

CWTAP Quarterly

*Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program
Eastern Washington University*

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Director's Letter

Dear CWTAP Community,

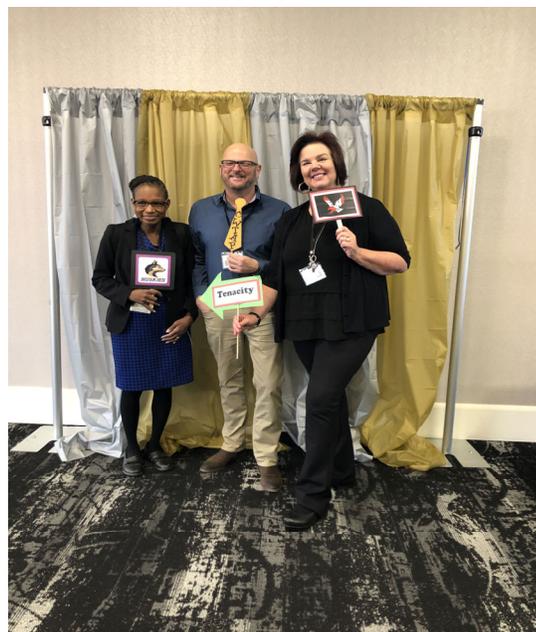
We have some exciting updates to share with you this quarter!

We are pleased to announce the Department has approved CWTAP to move forward implementing a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) CWTAP pilot program. Eastern and our partners at UW Seattle and UW Tacoma are participating in the pilot. Eastern will admit up to six BASW seniors for the pilot that will begin fall quarter, 2023. Students will complete their final year of the BASW program with CWTAP. This final BASW year includes a 9-month practicum. Eastern BASW pilot students will be placed in the three Spokane offices (Central, Valley, and North). We will be recruiting students this quarter (winter) and plan to interview and admit students spring quarter. As many of our readers are aware, the Department has a newer job classification that makes the BASW pilot possible, it is the Social Service Specialist I "in training" position. There are currently 31 states that offer a Title IV-E BASW training program, we are delighted to join them as the 32nd, at least for the pilot program. We will continue to keep you updated on the pilot. We are hopeful this pilot will be permanently implemented.

In other news, in March CWTAP will hold our first Student Institute since 2020. This year's conference will be hosted by UW Tacoma. The conference is shaping up to be one of our best to date with powerful student presentations and exciting keynote speakers. Keynotes include Manny Santiago, Executive Director for the LGBTQ+ Commission for WA State, Gary Peterson, Skokomish Indian Tribal member and Professor at Evergreen State College, and the Department's very own Dr. Joel Odimba. We are excited and grateful to be reinstating this invaluable part of our program.

Thank you for your continued support of CWTAP.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson LeBlanc



CWTAP director's at 2020 Student Institute. Artwork by UW Tacoma team.

Alumni Spotlight

Jackie Armour, MSW – Social Service Specialist 3, CFWS Legally Free Unit & LGBTQIA+ Region 1 Field Operations Lead. By Danelle Stone

Jackie Armour is a CWTAP alumni who graduated from Eastern Washington University's Cheney full-time MSW program in 2019. Jackie obtained her undergraduate degree from Gonzaga University in 2016 with a double major in English and Psychology. She worked at PNW Helping Hands, a Behavioral Rehabilitation Services provider for DCYF, for three years where she was able to holistically mentor and assist youth in developing healthy coping skills to build self-worth and overcome trauma. During this time, she realized her passion for working with adolescent and teenage youth populations, and that her impact on the youth she was serving could be greater working within the child welfare system that so heavily influenced their young lives.

Jackie learned about the CWTAP as her interest in pursuing a social work career at DCYF grew. Four years later, she still reflects back on her educational journey fondly and strongly recommends the program for anyone looking to advance their education in social work while pursuing or continuing their career in public child welfare. She highlights her hope-driven work ethic and inspiration to disrupt generational trauma as core values of her social work practice, both of which were strengthened through her CWTAP seminar and practicum experiences.

