

# CWTAP

Winter 2026 Quarterly

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## Director's Letter

Dear CWTAP Community,

I am excited to report that starting in Fall 2026 the EWU School of Social Work will begin offering an online option for the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) Program. Individuals interested in the BASW Program at EWU can now choose the fully online option that is designed for flexibility, access, and success in addition to our long-standing, high-quality in-person program. The online BASW program enhances access to obtaining an undergraduate degree in social work with online coursework and practicum placements in students' communities. [APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!](#)

The EWU School of Social Work Everett Part-Time MSW program is also [currently accepting applications](#) for the 2026-2029 cohort starting this summer. [CWTAP applications](#) are now open for those who have been accepted into the Everett MSW program.

EWU was thrilled to host last year's Student Institute in-person. With current budget constraints, we were unable to have a full Student Institute with our university partners for 2026. In lieu of this EWU CWTAP offered a small virtual alternative so that current CWTAP students had the opportunity to present their accumulated knowledge and expertise in public child welfare. As always, it was a joy to support the efforts of our students!

-Gerry Charvat, CWTAP Director

# Student Institute Alternative 2026

Due to budget constraints, Eastern Washington University, University of Washington, and University of Washington Tacoma all hosted their own virtual Student Institutes. We are proud of the presentations that our CWTAP students did, along with those who supported them as attendees!

**Breaking Down the Barriers: Court Terminology Made Clear**  
*by Shukurat (Bisi) Olowogaba & Gissel Luna Tello*

**Drug Exposure Safety and Assessment for Social Workers in the Field**  
*by Keanna Buck & Tyler Calabro*

**Engaging Families in Voluntary Pathways and Programs**  
*by Nathan Bradford*



L to R: Lindy Gastineau, Sarah McCamant, Danelle Stone (FFI), Kaitlyn Wendlandt, and Audrey Barry all dressed up to show support to Hunter Thomas in his presentation!

**Refining Permanency**  
*by Adisen Kincaid & Yani Martinez*

**Youth Well-Being: DCYF and Mental Health**  
*by Maria Smith, Katrina Schmike, & Skylar Collins*

**YouTube and Family Vlogging: Child Exploitation's Next Frontier**  
*by Hunter Thomas*

# Student Spotlight



## Lindy Gastineau

*SSS3 Adoptions/Permanency Unit  
Spokane Central Office - Region 1*

*By Danelle Stone*

Lindy Gastineau is currently an EWU CWTAP student in the Spokane Part-Time MSW program with an expected graduation date of June 2026. Lindy initially wanted to become a psychologist, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Idaho in 2014 in her thirties after taking a pause in school to focus on her family. She eventually found her way into social work through her employment as a behavior interventionist for the Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene school districts and with Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS), but it was when she became a foster parent that she felt the pull towards child welfare work.

Lindy has worked for DCYF since 2018 as a Social Service Specialist 3 in Region 1's Adoption/Permanency unit. She finds

fulfillment knowing that she is making a difference in her community and hopefully helping families break the cycle of generational trauma. In her current position, she takes an active role in helping children and families achieve permanency through continued case management and family system support while completing all necessary disclosures and legal paperwork to reach formal permanency outcomes. Lindy values her work with families given her own identity as a foster parent and strives to provide meaningful and tailored support for biological parents, children, and caregivers.

Lindy always had intentions of obtaining her MSW, and knew she had to apply for CWTAP once she learned of the opportunity the program provides. Her experience in CWTAP has been a positive one where she has been able to study closely with other DCYF employed CWTAP students and learn from their perspectives given the different roles they have within the agency; a unique learning environment she appreciates and may not have had without CWTAP. Lindy has really enjoyed making connections with her peers, highlighting the strong relationships within her CWTAP cohort that will continue to be nurtured long after graduation.

Lindy encourages those interested in CWTAP to do their research of both the EWU MSW program and CWTAP to determine if they are a good choice for them. To make the most of the CWTAP experience, Lindy emphasizes going into it with an open mind, embracing and taking advantage of new experiences as they come.

Lindy clearly keeps busy also serving as the Board Secretary of a local non-profit that helps adults with life limiting conditions and working for an adoptive agency in Idaho writing home studies for private adoptions, but she makes sure to prioritize time with her family and especially loves being a new grandma to her 2-month-old grandson. Lindy also enjoys spending time reading and playing trivia with her friends.

# Alumni Spotlight

## Ashley Soltero

MSW, CPS Supervisor

Mt. Vernon DCYF Office– Region 3

By Kara Rozeboom

Ashley Soltero is a CWTAP alumni who graduated from EWU's Everett Part-Time MSW program in 2025. Ashley obtained her bachelor's degree in law and justice with a minor in family consumer science from Central Washington University in 2021. She worked as a paraeducator for the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program in the Mount Vernon School District helping middle school students with extra support in the classroom for five years. Then Ashley switched to working as a paraeducator with seniors at Mt. Vernon high school. While working there she applied for a probation officer position and the contact person told her that she didn't have enough case carrying experience. They recommended that she look into a job at DCYF in child welfare.

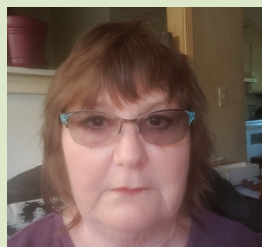
Wanting to make a meaningful impact with children and families, Ashley started a position with DCYF as a CPS Social Service Specialist (SSS) 2 in September 2021. She worked in CPS, FRS, and FVS in the Mt. Vernon DCYF office as an SSS3. In December 2024 Ashley was promoted to an SSS4 position. Ashley completed her three-year part-time MSW program in Everett in June 2025 through CWTAP. Then Ashley was promoted to a CPS Supervisor position in October 2025.

Ashley enjoys having a good CPS team and co-supervisor in the Mt. Vernon DCYF office and tries to bring a little bit more laughter and fun to her office. Ashley's takeaways from being in CWTAP were stretching her to be more open-minded and flexible and trying to look through different lens when working with families. She also thinks she is more empathetic and patient with herself and with the families she serves. While in CWTAP, Ashley enjoyed seminars the most because it was a smaller group of professionals all working or completing their practicum at DCYF in child welfare. She appreciated how the group would support one another and come together to talk about the hard work and learn different styles of engaging families. Her advice for employees interested in CWTAP is, "to just do it." Ashley says time goes by so quickly if you wait. She also was happy to have met some great people and make really strong connections.

Outside of work Ashley enjoys spending time with her dogs. Ashley loves to travel with her fiancé Jose and her extended family. She also enjoys coloring and completing arts and crafts projects like painting, crocheting, and diamond art.



# EWU CWTAP Staff



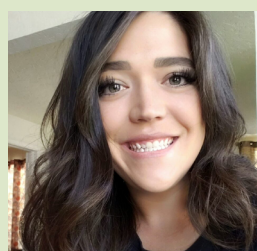
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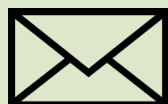
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## Resources

[Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence](#)

[Child Welfare League of America](#)

[Children's Defense Fund](#)

[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

[Casey Family Programs](#)

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

