

# CWTAP Quarterly

*Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program  
Eastern Washington University*

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## Director's Letter

Dear CWTAP Community,

As fall quarter is underway we are now into our eighth month of COVID-19. This has been a challenge for all of us on so many levels. On the School of Social Work and CWTAP front we continue to deliver education including the field practicum in remote and virtual formats. You can read more about this on page four. We are optimistic that some non-employee students will be able to return to the field soon (though they won't be returning to actual DCYF offices at this time). The majority of our non-employee practicum students are in Region 1, with the remainder in Regions 2 and 6. We have a brand new cohort of students in the Everett part-time program, they will enter field summer 2021. Despite the pandemic, we are experiencing very robust interest and enrollments in CWTAP.

As you will see below, over the summer Angie Keith joined our team. We are delighted to have Angie with us. I think her willingness to join us at this unprecedented time says a lot about her optimism. Her positive disposition is palpable and will most certainly be an asset to our students.

On pages 2 and 3 you can read more about Emily Zok, one of our recent graduates and Renee Tabor, a current student.

We are grateful for your support. If you have feedback, or suggestions please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Diana LeBlanc

## CWTAP Welcomes Angie Keith, MSW



Angie Keith joined our team over the summer as Faculty Field Instructor/ Lecturer, she will be working with Cheney full-time and Eastern Washington Hybrid part-time students. Angie received her BSW degree from Eastern Washington University in 2009, and her MSW with a certificate in School Social Work from EWU in 2011. Prior to joining EWU Angie was employed with DCYF since 2012 where she was most recently a supervisor covering several child welfare programs. Over the years Angie has been a great support to our CWTAP program. She has served as an agency field instructor for numerous students, participated on student interview panels, assisted with court simulations, and helped out at the annual Student Institute. Angie enjoys staying busy and traveling the world. Please join us in welcoming Angie to the team!

## Alumni Spotlight

*Emily Zok, MSW - Social Service Specialist  
By Angie Keith*

Emily Zok is a CWTAP alumni who graduated from EWU's Spokane full-time MSW program in 2020. Emily is originally from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, a small town outside of Minneapolis. In 2018, Emily received a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota in psychology. Initially, Emily pursued a career in neuropsychology, however, after working at a residential treatment program during her bachelor's degree, she discovered she wanted more direct contact with clients. She realized social work was a better fit for her long-term career goals. Emily wanted to live closer to mountains and the ocean and during a road trip through Washington, she fell in love with the scenery. She explored graduate schools in this area which led her to Eastern Washington University. Emily was admitted into the Cheney full-time MSW program shortly after moving to Washington, and applied to CWTAP— not fully realizing how beneficial the program would be for her. Emily began her practicum at DCYF and realized she enjoyed working with the family as a whole and building relationships with clients to achieve positive outcomes.



Emily is currently employed at the north Spokane DCYF office as a Social Service Specialist in the Indian Child Welfare unit. Her specialized CWTAP training exposed her to the laws and policies surrounding child welfare. Emily appreciated learning from her agency field instructor (AFI) and the opportunities to practice how to engage with families during a difficult time in their lives. For Emily, it benefitted to have independence during practicum and she attributes her success to the opportunities in which she was encouraged to engage. Emily is thankful for the support of the other CWTAP students and her faculty field instructor (FFI). She still depends on her cohort for support and resources as they navigate their new careers in child welfare.

Emily is passionate about child welfare and advises those entering the CWTAP program to participate in all opportunities, ask questions and use the support system for ongoing learning. Emily enjoys hiking in new places, specifically near water, playing rugby, and playing with her two dogs, Gio and Rucker.

