

Social Work Day on The Hill

March 8th, 2023 | 11AM – 6PM EST

Student Advocacy Day

March 9th, 2023 | 11AM-6PM EST



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March 8, 2023

Dear Friends of CRISP,

March is Social Work Month, and we are grateful for your support and participation in our 2023 *Social Work Day on the Hill* and *Student Advocacy Day* events as we continue our mission to assist social workers to engage Congress and the federal government. The social work profession has a long tradition of engagement with Congress, going back to Jeannette Rankin, the first woman and social worker to be elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1916 from Montana, four years before the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. She lost her bid for the United States Senate in 1918 but returned to the House of Representatives in 1940.

Fittingly, we celebrate the contributions of social workers on March 8, 2023, *International Women's Day*. There have been an impressive number of social work women who have served our nation admirably in Congress. There are too many to name in this greeting. Former Senator Barbara Mikulski, current Congresswomen Barbara Lee and Sylvia Garcia, and Senator Debbie Stabenow are a few stellar examples. And, of course, our 2023 Congressional Social Worker of the Year, former Congresswoman and now Mayor Karen Bass, who made history by becoming the first woman and second African American to lead the city of Los Angeles.

Our nation continues to experience many challenges—preserving and strengthening democracy, reducing economic inequality, caring for the most vulnerable in our society, protecting the planet from global warming, and ensuring brighter futures for children—to name a few. It is imperative that social work-trained professionals are sufficiently engaged in political arenas, from school boards to local and state governments and Congress and the federal government. Let us celebrate the many contributions social workers have made in government and commit ourselves to a sustained and vigorous presence in the political arena where our values, knowledge, and competencies are profoundly needed.

Sincerely,

Charles E Lewis Jr

Charles E. Lewis, Jr., MSW, PhD
Director

SOCIAL WORK
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Happy Social Work Month



NASW welcomes all participants
**SOCIAL WORK DAY
ON THE HILL 2023**

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March 9, 2023

Dear Dr. Lewis,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable work that CRISP has done to advance social justice and equity in the United States. Your tireless efforts to connect the values of social work to policy decisions on Capitol Hill have helped to ensure that our legislators know what Americans need to thrive.

I want to commend you for your outstanding leadership in organizing Social Work Day on the Hill. This event is a testament to your commitment to bringing together social work professionals, students, and advocates to discuss social welfare issues and policy solutions. Through these meetings, Social Work Day on the Hill helps to raise awareness about the importance of social welfare policies and the impact they have on the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

As a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, your contributions to the field of social work are truly remarkable. Your work as an advisor to legislative leaders and your dedication to social work students are a testament to your unwavering commitment to advancing social welfare and social justice.

Thank you for your dedication and tireless efforts to advance the field of social work. The resources and expertise that CRISP provides are invaluable to our profession, and we look forward to continuing to benefit from your contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary M. McKay".

Mary M. McKay

President and Chair

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Social Work Day on the Hill

Policy & Politics Forum

Wednesday, March 8, 2021 • 11:00 a.m. EST

Social Workers on the Frontlines of Democracy

Moderator



Dr. Darcey Merritt is a Professor at the Crown School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice at the University of Chicago and an affiliate with the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP). Her research centers on child maltreatment prevention, specifically neglect, and parenting in socio-economic context, considering the impact of working memory on parental decision-making. She is dedicated to elevating the voices of systems-impacted parents and children in the discussion of prevention methods and service delivery in the context of systemic racism and racialized poverty. Dr. Merritt earned her MSW and PhD in social welfare from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Department of Social Welfare.

The Panel



Dr. Mimi Abramovitz recently retired as the Bertha Capen Reynolds Professor of Social Work at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College and The CUNY Graduate Center. She is co-leader of the Social Work National Voter Mobilization Campaign. Known nationally and internationally as a public intellectual and an activist, she publishes widely on issues related to women, poverty, human rights, the U.S. welfare state and the impact of public policy on non-profit human service agencies—all through the lens of race, class and gender. She recently received an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University in Sweden. Dr. Abramovitz earned her MSW and DSW from Columbia University.



