



**THE 2026 BPD ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

Friday, February 27, 2026  
7:30 am – 5:00 pm  
Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans

*Rising Together: Shaping the Future of Social Work in a Time of  
Accelerated Change*

## Greetings From BPD Leadership



### **BPD President**

**Dr. Peg Pittman-Munke, Ph.D., MSW, M.Ed, MLS**

BSW Program Director

Murray State University, Murray, KY

### **Vice-President**

**Dr. Lorri McMeel, Ph.D., LCSW**

Interim Associate Dean, College of Education & Social Sciences

Associate Professor, Social Work

Lewis University, Romeoville, IL



### **BPD President, 2020-2025**

**Dr. Catherine Gayle, LCSW, BSW, MAC, MIN**

Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development,

Office of the Provost

Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL





## Welcome to the 2026 BPD Annual Student Conference!

Greetings,

We are thrilled to welcome you to this year's extraordinary gathering, themed "**Rising Together: Shaping the Future of Social Work in a Time of Accelerated Change.**" This student conference promises to be a vibrant tapestry of innovative ideas, inspiring narratives, and collaborative insights from our thriving community of social work enthusiasts.

Prepare to experience innovative research and engaging poster presentations from our student scholars, highlighting key issues across the field of social work. Posters will be reviewed by judges representing multiple university social work programs.

### Special Conference Features:

- **"Social Work is a Profession" Panel:** Join distinguished social work professionals as they share insights from their work across mental health, clinical practice, social policy, medical and military social work, field education, and the correctional system. This session offers a valuable opportunity to learn from leaders shaping the future of the field.
- **MSW Program Opportunities:** Dive into the future with our MSW Program Tables, where aspiring students can connect with graduate school advisors and explore pathways to advanced educational pursuits in social work.
- **"Lunch and Learn" Panel Presentation:** Sponsored by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), this session will engage attendees in a dynamic dialogue on Cultivating Commitment: Advancing Bachelor Generalist Practice for a Stronger Social Work Profession.

We are also excited to witness the introduction of the **2026 Student Fellows**, honor **Brandy Hudson**, the 2026 Phi Alpha student recipient, and recognize the phenomenal work of our BPD leaders. We hope you enjoy every moment of this conference, filled with learning, networking, and inspiration. Let us rise together, embracing change as a powerful catalyst for a brighter future in social work.

With enthusiasm and anticipation, the 2026 Student Conference Committee welcomes you.

**Vené C. Baggett**, MSW, LCSW, ACUE, Student Conference Co-Chair, Texas A&M University Central Texas

**Dr. Judith D. Crocker Billingsley**, MSW PhD, Student Conference Committee Board Liaison, Johnson C. Smith University

**Katrina Boone**, BSW, MSW, Florida State University, Board Secretary and Board Member Liaison

## **The History of the Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors Student Conference**

A review of prior student offerings at BPD's annual conference indicated that student engagement did not fully meet the intended goals. Although students presented their research, opportunities for meaningful peer interaction and dialogue around issues directly affecting their lives and professional development were limited.

This concern became particularly evident during the post-COVID-19 student conference held in Birmingham, Alabama. It was clear that students needed a more immersive and affirming experience—one that reinforced their role as integral contributors to undergraduate education. Additionally, the four-hour conference format proved insufficient to create a meaningful or lasting impact.

To address these concerns and ensure a more impactful student experience, I led the decision to expand the conference into a full-day program. This enhanced format provided students with opportunities not only to present their research but also to participate in panels and debates focused on timely and relevant issues affecting their academic, professional, and personal development.

Dr. Peggy Munke, former and incoming President of BPD, further enriched the student experience by facilitating an intimate dialogue between students and MSW recruiters and by advocating for a dedicated MSW recruitment component for student attendees. Dr. Munke also demonstrated her commitment to student success by personally funding meals and monetary awards for research symposium winners.

Dr. Lorri McMeel, Vice President of BPD, played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful execution of the student conference and in fostering a well-organized, engaging, and meaningful experience for all participants.