## Student Spotlight

*Renee Tabor – Spokane Part-time Program  
By Angie Keith*

Renee Tabor has always been passionate about helping other people and that passion led her to social work. Renee spent most of her childhood living on Whidbey Island, WA until she relocated to the Tri-Cities in high school. Renee graduated from Southridge High School in Kennewick and she then attended Washington State University. Renee graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree in Leadership and Professional Studies with a Minor in Sociology. Her practicum was at SL Start: Developmental Disabilities Support Services in Spokane doing training and human resources for employees working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Shortly after graduating, she returned to Tri-Cities and worked for the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center (SARC). Renee performed a variety of roles during her eight years with SARC but most significantly she served as program director.



In May 2016, Renee began work with The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) in Family Assessment Response (FAR). She worked in that role for three years and then transitioned to Family Voluntary Services (FVS). Shortly thereafter, Renee accepted a supervisor position in a FAR/FVS unit. Currently, Renee supervises seven FAR workers in the Richland office. She enjoys the work and the dedicated individuals who are committed to serving children and families. Although working in child welfare has its challenges, Renee finds it rewarding to witness a family make positive progress and create better outcomes for their children. Renee has aspired to obtain her MSW and she felt CWAP was the next step for her work at DCYF to grow her knowledge, skills and abilities. There have been many challenges for Renee as she is raising an 8-year-old son, working full time and attending school. She continues to stay motivated and hopes to promote within DCYF to provide quality practice, enhance policy and experience macro level practice. Renee enjoys spending time with her family, hanging out with her dog (a blue eyed Husky named Luna) and when possible traveling.

## Teaching During a Pandemic

*Teaching during a pandemic: how EWU's CWTAP is meeting the challenge*

*By Angie Keith*

During a time of unprecedented educational challenges, Eastern Washington University's School of Social Work remains vigorous and Child Welfare Training & Advancement Program (CWTAP) enrollment numbers are the strongest they've been in many years.

As we continue our long-standing partnership with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) CWTAP has made adjustments to ensure safety while continuing to teach and graduate highly trained, well-educated and field-ready child welfare professionals.

While reopening campus and returning to in-person practicums is our goal when it is safe to do so, CWTAP instruction continues with remote practicum learning. Our teaching is adapted to meet today's safety demands, while at the same time engaging in emerging trends in education with collaborative online classrooms and practicums. Classes are online and practicum students interact with field instructors and clients via Zoom and WebEx. CWTAP students currently participate in remote learning opportunities such as court, Family Team Decision Making conference calls, unit meetings, and shared planning meetings. Some students have recently been approved to accompany agency field instructors during (non-office) field work to include health and safety visits, parent visits, and visitation. Additionally, faculty field instructors meet weekly with students in small groups and individually to discuss the Safety Framework and DCYF policy among other topics. We also analyze the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and DCYF's implementation proposal to the Federal Children's Bureau; the FFPSA prevention plan (July, 2020). The FFPSA and DCYF implementation proposal provide students a launch pad to explore evidence-based services and trauma-informed care practices.

EWU CWTAP takes the safety of our students, DCYF partners and clients seriously as we seek methods to enhance student learning, connection and engagement during this difficult time. If you have suggestions for innovative ways to engage students in learning, please feel free to connect with our director, Diana LeBlanc at [dpatterson@ewu.edu](mailto:dpatterson@ewu.edu).

## Contact Information

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	<p>Please submit suggestions to:  <a href="mailto:dpatterson@ewu.edu">dpatterson@ewu.edu</a></p>	<p>Contributors to this issue:            Nancy Fagan, Angie Keith, and            Diana Patterson LeBlanc.</p>

## Helpful Links

Children's Bureau COVID-19 Resources: [www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/covid-19-resources](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/covid-19-resources)

National Indian Child Welfare Association COVID-19 Resources: [www.nicwa.org/coronavirus/](http://www.nicwa.org/coronavirus/)

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence: [www.allianceforchildwelfare.org](http://www.allianceforchildwelfare.org)

National Association of Social Workers – Washington Chapter: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

Child Welfare League of America: [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

Children's Defense Fund: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Child Welfare Information Gateway: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

Casey Family Programs: [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families: [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)