

## School of Social Work Co-Sponsors Researcher Presentations

New research from the Family Acceptance Project (FAP) demonstrates that families of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth are able to greatly reduce their children's risk for HIV, substance abuse, depression and suicide, and boost their self esteem and well-being.



On Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6, Dr. Caitlin Ryan, founder of FAP, will present this research and an exciting new family-related approach to increase support for LGBT youth at two venues the Western Michigan University (WMU) campus.

Dr. Ryan will present *Beyond Tolerance: Promoting Family Support for LGBT Youth* on November 5 at the WMU Fetzer Center. A reception will be held from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. with the presentation following from 6:30 – 8 p.m. This is free and open to the public. Please call (269) 553-8110 if you plan to attend.

On November 6, Dr. Ryan will present *The Impact of Family Acceptance & Rejection on the Physical & Mental Health of LGBT Youth* from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the WMU College of Health & Human Services. This event is open to the public and is a continuing education presentation sponsored by the WMU School of Social Work.

The fee for the training is \$30 or \$20 for students, with an additional \$15 to obtain five hours of continuing education credit. For information and to register, contact Melinda McCormick at (269) 387-3158 or [melinda.mccormick@wmich.edu](mailto:melinda.mccormick@wmich.edu).

Dr. Ryan is a clinical social worker who has worked on LGBT health issues since the 1970s. Results of FAP research will be used to help families provide support for LGBT youth, to develop appropriate interventions, programs and policies, and to train providers to improve the quality of services and care they receive.

These events are sponsored by the WMU School of Social Work, the Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Gryphon Place, Advocacy Services for Kids, Parents, Families and Friends of of Lesbians and Gays, The Resource Center, Kalamazoo Wraps, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.