



Social Work Day On The Hill Student Advocacy Day

MARCH 25–26, 2026

Your Voice Matters

The Council on Social Work Education is proud to support CRISP and Social Work Day On The Hill!



Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy

March 25, 2026

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP), it is my honor to welcome you to *Social Work Day on the Hill* and *Student Advocacy Day* during this meaningful month of March—Social Work Month. This year's theme, *Our Voices Matter: Your Voice is Your Vote*, calls us to reflect on both the privilege and responsibility of civic participation. We gather at a pivotal moment in our nation's history, when the strength and resilience of our democracy depend not on optimism, but on engagement. Voting is a declaration of presence, dignity, and shared destiny. In a year when the stakes are unmistakably high, we must affirm that our voices—individually and collectively—remain among the most powerful instruments for shaping a just society.

Social workers occupy a unique and essential position in this democratic landscape. Grounded in community, informed by lived experience, and guided by evidence, we are called to bridge the distance between policy and people. CRISP's mission—to bring the realities of communities into legislative deliberations in Congress—has never been more urgent. Political social workers, whether serving on Capitol Hill, in state legislatures, or within local governments, play a vital role in translating human need into public action.

As we commemorate 250 years of American independence, we honor the enduring contributions of social workers who have labored to expand opportunity, equity, and justice across generations. This work has never been easy. Hope, in our field, is disciplined, strategic, and persistent. It is, as I often say, the hard work of hope. Today, we also look forward as we pass the baton to emerging leaders, students, and young professionals—who will shape the future of advocacy, policy, and civic life. As you participate in these events, I encourage you to carry forward the commitment to speak, to engage, to vote, and to lead. Our democracy depends on it.

Respectfully,

Charles E Lewis, Jr

Charles E Lewis Jr, MSW, PhD
Founder and Director

750 First Street, NE • Washington, DC 20002 • Suite 836B • 202-408-8600, Ext. 591

New Edition of Mimi Abramovitz's Groundbreaking Book



The Center for Social Development will present an online discussion of Mimi Abramovitz's 4th Edition of *Regulating the Lives of Women* on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 3:00 pm ET**. Featuring Mimi Abramovitz, it offers a timely and intellectually rigorous examination of the American welfare state through a critical, historically grounded lens. The discussion reframes social welfare policy not as a neutral system of support, but as a structured mechanism that has long governed—and constrained—the lives of women, particularly along lines of race and class.

Abramovitz's central argument challenges conventional narratives by positioning the welfare state as both a site of provision and control. By tracing policy developments from the colonial Poor Laws through the Social Security Act and into contemporary reforms, she illuminates how public assistance systems have

institutionalized gendered and racialized assumptions about dependency, morality, and deservingness. This historical continuity underscores a more complex reality: the same systems designed to alleviate hardship have also reinforced social hierarchies and surveillance.

The event gains additional depth through commentary by Jessica Toft, whose expertise in social work policy situates Abramovitz's analysis within current practice contexts. Michael Sherraden's role as moderator further ensures a dialogue that bridges scholarship and application, reflecting the Center's broader commitment to translational research.

For social workers, policy advocates, and scholars, this conversation is more than retrospective. It is diagnostic and forward-looking—inviting critical reflection on how entrenched narratives continue to shape policy design and implementation, and how the profession might engage more strategically in reshaping systems toward equity and justice.



Inquiry. Innovation. Impact.

A leader in applied policy research for over 30 years, the **Center for Social Development** in the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis is a hub for testing social innovations that broaden well-being.

We invite you to join us in the work of building a just, inclusive, and sustainable future.

csd.wustl.edu

Center for Social Development
BROWN SCHOOL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Policy & Politics Forum

Shaping "Trump Accounts": Research, Policy Design, & the Role of Social Work

This 90-minute panel brings together leading researchers from the Center for Social Development (CSD) to examine their role in informing the design and policy architecture of "Trump Accounts," a new generation of asset-building proposals aimed at expanding economic opportunity.

Co-Director Jin Huang and Senior Advisor Ray Boshara will discuss how decades of evidence on Child Development Accounts and "baby bonds" have influenced federal deliberations. The session underscores the importance of social workers being at the policy table—ensuring equity, evidence, and lived experience

shape legislative outcomes. Melissa Sanchez, Legislative Aide to Senator Cory Booker, has been invited.