Marla Blunt-Carter is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice at Rutgers University School of Social Work in New Brunswick, NJ. Blunt-Carter's areas of interest include social policy, community organizing, advocacy and political social work. She has a long and storied career as a political operative including work with President Joe Biden during his time as a United States Senator and Vice President. She recently spearheaded the re-election campaign of her sister, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester. She was awarded "Outstanding Professor of the Year" in 2020, 2017 and 2018, Most Creative and Innovative Professor in 2021 and 2019, and Most Supportive Professor in 2019.



Luisa Lopez is a social worker, strategist, and entrepreneur. She is President of the Latino Social Work Coalition & Scholarship Fund, Director of Social Services and Communications for the Urban Outreach Center, and CEO of Lopez & Company Media. She earned her MSW at the Silver School of Social Work at New York University where she served as President of the Graduate Student Association. Lopez served as the Director of Digital Media for the Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer and Chief of Staff to the New York City Council. Luisa is a consultant for the 2023 Student Advocacy Day. Luisa was a Congressional Fellow in the United States House of Representatives.



Justin Hodge, LMSW, is a clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan where he co-leads the Policy & Political Pathway and directs the Online Certificate in Political Social Work. He was re-elected to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners which he currently chairs, and was appointed by Michigan Governor Whitmer to the Commission on Community Action & Economic Opportunity, where he is able to lend his expertise at the state level. Hodge is the President of the Board of Directors for CRISP and a founding member of the board of the Social Work Democracy Project currently serving as its president.

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Social Work Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. EST

Young Social Workers Speak

The Social Work Day on the Hill midday event is a panel discussion by social work students or recent graduates that brings their voices and perspectives to the table. They will give their views on the challenge for social workers to be engaged in activities that preserve and strengthen democracy while responding to the question: Can Social Workers Help Save Democracy? They will give their views on the most difficult challenges facing the nation and the social work profession CRISP Director Charles E. Lewis, Jr. will moderate the panel.



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Student Advocacy Day

Thursday, March 8, 2023

8:00 a.m. PST/11:00 a.m. EST



Taylor Brown

Morning Program begins at 8:00 a.m. PST/11 a.m. EST and will end at 10: a.m. PST/1:00 p.m.

Meetings begin after the Morning Program until 1:00 p.m PST/4:00 p.m. EST

There will be ongoing activities on the Stage and in various Booths throughout the day



Justin Hodge

Morning Program

Opening Remarks • Taylor Brown, Lead Organizer

Greetings • Dr. Anthony Estreet, CEO, National Association of Social Workers

Greetings • Dr. Halaevalu F. O. Vakalahi, CEO, Council on Social Work Education

Spoken Word • Ademola Lewis

Introduction of Keynote Speaker • Dr. Charles E. Lewis, Jr., CRISP Director

Keynote Speaker • Justin Hodge, CRISP Board President

Morning Program Wrap-Up • Avah Toomer, CRISP Leadership Team

12:00 noon

Advocacy 101 • Brian Romero, NY State Democratic Committee

1:00 p.m. • ***Lunch and Networking***

2:00 p.m. • Advocacy Breakouts

3:00 p.m. • Social Policy Lectures

4:00 p.m. • Meetings with Political Social Workers

5:00 p.m. • Closing Program

Highlights of the Day • Lead Organizer Handoff • Spoken Word • Closing Remarks

CRISP Boot Camp to Resume in July

After several years in hiatus, CRISP will resume its popular Political Boot Camp and Media Training in July. Dates have not yet been set, so keep an eye on our website to get information as it develops. Our last Boot Camp took place in July 2019. It was the third held to help social workers get started on a path to a career in the political arena. The fourth Boot Camp scheduled for July 2020 was canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

"There was no way we could have conducted the Boot Camp virtually," says CRISP Director Charles E. Lewis, Jr. "What made the Boot Camp special for many was the camaraderie and social contact. Following the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) formula employed by Marshall Ganz during the Obama campaigns, participants had to do one-on-one encounters with several others outside their schools. Everyone had to share their Story of Self, Us, and Now. Parting on the final day was emotional for many."

