



Department of Social Work

Spring, 2023 (Volume 9, Issue 1)

Message from the Interim Department Chair

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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Mr. Roy Cooper,
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Adjunct Instructor

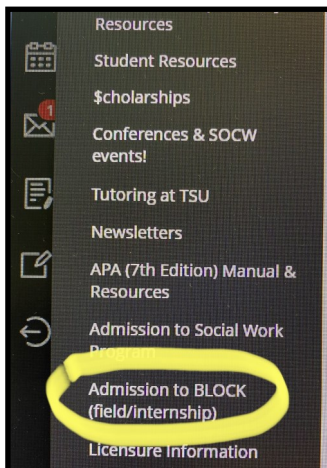
Please visit our Social Work Department website to for contact information, and get learn more about our Social Work program, the profession of Social Work, and some great professional resources at:



This Spring semester is a *great* time to be a Social Work student! We celebrate *Black History Month* in February, and then in March we celebrate *Social Work Month*! This year, NASW announced that the theme for Social Work Month is “Social Work Breaks Barriers”. This theme captures the essence of both the extraordinary African Americans and Social Workers who helped to pave the way for us! However, we don’t have to look further than our very own Social Work Department to find faculty and students who are breaking barriers, as well! These are people like Dr. Needha Boutte-Queen, who is the first Social Work Faculty to serve in the position of TSU Acting Provost & Senior VP of Academic Affairs. I can also mention our current senior, Corlisa Hockless, who was appointed as the Houston Branch Representative for the NASW/Texas Nomination & Leadership Identification Committee (NLIC). In addition, one of our former TSU Social Work graduates, current Adjunct Instructor and LCSW, Mr. Roy Cooper, is the first graduate from our program who is working on earning his D.S.W.. This semester, another alumni of our program is working as the Civic Engagement Director for Amanda Edwards’ mayoral campaign right here in Houston! In addition, this year, Social Work students are embarking on new adventures and partnerships! At the end of last semester, our Social Work seniors participated in a “Mass Casualty Drill” with Houston Fire Department and UT-Health for the very first time, to learn inter-disciplinary, crisis management and triage. The Social Work Department is also collaborating with other departments in COLABS, to offer a Study Abroad experience in Tanzania, Africa in Summer III! It goes without saying that breaking barriers is not easy... But what professional growth we experience when we venture outside of our comfort zone, and ultimately, inspire those after us to do the same. What barriers will YOU break this year?

SOCIAL WORK BREAKS BARRIERS

It’s THAT Time of Year... Social Work BLOCK Admissions!



Senior Block Application open March 2023! It’s the time of year when junior-level students begin the process of applying for senior-level BLOCK. The application submission and interview will be held completely online! All of the information about the BLOCK application process can be found in the “Admission to BLOCK” tab, located in the Social Work Majors Black Board. Interviews with Ms. Ifueko will be held in April. We are looking forward to preparing our juniors for a smooth transition to the senior year!



Celebrating our Social Work “Class of 2023”

These future social workers have worked hard– through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arctic Freeze, and flooding– to get to their senior year! When they become Social Workers, they will have some additional skills in crisis management, technology use, and group work, and inter-disciplinary skills to bring to the workforce! These are some of the most resilient scholars that will graduate in Texas this Spring!

2023 Commencement ceremony, *HERE WE COME!*



Senior Seminar Presentation, exploring the racial disparities in the public child welfare system...



Taking a moment to celebrate success at the Mass-Casualty Inter-Professional Experience with UH-Health and Houston Fire Department!



TSU Social Work Department Accolades!

You know what they say... Behind every good Social Work Department is a great Director of Field Education! This year, our fabulous Field Director, Ms. Ifueko Omorogbe, has developed partnerships with 7 new community agencies! These agencies serve as sites for our senior internships! She is also serving on the Texas Field Educators Consortium.



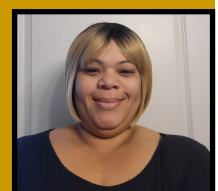
All roads lead to TSU, and our new Provost is connected to most of them! Needha Boutte-Queen was appointed the Acting Provost & Senior VP of Academic Affairs in January of 2023. She is also serving as Commissioner for the Council on Social Work Education.



Our fantastic Project Coordinator for the TSU SHAPE Initiative, Ms. Akinbohun, is the muscle behind Dr. Loudd's behavioral health grants! To date, nearly 3,000 students have been screened for behavioral health issues and STDs/STIs. Nearly 400 were linked to services, over 250 received case management, and over 200 students tested positive for either HIV or STIs.