The foundation for this work traces to Dr. Michael Sherraden, whose landmark theory of asset building reframed anti-poverty policy by emphasizing the long-term value of savings and ownership. His pioneering concept of Child Development Accounts demonstrated that structured, early-life investments can influence educational attainment, financial behavior, and lifetime opportunity. Sherraden's work shifted policy discourse from income maintenance to asset accumulation, providing the intellectual and empirical basis for contemporary proposals such as "baby bonds" and related federal account initiatives.



JIN HUANG, PHD

Jin Huang is Co-Director of the Center for Social Development and the Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. A leading scholar in asset building and social policy, he researches Child Development Accounts, financial capability, and policies that promote long-term economic mobility for low-income families. Huang has led major national and international studies translating research into policy design. His work has directly informed federal and state initiatives, positioning him as a key voice in advancing evidence-based approaches to wealth-building and inclusive economic development.



RAY BOSHARA

Ray Boshara is a nationally recognized expert in asset building, household financial stability, and economic mobility, serving as a Senior Advisor at the Center for Social Development. Formerly a senior official at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, he has advised policymakers across administrations on strategies to expand savings and reduce wealth inequality. Boshara is also affiliated with the Aspen Institute, where he has contributed to national conversations on inclusive finance and economic mobility. His work bridges research, finance, and public policy, helping translate complex economic concepts into actionable legislative frameworks.

Proud Social Work Researcher

SSWR Society for Social Work and Research



The **Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)** is the leading membership organization advancing the science of social work and championing rigorous research that strengthens **policy** and **practice**. At this pivotal moment for social work, SSWR highlights how social work research drives **evidence-informed policymaking**, improves service delivery, and ensures communities receive effective, equitable support.

Learn more: www.sswr.org

Social Work Day On The Hill



2026 Student Advocacy Day

Young Social Workers Speak

Exploring Power Asymmetry in American Democracy

MODERATORS

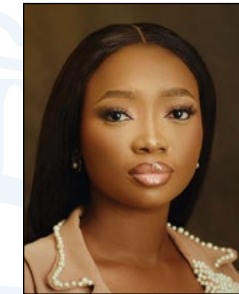


AVAH TOOMER is a policy and advocacy professional at LIFT, advancing community-driven systems change and economic justice in Washington, DC. She brings a strong foundation in macro social work and public policy, with experience in legislative engagement and equity-focused initiatives. Avah holds an MSW in Community, Administration, and Policy Practice from Howard University and a B.A. in Comparative Literature and Society from Columbia University.



REBECCA "BECCA" WONG is an emerging gender-based violence scholar and social work researcher, beginning her Ph.D. at New York University's Silver School of Social Work in fall 2026. She is a University of Michigan graduate with a B.A. in Sociology, a minor in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences, and an M.S.W. in Policy & Political Social Work and Program Evaluation & Applied Research.

PANELISTS



ADEOLA DURODOLA is a global development consultant and social work professional specializing in youth, gender, and social policy across the U.S. and Africa. She brings over a decade of experience leading programs that advance economic empowerment and community wellbeing, including gender, adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health, adolescent and youth mentoring,



ASHLEY SINGH, a 2025 graduate of Kennesaw State University, is pursuing a dual MSW/MBA with a focus on educational access and student persistence. She serves as a Graduate Resident Assistant with the KSU Cares Ascend Program and supports campus basic-needs initiatives. Her capstone research examined the motivations of low-income students to pursue and complete higher education.



CRISTINO N. CHAVEZ JR. is a justice-focused behavioral health strategist with the Legal Aid Society, specializing in forensic social work, immigration court mental health, and policy advocacy. He is a PhD student, adjunct professor, and board leader advancing equity in high-risk communities.



EMILY CARCHIA is a dual degree MSW/MPA student at Columbia University, with a focus on international social welfare, immigration, and economics/finance. She has a passion for politics, voting, and the environment. She hopes to bring these passions into her future workspaces. In her free time, she loves to travel, read, and cook dinner for her friends.



