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## **FRED ROGERS CENTER NAMES EARLY CAREER RESEARCH FELLOW**

LATROBE, PA – Dr. Kathleen (Katie) A. Paciga has been named Early Career Research Fellow at the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College, it was announced by executive director, Rick Fernandes.

The fellowship, in conjunction with the Technology and Early Childhood (TEC) Center at Erikson Institute, will support the development of a report exploring key issues, the latest research and best practices for the use of technology with young children.

Building off of the recommendations of the National Association for the Education of Young Children-Fred Rogers Center joint position statement, the technology and interactive media report will take a whole-child approach to the research, especially focusing on social-emotional development.

Paciga’s work will examine how and why technology tools and digital media should be used to support healthy child development and provide recommendations on selection, use, integration and evaluation.

“We are very pleased to have Dr. Paciga join our collaborative initiative. This is the first fellowship the Fred Rogers Center has offered that focuses on research and we are looking forward to her contributions,” stated Fernandes.

“We are thrilled to have Katie on our team here at Erikson, leading our review of the children’s media research since the position statement was released in March of 2012,” said Dr. Chip Donohue, director of Erikson’s TEC Center and member of the Fred Rogers Center Advisory Council. "Her work will help us better understand what we know and what we still need to learn about technology in the early years, and how best to connect research to policy and practice."

Paciga is assistant professor of education at Columbia College Chicago. She earned a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish from Loyola University. While studying at University of Illinois at Chicago, she completed her master of science in education in instructional leadership with a concentration in literacy, language and culture, and her doctoral studies in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in literacy, language and culture.

Established at Saint Vincent College in 2003, the Fred Rogers Center enriches the development of current and emerging leaders in the fields of early learning and children’s media by supporting the professional advancement and mentoring of the next generations of Fred Rogers through the Early Career Fellows program; educational opportunities for undergraduate Fred Rogers Scholars; research and special collaborations by Rogers Center Senior Fellows; and resources and information on the developmentally appropriate use of media. The Center is the official home of the Fred Rogers Archive as well as a straightforward, understanding and compassionate voice for the healthy social and emotional development of children birth to age 8 ([www.fredrogerscenter.org](http://www.fredrogerscenter.org)).