

CWTAP

Winter 2025

Quarterly

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Director's Letter

Dear CWTAP Community and DCYF Partners,

We are very excited to report that Student Institute 2025 was a great success. We had a very good turnout with 160 registered student participants and 45 student presentations. The student presentations were exceptional and very informative, ranging from topics on Indian Child Welfare, House Bill 1227, to DCYF staff self-care and support. As with every Student Institute, we hosted our Speed Interviewing activity designed to prepare non-employed CWTAP students with real world DCYF interview questions and feedback from local DCYF staff and partners. We had 30 volunteer interviewers this year including DCYF Area Administrators, Supervisors, and CWTAP alumni. Our local AAG Division Chief and an attorney from our local Parents Defense Counsel also volunteered their time. We were especially honored to have Region 1 Regional Administrator (and CWTAP alum) Lori Blake attend several presentations and speed interviewing, providing valuable feedback and support to our future DCYF employees.

We offer a big **THANK YOU** to all our DCYF Region 1 volunteers!

We are excited for spring quarter to continue to prepare our graduating non-employed CWTAP students for applying to and obtaining employment in DCYF Child Welfare.

As always, thank you for your support.

-Gerry Charvat, CWTAP Director

Student Institute 2025

Eastern Washington University CWTAP hosted the 26th Annual CWTAP Student Institute in Spokane, WA from February 28th through March 2nd. Student Institute is a collaborative event put on by CWTAP programs at the University of Washington, University of Washington Tacoma, and Eastern Washington University. The goal of the Institute is to offer CWTAP students an opportunity to engage in learning, networking, and exchange knowledge and expertise among their peers.

The theme for the 26th Annual CWTAP Student Institute was "Resilience in Action: Strengthening Child Welfare with Equity and Advocacy". The event speakers were Angela Tucker, Author and CEO of Adoptee Mentoring Society, and Jimmy Vallembois, DCYF Substance Use Disorder Program Manager. Angela and Jimmy both shared how their unique backgrounds and lives impact the work they are doing today. There was also a panel of parent professionals who delivered compelling stories of their own lived experience navigating the child welfare system and how they are influencing change and positively impacting Washington families today.

The student presentations, which serve as the cornerstone of the Student Institute, followed the theme of the event well. All students gave informative presentations that addressed current issues and brought insight to child welfare.



Friday night Keynote Speaker Angela Tucker, Author and CEO of Adoptee Mentoring Society



*(LTR) EWU Staff:
Kristin Talbott,
Tom Schueler,
Kathryn DePaolis (SSW Chair),
Kara Rozeboom,
Amanda Reedy (Associate
Dean of CPP),
Osman Ozturgut (Dean of
CPP),
Gerry Charvat (Director of
CWTAP),
Danelle Stone.*

Student Institute 2025

EWU Student Presenters:

Delaney Murphy and Alissa Copeland: "Infant and Toddler Safety as Determined by the Parent-Child Relationship"

Denise Hannon and Anna-Marie Martinez: "Reimagining Child Welfare: Utilizing the Family Practice Model in Your Work"

Andy Schmokel and Kendra Morphy: "Critical Incident Reviews"

Marissa Salee: "Planning for Permanency Throughout the Life of a DCYF Case"

Ashley Soltero and Alexis Martinez: "DCYF: Secondary Trauma and Self-Care"

John Reilly and Kelli Beseler: "Young Adult Homelessness and DCYF Involvement"

Lindy Gastineau and Audrey Barry: "Guardianship Assistance Program: What you Need to Know"

Avril DeSalme, Charlene DeSalme, and Lindsey Montgomery: "Trauma & Neurodivergence in the Child Welfare System"

Hannah Campbell and Ruby Daley: "A Preventative Approach to Child Welfare Through a Trauma-Informed Lens"

Acalia Storrer and Leslie Rodriguez: "Indian Child Welfare: Preserving Families and Strengthening Communities"

Mark-Anthony McKee: "Reimagining Evidence-Based Practice: Parent-Child Interaction Therapy for Adolescents through Tabletop Role-Playing Games"

Makayla Pugmire and Jared Jackson: "Promoting Resilience and Engagement Alongside Parents with Disabilities"

Sarah McCamant and Kaitlyn Wendlandt: "A Holistic Approach to Family Assessments"

Timothy Karn: "How Curiosity Killed the Stigma: Rebuilding Neutrality and Connection in Social Work"



(LTR) Student presenters: Andy Schmokel and Kendra Morphy

Student Institute 2025



(LTR) Bisi Olowogaba, Deb Svoboda (SSW MSW Director), Tyler Calabro, Gissel Luna Tello