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and MSW students

Lane Assumes Leadership of Humphreys Institute

The University of Connecticut's 30th Annual Campaign School for Social Workers drew more than 165 participants from 18 states, underscoring a growing national push to prepare social workers for political leadership. Held February 27–28 at UConn's School of Law, the intensive training equipped attendees with practical skills in campaign strategy, messaging, fundraising, and civic engagement—reinforcing the profession's expanding role in shaping public policy and strengthening democracy.

This year's program marked the first time Shannon Lane led the initiative as director of the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work. Under her leadership, the Campaign School emphasized translating social work values into political action, encouraging participants to view policy engagement not as optional, but as central to ethical practice. Lane framed the effort succinctly: the goal is to prepare social workers *"to be leaders within our political systems"* and to help transform those systems toward greater justice.

Now in its 30th year, the program has trained more than 3,000 alumni nationwide, many of whom have gone on to

serve as candidates, elected officials, and policy advocates. Participants engaged with more than 20 presenters through panels and workshops addressing topics such as building political power, advancing representative democracy, and navigating ethical tensions in campaigns.

The event's broader message was clear: social work is inherently political. From housing and healthcare to education and immigration, the conditions shaping people's lives are determined by policy decisions—and, ultimately, by who chooses to engage. By demystifying the political process and equipping practitioners with concrete tools, the Campaign School continues to expand the profession's influence in civic life.



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MSW





CRISP Award Winners



Outstanding Congressional Staffer

JOVANNI D. AYRES, a South Carolina native and graduate of South Carolina State University, is a dedicated advocate for equity, empowerment, and public service. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she advances Black and Brown voices through mentorship, civic engagement, and policy leadership. Her experience includes work with Congressman James E. Clyburn, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and the Wilson Center as a Foreign Policy Fellow. She contributed to state legislation recognizing HBCUs and served on the House Ways and Means Committee. She currently works in the Democratic Cloakroom and serves as President of the Congressional Black Associates.



Outstanding Individual in Academia

DR. SHANNON R. LANE is a leading scholar advancing the field of political social work and a compelling recipient of the 2026 CRISP Award for Outstanding Individual in Academia. As co-author of Political Social Work, she helped institutionalize a discipline that prepares practitioners to engage policy, governance, and democratic systems with rigor and ethics. Her work bridges scholarship and practice through national trainings, research collaborations, and mentorship. Dr. Lane was recently appointed the Director of the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.



Outstanding Social Work Student

DEKEITRA GRIFFIN is a PhD student at Louisiana State University and a nationally engaged advocate advancing behavioral health and HIV equity. He holds leadership roles with the Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS, the National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition, and the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus. President of LSU’s Association of Black Social Workers, he brings policy engagement and lived experience to his work. A survivor of multiple adversities, Griffin translates personal insight into advocacy that strengthens services, informs policy, and improves outcomes for marginalized communities.



Outstanding Individual in Government

ERICA CALLICUTT is a highly effective policy strategist in the Virginia House of Delegates, serving as Chief of Staff and Legislative Assistant to Delegate Bonita Anthony. In 2025, she helped advance bipartisan affordable housing legislation and strengthen the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, promoting equitable outcomes across the Commonwealth. Her portfolio spans consumer, business, and housing equity issues, improving legislative responsiveness to community needs. Grounded in social work and strategic governance, Callicutt brings a constituent-centered approach to policymaking, positioning her as a respected leader and impactful public servant.



Outstanding Social Worker in Business

DR. LA SHAWN M. PAUL, DSW, LCSW-R, is a nationally recognized mental health leader advancing equity for Black women and girls. As founder of Social Work Diva and President of Redefine Strong Inc., she addresses disparities in access, awareness, and culturally responsive care. She created the Black Women’s Mental Health Conference, co-hosted with NYU, convening leaders across sectors. A clinician, educator, and policy advocate, Dr. Paul integrates practice with systems change, influencing mental health discourse nationwide. Her work challenges stigma, promotes self-care, and advances structural solutions to improve outcomes in communities of color.