Jackie started at DCYF as a Child and Family Welfare Services (CFWS) Social Service Specialist upon graduation with her MSW in 2019 in Spokane, Washington. She worked in this position for three years before transitioning into her current role as a Social Service Specialist in the CFWS Legally Free unit operating out of the Spokane Central office. In this role, Jackie is able to work with the youth population she is most passionate about and finds great fulfillment in celebrating the successes of her youth, large or small, and challenging her skills to enhance and grow her practice. Jackie also serves as the LGBTQIA+ Region 1 Field Operations Lead, a role she takes significant pride and responsibility in. As part of this leadership commitment, Jackie actively participates in Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) and Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) workgroups to improve practice and is available to regional staff for case consultations.



Jackie's advice for people interested in the CWTAP is to take full advantage of the unique learning opportunity it provides. Child welfare work can be difficult and challenging, but having the CWTAP there to support your learning and professional development made a significant difference in her employment readiness and ability to meet job expectations, all while nourishing her desire to shine light on the potential of vulnerable youth in her community through hope-centered practice.

Student Spotlight

Calista Currie – Everett Part-Time Program By Kara Rozeboom



Calista Currie is an EWU CWTAP student in her third year of the Everett part-time MSW program. Calista obtained her associate's degree from Skagit Valley Community College in 2012. Calista obtained a dual bachelor's degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice and a minor degree in Women's Studies from Washington State University in 2015. Currently, Calista is a CPS Supervisor in the Smokey Point DCYF office.

Calista started her career in social services in 2012 working for a domestic violence and sexual assault agency in Pullman, Washington. She monitored case plans for sheltered clients and their children and

facilitated DV support groups. Through this job she found that her passion was working with children and teenagers. In 2015 she moved back to western WA and managed two of the emergency crisis residential service centers working with 12 to 18 year old teenagers who were state dependents in Snohomish County. While working in that job, Calista saw the injustices with children in the system, which encouraged her to seek out a social service specialist position at DCYF. In September 2017, Calista started as a CFWS social service specialist in the Everett DCYF office. In 2020, Calista transferred to a CPS social service specialist position in the Everett DCYF office which also was her new learning for her foundation practicum. Calista promoted to a CPS Supervisor position in September 2021.

Calista applied for CWTAP because it is a great opportunity to broaden her educational experience which she can apply within her job at DCYF. Calista states that CWTAP has allowed her to be more aware of the effects on micro, mezzo, and macro level social work and that an MSW is a great, versatile degree to have. Calista enjoys the knowledge she has gained through the program as well as the collaboration and networking with fellow CWTAP students. Calista is passionate about giving a voice to the children she works with and space for them to talk and share their story. In her role as a CPS Supervisor she enjoys supporting her community by serving and giving back to the community where she grew up. She is passionate about preventing children from going into the court dependency system.

Calista's advice for those interested in applying to CWTAP is to "find your people in the program as they are the community that can help support you during your 3-year educational journey." Calista also advises not to be fearful of applying and trying new positions at DCYF as it will help you grow and to not be discouraged if you don't get a position. When Calista is not working, in class, or completing homework, she loves to spend quality time with her partner, family, and friends. She also loves on her dog Bailey. This quality time refills her cup. Calista also enjoys spending time in the woods, off roading, camping, and being disconnected from cell phone service as well as attending rock concerts.

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	<p>Please submit suggestions to: dpatterson@ewu.edu</p>	<p>Contributors: Diana Patterson LeBlanc, Danelle Stone, Kara Rozeboom, Nancy Fagan, and Mason Hayes.</p>

Helpful Links

[Children's Bureau COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

Includes information for frontline workers, children involved in child welfare, foster care providers, and other general workforce resources

[National Indian Child Welfare Association COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

Includes information for frontline workers, children, caregivers, and other general workforce resources

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence: www.allianceforchildwelfare.org

Child Welfare League of America: www.cwla.org

Children's Defense Fund: www.childrensdefense.org

Child Welfare Information Gateway: www.childwelfare.gov

Casey Family Programs: www.casey.org

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families: www.acf.hhs.gov