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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY AND BOSTON COLLEGE  
TOGETHER WITH ALLIANCE FOR WORK-LIFE PROGRESS ANNOUNCE  
THE WINNERS OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROSABETH MOSS KANTER AWARD**

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (February 28, 2006) The Center for Families at Purdue University and the Boston College Center for Work & Family, with the support of Alliance for Work Life Progress, are delighted to announce **Natalia Sarkisian** and **Naomi Gerstel** as the winners of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research.

Named in honor of Rosabeth Moss Kanter, who has been identified as the most influential contributor to modern literature on work and family, the Kanter Award is given for the best research paper(s) published during the year. The rigorous nomination process for award selection involves 37 scholarly reviewers from 6 countries who decide on the Kanter winners from among 71 nominees. (Over 2500 articles published in 60 scholarly journals were examined to arrive at 71 nominees.) This award raises awareness of excellent work-family research, fosters debate about standards of excellence, and identifies the “best of the best” studies on which to base future research.

*“Because women are concentrated in less lucrative jobs and are less likely to be self-employed, they will probably be the ones to shoulder much of this increased load, which will further increase the gender gap in family work.”*

(p. 447)

*Journal of Marriage and Family* Volume 66, 2004

Natalia Sarkisian of Boston College and Naomi Gerstel of the University of Massachusetts co-authored “Explaining the Gender Gap in Help to Parents: The Importance of Employment,” which is published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. This study explored the relationship of employment status and job characteristics in explaining the difference in the amount of caretaking men and women provide to parents. The study findings suggest that, all things being equal, employed men and employed women provide equal amounts of help to parents and parents-in-law. But all things are not equal - the author’s emphasize that employment characteristics of men and women differ substantially, and thus the amount of help each gender gives to parents differs as well.

Natalia Sarkisian and Naomi Gerstel will receive their Kanter Awards at the 2006 Alliance for Work-Life Progress (AWLP) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference &

Exhibition, to be held March 1-3 in Austin, Texas. For more information about AWLP and the conference, please visit the association's web site at [www.awlp.org](http://www.awlp.org).

The Center for Families at Purdue University and the Boston College Center for Work & Family developed the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award to raise the awareness of high quality work-family research among the scholar, consultant and practitioner communities. Through AWLP's generous sponsorship, the standards of quality for work-family research will continue to rise, and actionable findings from the best studies will become more commonplace in business communities to inform policy and best people practices.

The **2005 Best of the Best** report provides research summaries of the top twenty nominees for the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research. The **Best of the Best** report can be accessed at [www.bc.edu/cwf](http://www.bc.edu/cwf). For more information on the Kanter Award or on the award winners, please call Shelley MacDermid at (765) 494-6026 or Jacquelyn B. James at (617) 552-2860.

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*With research, education, and outreach, the Center for Families at Purdue University strengthens services to families provided by employers, legislators, and others. The Midwestern Work-Family Association (MWFA) was created through a partnership of The Center for Families at Purdue University and leading Midwestern employers. MWFA advocates for quality work environments that are consistent with business objectives.*

*Founded in 1990, the Boston College Center for Work & Family is committed to enhancing the quality of life of today's workforce by providing leadership for the integration of work and life, an essential for business and community success. The Boston College Center for Work & Family vision is that companies and communities will work together to ensure their mutual prosperity and the well being of employees and their families.*

*Alliance for Work-Life Progress (AWLP) is a not-for-profit professional association committed to the development and advancement of the field of work-life effectiveness. Founded in 1996, AWLP strives to improve the professionalism of those working in the work-life arena and influence better integration of work and family life. AWLP also addresses work-life issues through publications, forums, surveys and as an education provider, including certificate courses. An affiliate organization of WorldatWork, AWLP has its headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona.*