CRISP Awards Reception

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Our Voices Matter: Your Vote Is Your Voice



Congresswoman
Sylvia Garcia (TX-29)



Congresswoman
Hillary Scholten (MI-03)

SALUTING THE
SOCIAL WORK
MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS

– WELCOME –

Dr. Charles E. Lewis, Jr., *CRISP Director*

– GREETINGS –

Distinguished Guests

– GUEST OF HONOR –



Michael E. Collins, MSW, *Chief of Staff,*
Congressman John Lewis

Conversation with Michael E. Collins

– AWARDS PRESENTATIONS –



Student Leadership Team



Lexi West
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



Frederick Marte
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



Ashley Singh
KENNESAW STATE



Beatriz Sanchez
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Giovanna Corcino
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Emily Sutter
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



Justin Ryan Allen
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Bree Martinez
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



Stephanie H. Singleton
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Emily Carchia
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Rhyan Short
HOWARD UNIVERSITY



Emma James
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Maryn Johnson
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Claudia Mendez
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY



Allie Gomez
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Jess Tholmer
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Student Advocacy Day Agenda

MARCH 26, 2026 | 5:00 PM

- 10:00 AM–11:00 AM** Registration/Check-in
- 11:00 AM–12:00 PM** Opening Remarks
Speakers: CRISP Inc, Michael Collins, Mayor Emily Jabbour, Jeremy Haines
- 12:00 PM–12:45 PM** From Voice to Power: Advocacy That Empowers People & Confronts Systems
Speaker: Ja'Bree Harris
- 12:45 PM–1:15 PM** Storytelling Training
Speaker: Destanie Newell
- 1:15 PM–1:45 PM** NASW Advocacy Training Refresher
- 1:45 PM–2:00 PM** Transition to Afternoon Activities
- 2:00 PM–5:00 PM** Student Legislative Meetings on the Hill
- 2:00 PM–3:00 PM** From Classroom to Congress: Building Cross-Sector Coalitions Through the Community School Model
Speaker: Trina Nurse (Hybrid)
- 2:00 PM–3:00 PM** Redistricting, Gerrymandering, and Social Work
Speaker: Bobby Escobar (Hybrid)
- 3:00 PM–4:00 PM** Redistricting in Real Time: Power, Maps, & Representation- New York's 11th Congressional District
Speaker: Nicole Bulanchuk (Virtual Only)
- 3:00 PM–4:00 PM** Equity Through Civic Engagement: From Vote to Voice to Systems Change
Speaker: Ramon Ruiz (Hybrid)
- 5:00 PM–7:00 PM** Reception & Social Hour



Ja'Bree J. A. Harris



Lexi West

Speak up.
Create change.



Across the country, social work students are *raising their voices* to advocate for the people and communities they serve.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work celebrates its students, faculty and staff advocating at today's CRISP Student Advocacy Day.

Continue to make your voices heard and live our mission of *advancing equity, transforming systems, and improving lives.*



**School of
Social Work**



2026 BOBBY BOYD LEADERSHIP LECTURE

Maxine Eichner
UNC School of Law

"The Real Fix for the Child Welfare System: Children's Welfare as a Collective Responsibility"

April 7, 2026 | 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.
In-person and online



Join us for the 2026 Bobby Boyd Lecture

This year's lecture will examine how the U.S. came to expect so much of families with so little public support, and how this gap has led overwhelming numbers of minority families to be trapped in the nation's child welfare system.

UNC Launches Multimillion-Dollar Project



"This is not an academic exercise. It is a multimillion-dollar, five-year investment in North Carolina's future."

directly addressing critical workforce shortages that have left rural and underserved areas particularly vulnerable.

The program represents a massive statewide collaboration involving the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Social Work Coalition on NC Workforce Development which includes 25 colleges and universities —and philanthropic partners like the BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation.

On March 2, 2026, university and state leaders officially launched the **Public Service Leadership Program** at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This multimillion-dollar, five-year initiative aims to double the number of social workers serving North Carolina's 100 counties,

Dr. Ramona Denby-Brinson, dean of the UNC School of Social Work, emphasized the tangible impact of the initiative during the launch, stating, *"This is not an academic exercise. It is a multimillion-dollar, five-year investment in North Carolina's future."* Managed by the School's Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, the initiative focuses on a comprehensive "pipeline" strategy. This includes active recruitment within high schools and community colleges to inspire the next generation of practitioners, while simultaneously enhancing professional training and improving long-term workforce retention.