We have seen many social workers get involved in the political arena over the past several years. Daryl Campbell, who attended the inaugural Boot Camp in 2017, was elected to the Florida House of Rep-

resentatives from the 94th District. He attributes his Boot Camp experience as motivation to run for elected office. As does JaBree Harris, who attended two Boot Camps.

"Boot camp got me excited about working in politics," says Harris, the National Community Organizing Manager for Democratic National Committee. "Political social work is still very new to people. When I tell people I am a political social worker, they ask, what is that? What excites me is the growing community of social workers excited to do this work. I credit the Boot Camp for where I am today. Without it, I would not have been as aggressive about going into the political arena."

Many Boot Camp attendees were not looking to run for office but wanted to gain more expertise to be more effective in the political arena. Much of the training focused on messaging and being more persuasive. Workshops were conducted by several people who worked on former President Obama's campaign, including Jason Green, his national voter mobilization director, who helped organize the three-and-a-half-day events.

Kristin Hibit attended the 2019 Boot Camp with several fellow students



Daryl Campbell (center) at 2017 inaugural CRISP Political Boot Camp.



Florida State Rep. Daryl Campbell

from the University of Buffalo School of Social Work. "I attended the training because I am interested in working within the public sector to inform policy and advocate for systemic change. I also strongly believe that in order to do so, social workers must know how to engage with elected officials to advocate for change. I did not have any expectations, and I wondered if I wasn't 'political' enough to be in this space because I have no intentions of running for office, but to my surprise, I was exactly where I needed to be, and I left with so much more than I could have ever anticipated."

Her fellow University of Buffalo colleague, Whitney Marris, had this to say: "My experience with CRISP's Boot Camp and Social Media Training was transformative. I emerge empowered and energized toward making meaningful changes to engender a more just world and equipped with many new arrows in my quiver to aid me in this undertaking."

"We are looking forward to getting the CRISP Boot Camp going again," says CRISP Board President Justin Hodge, one of the lead organizers for the upcoming training in July.

continued on next page



Participants at the 2019 CRISP Political Boot Camp and Media Training

"Attending the Boot Camp helped to jumpstart my move into politics." He was recently re-elected to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, which he currently chairs, and was appointed by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the

Commission on Community Action & Economic Opportunity, where he can lend his expertise at the state level.

Registration will begin soon, so check our website periodically for details. If you understand the need

for social work values, knowledge, and competencies in the political arena, then you should be at the next CRISP Boot Camp and Media Training to learn what you are going to need to be an effective operator in the complex world of politics.



Angelique Day Leads CRISP Legislative Agenda

2022 was a busy and productive year for CRISP legislative director Dr. Angelique Day, a frequent flyer to the nation's capital from her base at the University of Washington School of Social Work in Seattle, where she is an associate professor. Things ramped up quickly for her when Congresswoman Karen Bass announced she would leave Congress to run for Los Angeles mayor and needed to get several bills done before she exited.

Bass founded the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth when she first arrived on the Hill in 2011. She later created the National Foster Youth Initiative (NFYI) to involve young people in advocacy and the legislative process. Helping youth in and aging out of foster care was the congresswoman's signature issue. Working closely with several youth advocacy organizations, including NFYI, Angelique helped get several bills quickly introduced with bipartisan support during the 117th Congress.

Foster care is a critical area of concern for Angelique because of her experiences in the foster care system. As a



Angelique Day with Rep. Karen Bass

descendant of the Ho Chunk nation, she is focused on the foster care experiences of Native American youth as the United States Supreme Court decides on the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), considered by many to be the gold standard for foster care policy because of its emphasis on kinship care.

She led CRISP's effort in co-hosting a briefing with NFYI on September 20, 2022, to discuss how Congress might respond

should the Supreme Court strike down all or significant parts of ICWA. Several bills are in the pipeline, including H.R. 1688, the Native American Child Protection Act, and H.R. 8954, the Strengthening Tribal Families Act.

Angelique has emerged as a key researcher and policymaker in child welfare.