The Social Work Department and the Psychology Department were awarded an Innovation Grant to create a new Center for Emotional and Behavioral Wellness. The Program Coordinator, and TSU Social Work alumna, Ms. Marquisa Rodriguez, is building the components to this program, which is partnering with the UCC to provide supplemental wellness services to students in-need.



Social Work Scholars... and Scholarships

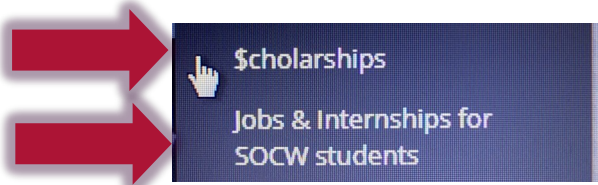
See anyone... *familiar*? If you look closely, you will see not one, but two current TSU seniors to your right! This year, two of the ten students selected for the NBHP Marion T. Coleman scholarship recipients were TSU Social Work seniors, *Lakresha Young* and *Angel McClain*! Way to go, scholars, as your hard work has paid off... *and* made TSU proud!

Want to learn more about our TSU Social Work senior scholars? Check out their bios on the NBHP website at:

<https://www.nbhp.org/2022-2023-coleman-pathways-scholarship.html>

Need a \$cholarship???

The Social Work Department Faculty and Staff keep an updated list of scholarships, paid internships, and jobs for social work students on our Social Work Majors Blackboard. This is a great resource for students!



2023 TSU Study Abroad in TANZANIA!

IN-PERSON MEETINGS:

March 1 @ 12:00noon

VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

March 2 @ 11:00am

March 6 @ 11:00am

March 9 @ 7:00pm

March 10 @ 7:00pm

This Summer during Session II, Social Work majors are invited to get out of their zip code, and out of their comfort zone, and set foot on the most immersive, adventurous Social Work elective course to... **TANZANIA, AFRICA!**











Course assignments will be discipline-specific, and students will travel with several COLABS Faculty from History, Art, and Social Work!

Want more information about this elective course of a lifetime? RSVP for one of the following Information Sessions above, by scanning the QR code!




**CONGRATULATIONS,
MARION T. COLEMAN PATHWAYS
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

2023

 PRINCESS AGOBOCK	 YAJAIRA CRUZ ALONSO	 KIEYANA EDWARDS	 NOAH GARZA
 TRINITY HERNANDEZ	 LOREN JOHNSON	 ANA MARTINEZ	 ANGEL MCCLAIN
 JESSAN PERRERAS	 LAKRESHA YOUNG		

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS, CLICK HERE



Network of Behavioral Health Providers
9401 Southwest Freeway | Houston, TX 77074 | 719-970-3410 | www.nbhp.org



TSU Social Work Alumni Spotlight: Q & A with Victoria Bryant, LCSW, B.A!



Question: *After graduating with a B.A. in Social Work from TSU, where have you worked, and what roles and duties have you had?*

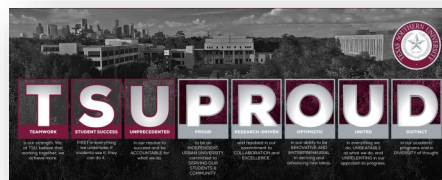
After graduating from TSU, I moved to California to work with an affordable housing agency while pursuing my MSW. My role was to provide services to seniors to support ageing in place. This was a non-clinical role with 80% of my clients being monolingual Chinese speakers. After 2 years, I returned to Texas, to work with a nonprofit tech company. My duties were twofold: understand social determinants of health and how they impact health outcomes and use that data to help build coalitions with insurance companies, hospital systems, and community institutions. I worked for two major hospitals in the medical center. As an emergency room social worker in a level 1 trauma hospital, you see and do a lot. The role entailed psychiatric assessments and making determinations of patient safety, responding to traumas, and collaborating with a multidisciplinary team for discharge planning. I've worked as a therapist in private practice for adults and for a medical college providing tele-therapy for adolescents. I've diagnosed, developed treatment plans, and provided brief therapy. I currently work for a for-profit insurance agency as a complex care case manager. My role is to assess and determine gaps in care for high-need-high-cost patients and connect them to cost-effective appropriate care.

Question: *Reflecting on your time as a TSU student, how did the Social Work program prepare you for those professional roles and duties?*

TSU has prepared me in many ways for the opportunities I have been privileged to have. I learned how to effectively collect and communicate data. As a result of this lesson, I was published twice in peer-reviewed journals. I was taught how to do therapy. The vignettes, role playing, and professor-student relationship were practical applications of a provider-client relationship. I continue to use the skills that brought me success and correction to this day. The volunteer opportunities and internships offered allowed for real world experience in the field with organizations I would not have had access to without TSU's network. Also, the emphasis on research, writing, and speaking gave me the skills necessary to experience a career at the mezzo and macro level. After almost 8 years after graduating, the lessons, memories and experiences live fresh in my mind. For these things and more, I owe TSU a great deal of gratitude.