To further incentivize participation, students may be eligible for the NCDHHS Licensed Workforce Loan Repayment Program, which offers up to \$50,000 in educational debt relief for those who commit to serving in high-need areas for three years. By prioritizing essential services such as child welfare, mental health, and aging, the partnership seeks to provide a lifeline to the state's most at-risk populations. This historic investment marks a significant commitment to strengthening the essential workforce that forms the backbone of North Carolina's public service infrastructure.



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The University of Washington is a Global Leader in Research

At a moment when the integration of research and public policy is increasingly urgent, the University of Washington School of Social Work stands as a national leader in advancing evidence with impact. Multiple faculty members have been recognized among the world's most influential scholars—ranked within the top 2 percent globally—underscoring the school's growing role in shaping high-impact research that informs real-world outcomes.

This distinction is based on the widely cited Stanford–Elsevier Top 2% Scientists database, a global benchmarking effort that identifies leading researchers using standardized citation metrics drawn from Elsevier's Scopus database. The ranking evaluates scientific influence across 22 fields and 174 subfields, incorporating measures such as total citations, h-index, and composite impact indicators to identify scholars whose work is among the most widely referenced worldwide.

At the center of this achievement is Dean Michael S. Spencer, whose leadership has elevated the University of Washington's profile as a hub for rigorous, equity-

focused, and policy-relevant scholarship. Spencer has cultivated an environment in which interdisciplinary collaboration and community-engaged research are not peripheral activities but core institutional priorities. His own work—particularly in advancing health equity among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations—reflects a model of scholarship that is both methodologically sound and socially grounded.

This recognition is not merely symbolic. It signals that social work scholars are competing—and contributing—at the highest levels of global scientific discourse. Under Spencer's leadership, the school has strengthened its capacity to produce research that travels beyond academia into legislative, administrative, and community decision-making spaces.

For those convening at *Social Work Day on the Hill*, this moment reinforces a central principle: research must be translated into action. Dean Spencer's leadership exemplifies what is possible when scholarship, strategy, and public purpose align—advancing a vision of social work that is both intellectually rigorous and politically consequential.



Michael Collins Shares His Thoughts on “Good Trouble”

Our feature guest for the CRISP Awards Reception, **Michael Collins**, welcomes the opportunity to reflect on his time with the late iconic Congressman John Lewis. Having served as Lewis's Chief of Staff for 21 years,

Collins acted as the gatekeeper, strategist, and confidant to the “Conscience of the Congress.” Their bond, forged in the fires of legislative battles and social justice movements, remains a blueprint for servant leadership.

When Collins was given the chance to work for John Lewis, he brought with him the social work skills he had learned and developed during his MSW program at Boston College School of Social Work.

The depth of their partnership is perhaps best captured in the documentary *John Lewis: Good Trouble*. The film highlights how Collins didn't just manage an office; he

helped sustain a movement. In the documentary, the rapport between the two is a palpable mix of deep reverence and the easy shorthand that comes from two decades of shared struggle. Collins often speaks of Lewis's unwavering commitment to “*necessary trouble*,” noting that the Congressman's public persona of peaceful defiance was backed by a private life of immense humility and relentless work.

As Chief of Staff, Collins witnessed the quiet moments that defined the icon: Lewis meticulously preparing for a speech, his patience with every constituent who approached him, and his ability to see the humanity in his political opponents. Collins emphasizes that Lewis's philosophy of the “Beloved Community” wasn't just a talking point; it was the atmosphere of their office.

While the world knew John Lewis as the hero of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Collins knew the man who never lost his sense of wonder or his belief that “*the vote is precious, almost sacred*.” For Collins, sharing these experiences helps ensure that Lewis's spirit continues to inspire the next generation to get into “*good trouble*” of their own.

Center for Innovation in Social Work & Health

At the intersection of social work, public health, health economics, and policy, we advance policy and systems change for community well-being through lab-based research and convergent partnerships.



**Learn more
about CISWH**

 **School of Social Work**
Center for Innovation in Social Work & Health



Celebrates the *IMPACT* of Social Work Advocacy



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Dean Michael A. Lindsey

NYU Silver School Advances AI Use in Social Work

Two recent events signify the NYU Silver School’s effort to take a leading role in understanding the place of artificial intelligence in social work education. An all-day conference on February 26 titled “The Future in the Age of AI,” hosted by the school’s Center on Data Science and Social Equity (C+M Center), brought together industry leaders and educators to discuss and debate how AI will redefine labor, education, and social welfare. Dean Michael Lindsey and others emphasized the importance of guidance by social work ethics to prevent the exacerbation of systemic inequities.

