ASU Social Work Professor Honored with Foundation Professorship

(Tempe, January 14, 2005) – Dr. Flavio F. Marsiglia, who joined the Arizona State University School of Social Work in 1994 as an assistant professor, has earned one of the University’s highest accolades. He has been named Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health. In addition to carrying the rank of full professor and providing him with additional discretionary research support, this named professorship recognizes the international excellence of Marsiglia’s scholarship and interdisciplinary leadership in the fields of drug abuse and HIV prevention with an emphasis on Latino populations and social work intragroup relations.

“Dr. Marsiglia epitomizes the model of leadership and scholarly excellence that is moving our College of Public Programs forward at an exciting pace. His research and administrative acumen as well as his teaching skills and global reputation help us attract exceptional students, colleagues and international collaborators. It is a great pleasure to recognize his promotion and Foundation Professorship honor,” noted Dean Jeff Chapman.

Marsiglia is the Director of the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Consortium at Arizona State University, funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse and one of only seven such centers in the nation. He has published more than 30 articles on drug abuse prevention and is principal author of the forthcoming book, *Culturally Grounded Social Work*.

He led the team that developed *keepin’ it REAL* (Refuse, Explain, Avoid, Leave), an evidence-based drug prevention program for middle school students, which received the Excellence Award and was named a national Model Program by the U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). As one of only 41 model programs of its kind in the nation, the program has been replicated among more than 14,000 students, and is now being adopted in schools and community organizations across the nation and internationally, including Arizona, Texas and Nuevo Leon, Mexico. This narrative and performance-based program uses videos depicting life stories of Arizona’s youth to teach how to lead drug-free lives. The program draws on their personal and cultural strengths of their families and communities.

The Consortium that Marsiglia directs brings together ASU faculty from eight disciplines with community partners that include school districts, social service agencies, and hospitals. Their collaborative studies have ranged from research projects on resiliency and risk processes for urban American Indian youth, substance abuse prevention in Arizona mining towns, treatment and prevention of co-occurring disorders among Latinas, medication adherence for schizophrenics, family drug courts, and family acculturation studies to examine health outcomes of Latino populations. Marsiglia also spearheads the Consortium’s international initiatives in Mexico and Spain, among other countries.

Most of Marsiglia’s work focuses on understanding cultural support systems in terms of how culture protects against negative health outcomes, how culture can heal and balance individuals and communities, and the challenges presented by the acculturation process. His research team informs policy and interventions based on what works well for specific cultures: developing ways to share that knowledge; focusing on prevention and treatment; and developing messages that resonate well with specific cultures.

He regularly shares his expertise with practitioners, agencies and policy-makers and is excited about using his professorship funding to support new areas of innovation, consulting with global collaborators, and addressing the Consortium’s ongoing priorities. For more information see http://sirc.asu.edu.