Question: *What advice would you give to our current Social Work students?*

Prioritize self-care. It is vital for your mental health. Burnout is real and feeling it doesn't mean you are not qualified or good at what you are doing. It is a sign that you need a break and to prioritize yourself. Feeling unappreciated and underpaid may be the narrative, but it doesn't have to be your story. Know your worth. Don't settle. Negotiate your salary. Lastly, when the time comes, be the hand that pulls up another person when given the opportunity. You have the power to change things.

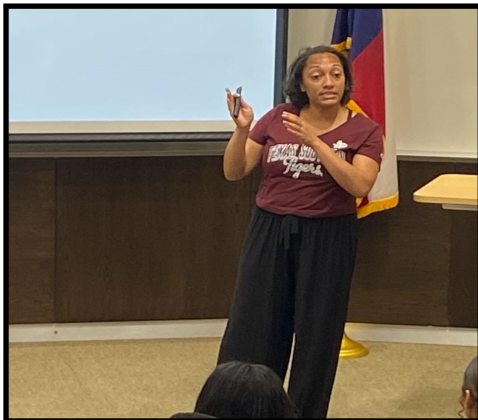


TSU Social Work Alumni Paying It Forward...

We are so grateful to help our students along on their journey to become Social Workers. There is a saying, "Never forget where you come from". We equally grateful that they come back to mentor and inspire our current majors. Representing a variety of practice areas, these alumni come back to share lessons learned, practice trends, and their personal- and professional- experiences in the TSU Social Work program... and in some wonderful agencies and organizations in Houston!



**THANK YOU, ALUMNI,
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO
OUR FUTURE
SOCIAL WORKERS'
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT!**



TSU Social Work Department Student Organizations on the Scene!

THE **ACTIVE MINDS STUDENT CHAPTER** HELD A "VISION BOARD" EVENT IN NOVEMBER, FOR TSU STUDENTS! DR. CHERRY SAWYERR AND AUTHOR CARLOS WALLACE FACILITATED THE VISION BOARD WORKSHOP, WHERE ATTENDEES WERE PROVIDED ALL MATERIALS NEEDED TO CREATE INDIVIDUALIZED VISION BOARDS. THESE HELP EACH STUDENT WITH SELF-AWARENESS, SELF-ESTEEM, AND SETTING GOALS FOR THE YEAR.



THE **STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS (NABSW)** PARTICIPATED IN A SERVICE ACTIVITY, VOLUNTEERING AT LIFE HOUSE HOUSTON. THIS IS AN AGENCY THAT SERVES YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE EXPERIENCING UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES. STUDENTS IN THIS TSU STUDENT CHAPTER OF NABSW VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS BY ORGANIZING BASIC NEEDS AND ENGAGING THE CLIENTS IN ACTIVITIES.



Social Work Field Instructors in the News!

NBHP The Network of Behavioral Health Providers
155 followers
1mo · 🌐

Congratulations to our very own, [LaToya Shields, BSW, MPA](#), for being selected as a participant in the United Way-CenterPoint Energy Emerging Leaders program. LaToya serves as the Director of the Harris County Pathways Community HUB collaborative.

The Emerging Leader program is a six month experience designed to prepare new and emerging leaders to assume leadership roles in a supportive format and to provide management principles and practices needed to lead today's nonprofits, in the wake of the "great resignation" phenomenon seen in the field.

[#leadership](#) [#NBHP](#) [#CommunityBasedPrograms](#)
[#development](#) [#unitedway](#) [#Centerpoint](#) Energy
[#CenterforExecutiveDevelopment](#) [#MaysbusinessSchool](#)

The pinnacle of our Social Work program is the senior year field practicum, where our student scholars apply all the professional knowledge, values, and skills they've learned to working with clients in direct and indirect practice at our partnering agencies. Of course, none of this would be possible without our wonderfully talented and hard-working Field Instructors!

We want to celebrate one of our Social Work alumna, Ms. LaToya Shields, BSW, MPA! When Ms. Shields is not busy working full-time as the Director of Harris County Pathways... or serving as a Field Instructor...or teaching courses at TSU in emergency management and homeland security, she is busy participating in the United Way-CenterPoint Energy Emerging Leaders Program!

We couldn't be more honored that Ms. Shields is on [#teamtsusocialwork](#), sharing her skills, experience, and knowledge with our Social Work student interns. Want to know what life-long learning is? Take a look at this article about this superstar Social Worker that was posted on LinkedIn!



Social Workers as First Responders: IPE Mass Casualty Simulation Event