A primary highlight was the keynote by Turing Award winner Dr. Yann LeCun, who offered a grounded perspective on current AI capabilities. He argued that while Large Language Models are impressive, they lack the “world models” and reasoning abilities inherent to biological intelligence. This distinction underscores the continued necessity of human oversight in complex social systems.

An online follow-up forum titled “Aligning Ethical AI in Social Work, assembled AI experts at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). By harmonizing their institutional strengths, these organizations are building a comprehensive infrastructure spanning the entire professional lifecycle.

Dr. Lindsey underscored the urgency of this mission, noting that social workers must be at the forefront of AI developments to ensure that “the tools we use to solve problems do not inadvertently create new ones for the most vulnerable among us.” Central to this scholarly and practical alignment is the commitment to dismantling systemic biases often encoded in historical datasets. Ultimately, this high-level cooperation ensures that AI serves as a tool for liberation and resource equity rather than a mechanism for the unintended surveillance of populations.



Social Workers Seeking Congressional Seats



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JILLIAN GILCHREST



KIMBERLY HARDY



PAIGE LOUD



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HAPPY SOCIAL WORK MONTH!

**NASW welcomes all
to the Social Work Day
on the Hill and Student
Advocacy Day 2026.**

SOCIALWORKERS.ORG





CRISP Joins in Welcoming New SSWR Executive Director

VALERIE ARENDT'S
appointment as Executive
Director of the Society for Social
Work and Research (SSWR)
comes at a consequential

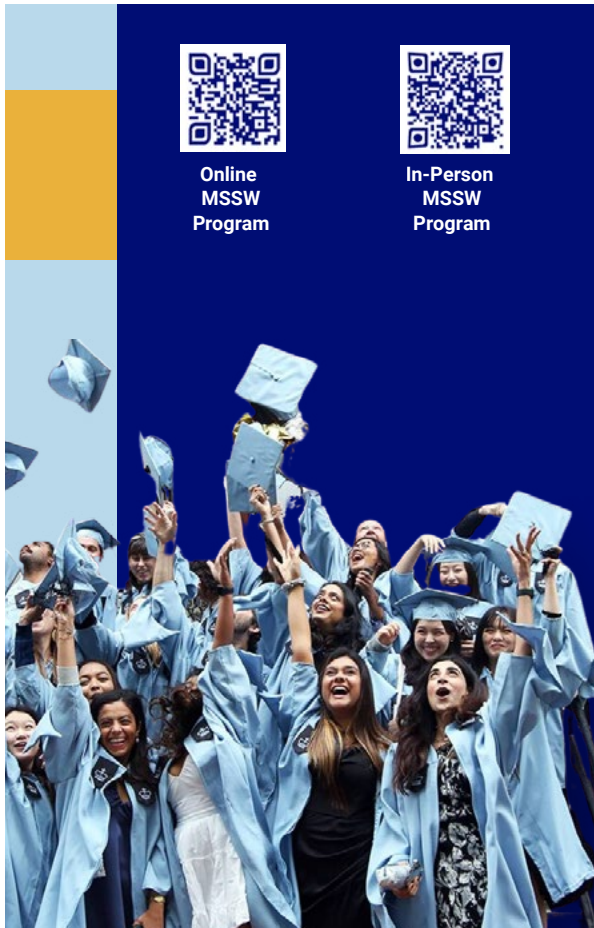
moment for the profession—when the distance between
evidence and policy must narrow if social work is to meet
the demands of a rapidly shifting political landscape.
For those gathered at CRISP's Social Work Day on
the Hill, her selection is both timely and strategic.

Arendt brings a deep and practiced understanding
of political social work—not as abstraction, but as
disciplined engagement with power, institutions, and
decision-making. Her leadership experience with the
National Association of Social Workers (NASW), where
she worked at the intersection of policy, advocacy, and
professional practice, reflects a sustained commitment to
advancing social workers' voice in legislative and public
arenas. She has operated at the intersection of research,
advocacy, and organizational strategy—helping elevate
social work's influence in national policy discussions.

