future*. Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Leadership Conference. Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, K. (2023, March). *Parenting and play*. Presentation at the Youth Research Café, Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, K. (Interviewee), Baildon, K. & Treadwell, P. (Hosts) (2021, May 5). [*Leading through Extension: Supporting families*](#) [Audio podcast].

- Kopko, K. (2021, February). *Parenting education: Where do we go from here?* Virtual panel presentation at the NYSPEP Summit.
- Kopko, K. & Chapman, J. (2020, June). *Parenting education 2.0: Curricula updates overview.* Webinar presentation for CCE Parent Educators, Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, K. & Casasola, M. (2019, September). *The impact of parental beliefs on play and learning.* Presentation at the Parent Education In-Service, Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, Kimberly (2019, February). *Cornell Cooperative Extension opioid training: Family impact.* Presentation at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Opioid Training, Syracuse, NY.
- Kopko, Kimberly (2019, January). *Cornell Cooperative Extension opioid training: Family impact.* Presentation at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Opioid Training, Albany, NY.
- Kopko, Kimberly (2017, April). *Bringing the classroom to reality: CCE summer internship program.* Presentation to CCE Systems Conference, Ithaca, NY.
- Kopko, Kimberly (2016, February). *Parenting education: Advancing extension and research activities statewide, nationally, and internationally.* Presentation to CCE Executive Leadership Conference. Ithaca, NY.

SELECTED GRANTS

- CCE/NIFA/USDA Smith-Lever Project: “*The Parenting Project: Integrating Parenting Education & Youth Development.*” Award: \$90,000. Funding period: October 1, 2024-September 30, 2027. Kimberly Kopko, Principal Investigator
- NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)/NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS): “New York State Parenting Education Partnership.” Award: \$2,000,000. Funding period: July 1, 2023-July 1, 2028.
- CUAES/NIFA/USDA Hatch Project: “Parental Approaches to “Play”: Creativity or School Readiness?” Award: \$89,970. Funding period: October 1, 2023- September 30, 2026. Kimberly Kopko, Principal Investigator, Marianella Casasola, Co-Principal Investigator.
- NIFA/USDA/SMITH-LEVER Integrated Project: “Promoting Positive Youth Development (PYD) Through Youth Engagement in Community Environmental Assessment and Planning.” Award: \$176,982. Funding period: October 1, 2023-September 30, 2026. Janet Loebach, Principal Investigator, Kimberly Kopko, Co-Principal Investigator.
- CCE/NIFA/USDA Smith-Lever Project: “Community Partnerships to Advance Parenting Education.” Award: \$86,000. Funding period: October 1, 2023-September 30, 2026. Sharon Tennyson, Principal Investigator, Kimberly Kopko, Co-Principal Investigator.
- CCE/NIFA/USDA Smith-Lever Project: “The Parenting Project: Responding to Changing Needs via a Public Health Perspective.” Award: \$90,000. Funding period: October 2021-September 2024. Kimberly Kopko, Principal Investigator.
- CUAES/NIFA/USDA Hatch Project: “Playing Hard or Hardly Playing? Do Parents Provide Opportunities for Infant Learning through Play?” Award: \$90,000. Funding period: October 2020-September 2023. Kimberly Kopko, Principal Investigator, Marianella Casasola, Co-Principal Investigator.

- CCE/NIFA/USDA Smith-Lever Project: "Exploring School-Extension Partnerships with a Focus on Parenting Education" Award: \$75,000. Funding period: October 2020-September 2023. Sharon Tennyson, Principal Investigator, Kimberly Kopko, Co-Principal Investigator.
- CCE/NIFA/USDA Smith-Lever Project: "Developing Support for Families Experiencing Estrangement: The Cornell Reconciliation Resources Project." Award: \$78,050. Funding period: October 1, 2019-September 30, 2022. Karl Pillemer, Principal Investigator, Kimberly Kopko, Co-Principal Investigator.
- CCE/NIFA/USDA Smith-Lever Project: "Parenting In Context: Incorporating a Two-Generation (2Gen) Approach to Community Parenting." Award: \$90,000. Funding period: October 1, 2018-September 30, 2021. Kimberly Kopko, Principal Investigator.
- CUAES/NIFA/USDA Hatch Project: "Parenting and Child Learning: The Role of Parental Beliefs about Child Learning and Language Development." Award: \$79,607. Funding period: October 1, 2017-September 30, 2020. Kimberly Kopko, Principal Investigator, Marianella Casasola, Co-Principal Investigator.
- NIFA/USDA/SMITH-LEVER Integrated Project: "Enhancing the Community Impact of School- Based Health Centers in Rural New York via Parenting Education: A Pilot Study." Award: \$148,500. Funding period: October 1, 2016-September 30, 2019. Sharon Tennyson, Principal Investigator, Kimberly Kopko, Co-Principal Investigator.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- REUBEN FAMILY FUND GIFT (June 2021) earmarked to support the study of pre-K-12 education that includes faculty or student research, outreach and/or policy studies focused broadly on education, with preference for the study of early childhood education
- EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AWARD nomination (March 2018). This award recognizes staff who bring fresh ideas to their work, inspire a spirit of innovation, or are willing to take a calculated risk

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Psychological Association
- Developmental Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association (Division 7)
- Phi Beta Kappa (Brown University)
- Sigma Xi, Honor Society of Research Scientists (Brown University)
- Society for Research in Child Development
- The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS)

REVIEWER

- Child Development
- Children, Youth and Environments
- Journal of Adolescence
- Journal of Family Issues
- Journal of Family Relations
- Parenting: Science and Practice

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- RTE (Research, Teaching, Extension) Senator-At-Large (July 2020-2023); Re-elected for second term (July 2023-2026)
- CHE CEL Advisory Board (November 2020)

- Cornell United Way Campaign Unit Director (2018-19; 2019-20)
- College of Human Ecology College Engagement Leader (January 2015-2021)
- SUNY Faculty Senate representative for the College of Human Ecology (April 2014-2018; reelected for period July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021)
- Management Institute for Academic Professionals (October 2015)

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- Co-Chair RTE (Research, Teaching, Extension) Task Force (November 2021-present)
- Northeast Family & Consumer Sciences Leaders Group (January 2021-present)
- Dean's Summer Archival Research Fellowship Committee (July 2016-present)
- Rose and Halpern Award Committee (May 2020)
- RTE (Research, Teaching, Extension) Issues Committee (May 2019)
- Committee on Academic Title-Holder Representation (March 2018)

CONSULTATION

- Developmental Consultant: Children's Museum of Manhattan (Ongoing)
- Consultant: New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) (Ongoing)
- The New York City Police Department (NYPD) Project entitled: "Parenting in the NYPD" (2019-2021)