## 2026 BPD Student Conference Agenda

### 7:30 am – 8:15 am

- Student Check In, Poster Set Up
- Networking
- MSW Program Table Set Up

### 8:15 am - 9:30 am

Opening Session

- Welcome **Dr. Judith D. Crocker Billingsley, MSW, PhD**  
Student Conference Committee Board Liaison  
Johnson C. Smith University
- School Roll Call **Vené C. Baggett, MSW, LCSW, ACUE**  
Student Conference Committee Co-Chair  
Texas A & M University Central Texas
- Panel Forum Part I “Social Work is a Profession”  
BPD Panelists

### 9:30 am – 9:40 am

Transition to Poster Presentations (Group 1)

### 9:45 am – 10:15 am

Poster Presentations (Group 1)

### 10:20 am – 10:50 am

Visit with the MSW Programs

### 10:55 am – 11:15 am

Transition to Poster Presentation (Group 2)

### 11:15 am – 11:45 am

Poster Presentations (Group 2)

### 11:45 – 11:55 am

Break

### 12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm

“Lunch and Learn” Sponsored by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

### *Cultivating Commitment: Advancing Bachelors Generalist Practice for a Stronger Social Work Profession*

**Stacey D. Hardy-Chandler, PhD, JD, LCSW, PGDip, CEO** Association of Social Work Boards

**Esther J. Langston, PhD, MSW, LCSW, 2025 BPD Lifetime Achievement Award recipient** President, Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Work Emeritus, University of Nevada Las Vegas

**Adrienne Ekas, PhD, LCSW-C Vice Chair, Maryland Board of Social work Examiners Undergraduate Field Director, University of Maryland, Baltimore County**

**Dionne Brown-Bushrod**, LCSW-C, Director of Regulatory Education, Association of Social Work Boards

<b>1:30 pm – 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Presentation of the 2026 Student Fellows</b>  <b>Dr. Ann Obermann</b> , PhD, LCSW, Professor of Social Work, Metropolitan State University of Denver  <b>Dr. K. Scherrer</b> , PhD, LCSW, MA, Professor of Social Work, Metropolitan State University of Denver
<b>2:05 pm – 2:15 pm</b>	Break
<b>2:15 pm – 2:45 pm</b>	Visit with MSW Programs
<b>2:45 pm – 2:55 pm</b>	Transition to Poster Presentations
<b>3:00 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	Student Poster Presentations (Group 3)
<b>3:30 pm – 4:00 pm</b>	Awards Ceremony Student Conference Committee  BPD Executive Team and Board Members Introductions Dr. Lorri McMeel, Vice President  Special Presentation
<b>4:00 pm – 4:30 pm</b>	Panel Forum Part II: “Social Work is a Profession”
<b>4:30 pm</b>	Closing Remarks from BPD President, Dr. Peg Pittman-Munke

### **Showcasing Our Community**

Celebrate our achievements and inspire others by posting the vibrant community we have built together using the hashtag **#bpdstudentconference2026**.

## BPD Student 2026 Conference Participating Schools

Arizona State University	Slippery Rock University
Auburn University Montgomery	St. Catherine's University
Austin Peay State University	Saint Mary's College
Avila University	Seton Hill University
Azusa Pacific University	Saginaw Valley State University
Brigham Young University–Hawaii	Tarleton State University
Brown School – Washington University	Tulane School of Social Work
Capella University	University of Alabama
Clark Atlanta University	University of Alabama School of Social Work
Concord University	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Delaware State University	University of Arkansas at Little Rock
East Tennessee State University	University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work
Eastern Michigan University	University of Illinois School of Social Work
Eastern Washington University	University of Kentucky
Elizabeth City State University	University of Mary-Hardin Baylor
Fayetteville State University	University of Massachusetts Global
Ferrum College	University of New England
Fordham University	University of North Carolina
Hampton University	University of North Carolina Wilmington
Howard University School of Social Work	University of Pittsburgh
Jackson State University	University of Tennessee Knoxville
Lincoln University of Missouri	University of Wisconsin Eau Claire
Loyola University	University of Texas Austin School of Social Work
Middle Tennessee State University	Vermont State University
Monmouth University	Vermont State University- Castleton
Mount St. Joseph University	Virginia Commonwealth University
Metropolitan State University Denver	West Virginia University
NC State University	Western Kentucky University
Niagara University	Western Kentucky University - Bowling Green, KY
Norfolk State University	Western New Mexico University
North Carolina A&T State University	Widener University
Radford University	Wingate University
Sacred Heart University	Xavier University
Saint Louis University School of Social Work	

## BPD Student Presentations

Allen, Kerrigan, Vermont State University-Castleton. *Serving the Unhoused in Rural Vermont: An Agency Perspective*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Reeves

Almazan, Leslie Irene, Tarleton State University. *Exploring Forensic Social Work Roles and Miscarriages of Justice*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Edward Randle.

Barbour, Tiara, Western Kentucky University. *The Impact of Library Staff Training on Human Trafficking Awareness*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel Boamah.

Beattie, Payton, Seton Hill University; Beatty, Skylar, Seton Hill University; Palm, Renell, Seton Hill University; Sanner, Benjamin, Seton Hill University; Thomas, Ally, Seton Hill University. *What is the impact of Conscious Discipline on Teachers' Well-being?* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Slates.