(LTR) Leslie Rodriguez, Acalia Storrer, Hannah Campbell, Danelle Stone (FFI), Ruby Daley



(LTR) Avril DeSalme, Charlene DeSalme, and Lindsey Montgomery



(LTR) Audrey Barry and Lindy Gastineau



(LTR) Kat Chin, Kelly Daniels, Abby Rubio-Garza, Katie Kemper, Alexa Wright, Kara Rozeboom (FFI)

Student Spotlight



Timothy Karn

CFWS Intern

Colfax DCYF - Region 1

By Danelle Stone

Tim Karn is an EWU CWTAP student in his second and final year of the Cheney full-time MSW program. Tim obtained two undergraduate degrees in Human Development and Sociology respectively from Washington State University in 2023. He worked in behavioral intervention for a range of children, youth, and young people aged 1-21 years old in Moscow, Idaho for a short time before starting his MSW CWTAP practicum at DCYF in January 2024.

Tim has always had an interest in working with children and families, having grown up involved in the child welfare system himself and seeing firsthand the value of having a strong social worker. Tim is passionate about micro-level social work practice and especially enjoys his practicum in CFWS where he feels he can have the greatest impact for families longer term. The balance of receiving his education in CWTAP and doing his practicum in a rural office has provided Tim with a broad range of perspectives when it comes to child welfare practice. Tim has found great value

in his practicum experience at the Colfax DCYF office where they collaborate across programs often and have weekly office meetings to connect, collaboratively solve problems, and share creative insights.

Tim encourages those interested in public child welfare work to consider CWTAP. To get the most out of the program, Tim suggests “acting as if you are already an employee”, taking the lead where appropriate and approved, making good use of your supervision time, and to go into it with a longevity mindset.

Tim is looking forward to graduating with his MSW in June 2025 and starting his career with DCYF. Tim enjoys the outdoors and hiking during the spring and summer months which can’t come soon enough.

Alumni Spotlight

Lori Blake

Region 1 Regional Administrator
Spokane Central DCYF – Region 1

By Kristin Talbott

Lori was born and raised in Port Angeles, Washington. Her family decided to relocate to Eastern Washington so Lori could pursue higher education. Lori received her BASW and MSW degrees from Eastern Washington University.

Lori started out her professional career working as a preschool teacher at Port Angeles' Community College Peninsula College when she was attending school there. She loved instructing children, helping them learn, establish routines, and watching them grow. Lori eventually realized that she wanted to work with the whole family as she could see that there were family struggles that affected the children in the school environment. This led to her pursuit of becoming a social worker.

As an undergraduate at EWU, Lori started her practicum experience at Children's Administration (now known as the Department of Children, Youth, and Families). She quickly got a position as an After-Hours worker. She continued to work and be employed while pursuing her education. This is how she learned about the CWTAP through her Advanced Standing MSW program.

Lori is in her 20th year working in Child Welfare at DCYF. She has been an After-Hours worker, CPS Investigator, CFWS worker, Supervisor, Quality Practice Specialist, Area Administrator of Quality Practice Services, and now Regional Administrator all for Region 1 as of December 1st, 2024. When asked, "How have you maintain such a high-pressured career as a Child Welfare worker for 20 years?" Lori shared that she felt three things were crucial: 1) She has always maintained her core value system. She believes in our Social Worker values and keeps them at the core of her work 2) She continues to be a learner. She believes that the entire TEAM brings valuable insights, and she strives to always listen and learn from her team and 3) She always uses her resources. There are experts all around us in DCYF and she has always valued working with our Program Leads to gain insight into case plans. They are always just a phone call, email, or walk away.

Lori shared that she is enthusiastic about child welfare work but works to maintain that passion with intentional self-care. She loves to travel and explore unfamiliar places. Her joy comes not from just going, but also the planning and dreaming about the next adventure. She shared that she recently learned the joy she gets from completing elaborate LEGO set with her niece's.

Lori shared the following advice for those currently in the CWTAP program or thinking of pursuing the program. "Doors will open up to you, take the opportunities as they come." Lori knows this is what led her to the position she is in now. Lori also recommends "Dare to Lead" by Brené Brown as a novel for social workers looking for inspiration.



EWU CWTAP Staff



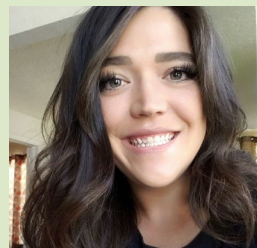
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Resources

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[Child Welfare League of America](#)

[Children's Defense Fund](#)

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[Casey Family Programs](#)

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families](#)

