Cathleen D. Zick is a family and consumer economist interested in household time allocation, household structure and economic well-being, and family/consumer policy. She has taught a number of different classes over the past 28 years including: Family Economic Resources (FCS 3450), Consumers, Markets and Government (FCS 3450/5440), Family Policy (FCS 6200), Research Methods (FCS 3200), and Families and Economic Policy (FCS 6400/5400). Her current courses are Program and Policy Evaluation (FCS/PUPBL/PADMN 6563) and Families, Consumers, and Health (FCS 5430).

Dr. Zick has three currently funded research projects.  She is a co-investigator on a NIDDK funded poject (PIs are Smith and Kowaleski-Jones) that focuses on assessing the effect of neighborhood characteristics on residents' BMI and obesity risk.  The second project, funded by USDA, makes use of time diary data to examine how energy balance related time use patterns have changed in the United States over the past 30 years.  Finally, Dr. Zick and colleague, Dr. Robert Mayer, have a Center on Aging seed grant to assess how retirement planning has changed after the recent economic downturn.

Areas of past research include (1) assessing the economic value of household work, (2) examining how the death of a spouse affects the surviving spouse's economic and health status, and (3) determining the impact of deregulation on consumer welfare in the airlines and telecommunications markets.

Dr. Zick's work has been published in such journals as, Social Science and Medicine, Health Affairs,  American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Youth and Society, Public Health Nutrition, Demography, The Journal of Consumer Affairs, Journal of Marriage and the Family, Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Social Science Research, and the Journal of Family and Economic Issues. She serves on the editorial boards of The Journal of Family and Economic Issues, the Review of Economics of the Household, and Journal of Marriage and Family.

From 1997 to 2005, Dr. Zick was chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Studies.  Since 2005, she has directed the Master in Public Policy program.  She served on the Board of Directors for the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) from 1990-92 and again in 2000-2002.  From 2005-2008, she was the President-Elect, President, and Past-President of ACCI.  In 2003, she was the recipient of the College of Social and Behavioral Science Superior Research Award.