Her scholarship was recognized by the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) when she was awarded a 2023 Social Policy Researcher Award as "an emerging scholar who has made notable contributions to research that has influenced the direction, design, and/or implementation of social policy and its effects on marginalized and oppressed populations."

She is involved in several initiatives for the Children's Bureau. She serves as a grant reviewer, is the lead evaluator for their Quality Improvement Center for the Engagement of Youth, is the bureau's evaluator of record for the national training and development curriculum, and supports ad states in increasing their ability to license kinship caregivers.



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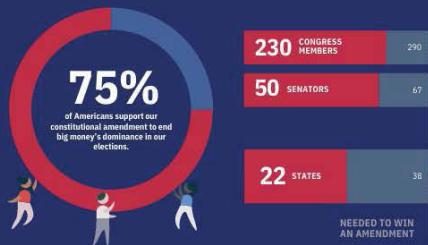
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"I decided it was time to take the plunge and get into elected office. Social work is about helping people. It's about sitting and listening to their issues and problems and challenges."

Sylvia Garcia
U.S. Representative
(TX-29)

- Working to address and redress inequality and injustices impacting the lives of communities, families, individuals, and socially disadvantaged.
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- examine how politics impact the lives of those that they serve
- learn how effectively engage and communicate with constituents policymakers and appointed officials
- develop the skills to run and hold public office



Congratulations to Our 2023 Honorees

Congressional Social Worker of the Year



Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who left her seat in Congress to fulfill her dream of becoming the mayor of the City where she grew up, was selected as the Outstanding Congressional Social Worker in 2022. One of her passions in Congress was improving the lives of young people in foster care. She founded the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth upon her arrival in Congress in 2011.

Congressional Social Worker Staffer of the Year



Kristen Torres, a graduate of the social work program at the University of Alabama, Ms. Torres is the child welfare staffer in the office of Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA-28), who worked on the Indian Child Welfare Act. She contributed to the Strengthening Tribal Families Act as a critical strategy to address the threat against the ICWA by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Outstanding Individual in Academia



Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden is a professor and the Ph.D. program director at the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University and the leader of the American Professional Society on Child Abuse's Cultural Institute. She produced several publications in 2022, including one as a co-editor-in-chief of the six-volume NPEIV Handbook on Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan.

Outstanding Student of the Year



Jordan Davenport is the Social Work Alliance President in the Department of Social Work at Tuskegee University. She spearheaded an education series for breast cancer awareness, drug abuse prevention education for rural children, donation drives for foster youth, a campus food pantry, and a peer mentor program for runaway youth as a junior and senior BSW student.

Outstanding Individual in Government



Lawanna Barron, BCD, LCSW, ACSW, recently retired as a military social worker in the U.S. Air Force at Moody Air Force Base. She recently established Lawanna R. Barron Endowments for the Social Work Department at Tuskegee University and the University of Georgia School of Social Work to help overcome barriers to enrollment due to a lack of tuition funds. She is a past president of NASW-GA.

Outstanding Individual in Government



Kimberly Henry is a Navy veteran, single mother, and small business owner. She combined her skills in social work and project management to create The Gold Beacon, PLLC, to develop sustainable nonprofits. She brought a program management approach through a social work lens, applying evidence-based practices to nonprofits' operations and mission to assess needs and help nonprofits overcome challenges.

Social Work Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 8, 2020 • 4:00 p.m. EST

CRISP Awards Reception

Celebrating outstanding social workers and their contributions to Congress and the federal government.

Program

Welcome

Dr. Charles E. Lewis, Jr.

Greetings & Introduction of Emcee

Reception Chair Elizabeth Gillette

Emcee

CRISP Board President Justin Hodge

Awards Presentations

Mayor Karen Bass Outstanding Congressional Social Worker

Kristen Torres Outstanding Congressional Social Work Staffer

Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden Outstanding Individual in Academia

Jordan Davenport Outstanding Social Work Student

Lawanna Barron, BCD, LCSW, ACSW Outstanding Individual in Government

Kimberly Henry Outstanding Individual in Business

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