Her career reflects the kind of translational
capacity the field often calls for but too rarely
operationalizes: the ability to move research beyond
publication and into legislative, administrative, and
community arenas where it can shape outcomes. She
understands that credibility in policy spaces is earned
through clarity, relationships, and persistence.

Her leadership arrives as social workers confront a
convergence of challenges—persistent inequality,
public health strain, and increasing pressure on
democratic norms. In this environment, SSWR's role
cannot be confined to knowledge production alone.
It must also help position scholars and practitioners
as credible participants in policy deliberation.
Arendt is well-suited to advance that shift.

For CRISP, her appointment reinforces a core premise:
that research and advocacy are not parallel tracks,
but mutually reinforcing responsibilities. *Social
Work Day on the Hill* is built on that belief—bringing
communities, scholars, and policymakers into the
same space to ensure that evidence informs action.





Online
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Program



In-Person
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socialwork.columbia.edu



CRISP PALS = Policy, Advocacy & Leadership in Social Work

CRISP PALS has reached an important milestone—welcoming its 500th member to our growing LinkedIn community.

This achievement reflects more than a number; it signals the steady emergence of a national network of social workers, scholars, students, and advocates committed to strengthening the profession's voice in public policy.

CRISP PALS (Political Advocacy Leaders) was created to connect individuals who understand that effective advocacy requires both evidence and engagement. Each new member expands our collective capacity to inform legislative deliberations, elevate community perspectives, and advance equitable policy solutions.

As we prepare for next week's *Social Work Day on the Hill* and *Student Advocacy Day* events, we invite all attendees to join this dynamic network. Membership offers a platform to stay informed, share insights, and build relationships that extend beyond a single event.

Be part of the next 500. Your voice—and your leadership—matter.



Learn about Policy, Compassion, Leadership and Action

The Online Certificate in Political Social Work is a continuing education certificate providing social workers with skills to use policy and politics to make a change.

The Policy & Political Social Work Pathway prepares MSW students to use policy and the political system to advance social justice and create a meaningful difference.

The Master of Arts in Social Impact Leadership is grounded in social justice values and prepares graduates for purpose-driven leadership.

The University of Michigan School of Social Work offers certificates and programs, both online and on campus. Visit us to find out more.



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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



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Yarneccia D. Dyson, Ph.D., MSW
Dean, Graduate College of Social Work

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

We offer **three enrollment options for the MSW program—Face-to-Face, Hybrid, and Online**—with Advanced Standing available for students holding a Bachelor of Social Work. Our academic offerings also include a **PhD in Social Work** and **five dual degree** options. Our MSW and PhD students come from across the country and around the world, representing a wide range of backgrounds, identities, experiences, and aspirations. We are a community grounded in the principles of social justice—one that thinks critically, embraces challenges, and acquires knowledge through lived experience.

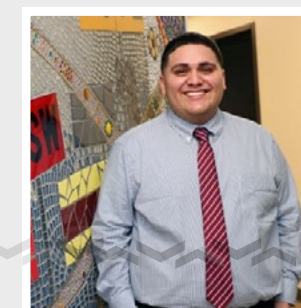


FOCUSED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Focused Learning Opportunities (FLOs) are optional ways students may develop an in-depth and holistic focus in a specific area of social work practice. FLOs are organized around areas of expertise of current GCSW faculty, enabling students to pair learning in a variety of environments (classroom, field, community engagement, trainings, etc.) with meaningful mentorship from GCSW faculty members.

Current FLOs include:

- Trauma Education Program
- Global Leaders in Behavioral Health Education
- Mental Health Advanced Practice in Social Work Program
- Nonprofit Leadership Alliance



DUAL DEGREE OPTIONS

Dual degree programs allow students to earn two degrees in less time than it would take to complete them sequentially. Students interested in a dual degree must be admitted separately to each of the programs. In addition, it is recommended that students plan to complete the dual degree options as full-time students, as university policy requires students to complete an MSW within five years.



Learn more about becoming a CNP and other FLOs offered at the GCSW!

CNP PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS

The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA) Focused Learning Opportunity (FLO) at the GCSW prepares students to thrive in the nonprofit sector.

This FLO also provides an opportunity to become **Certified Nonprofit Professionals (CNPs)** through NLA National, Inc.



Thanks To Our Sponsors



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