Beattie, Payton, Seton Hill University. *Conscious Discipline: Social and Emotional Learning to Support Teacher Well-Being.* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Slates

Beatty, Skylar, Seton Hill University; Beattie, Payton, Seton Hill University; Palm, Renell, Seton Hill University. *Rebuilding Community Pride Through Youth Engagement.* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Slates.

Berman, Courtney, Arizona State University; Davis, Amanda, Arizona State University. Elizabeth Hayard, Arizona State University. *The Resilient Responder: Balancing Empathy and Burnout Amongst Crisis Responders.* Faculty Advisors: Cynthia Peters and Elizabeth Hayward.

Busch, Aryauna, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire; Schimming, W.; University of Wisconsin Eau Claire; Krause, Bee, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. *Transcending Stigma: Community Resistance and Strength Among Transgender Networks.* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Aaron Willis.

Cabatu, Keilani, Brigham Young University–Hawaii; Strickland, Katelyn, Brigham Young University–Hawaii; Vakalahi, Lavinia, Brigham Young University–Hawaii. *Creating Belonging Together: How Third Spaces Foster Inclusion and Connection in a Culturally Diverse Student Body.* Faculty Advisor: Kristina Moleni

Callender, Laura, Norfolk State University. *Exploring Professional Burdens Experienced by Black Social Workers.* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Howard.

Cantwell, Miya, Tarleton State University; Moody, Bailey, Tarleton State University; McCaa, Clare, Tarleton State University; Griffin, Cali, Tarleton State University. *Accessibility to Self-Care Knowledge and Resources Affect on Survivors of Domestic Abuse Quality of Life.* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

Cameron, University of St. Catherine. *What is the Difference in Sexual Education Between Convicted Sex Offenders aged 13 to 17 and Their Non-Offending Peers?* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Marcy Mears

Carranza, Isabella, Azusa Pacific University. *Compassion Fatigue and Compassion Satisfaction Amongst Forensic Mental Health Staff: Understanding Workforce Well-Being in a Time of Accelerated Change.* Faculty Advisor: Alina Bond Chan

Carter, Micaela, Avila University. *Spread Too Thin: School Social Workers' Barriers and Supports for Student Mental and Behavioral Needs.* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Debra Olson-Morrison.

Cobble, Lindsey Michelle, University of North Carolina Wilmington; Mohler, Kathryn, University of North Carolina Wilmington; Smelick, Celine, University of North Carolina Wilmington. *Policy, Power, and the Store. The Human Toll of Disaster Governance During Hurricane Katrina.* Faculty Advisor: Daysja Terry.

Chinn, Brittany, Fayetteville State University; *Breaking Barriers: Employment Challenges for Highly Educated Black Women.* Faculty Advisors: Dr. Tamara Woods & Professor Massey-McCullough

Christensen, Riley, Metropolitan State University of Denver. *"We Split Everything 50/50": A Review of Perceived vs. Actual Gendered Divisions of Labor.* Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jessica Ritter.

Dawson, Nyasia, Elizabeth City State University; Simmons, Tyreak, Elizabeth City State University; Wooden, Zariyah, Elizabeth City State University. *From Classroom to Practice: Integrating Resilience and Wellness in Social Work Education*. Faculty Advisor: Kim S. Downing

Densmore, Creasap, University of Alabama. *From the Classroom to the Community: How Experiential Learning in Social Work Inspired Cancer Kids First at UA*. Faculty Advisor: Keisha Pickens

Drivanos, Hunter N., Monmouth University; McErlean, Caitlin, Monmouth University. *Supporting Social Work Students Through Change: A Support Group Intervention at Monmouth University*. Faculty Advisor: Erin Nau

Ellner, Mckenna, Tarleton State University; Childs, Camdyn, Tarleton State University. *Growth at Risk: The Impact of Volunteer Deficits on Rural Nonprofit Sustainability*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang

Flores, Jordan, Austin Peay State University. *A Community-Based Digital Access Initiative for Rural Geriatric Veterans*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Dava Wilson.

Forbes, Mackenzie, Niagara University; Daun-Barnett, Valerie, Niagara University; Boydell, Jessica, Niagara University. *SWSA's Role in Community Relations within Niagara University and the Surrounding Communities*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rolanda Ward.

Fuller, Matthew, Virginia Commonwealth University. *Minority Stress, Social Connection, and Suicidal Ideation Among Queer Adolescents*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jacob Fritz-Goffnett.

Glasser, Robert, Belmont University. *Post Traumatic Growth for Service Members who have Experienced Sexual Assault and/or Harassment*. Faculty Advisor:

Glover, Brittny, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. *Institutional Social Work in Collegiate Athletics: Mental Health, Wellness, and Retention Among Freshman Football Players*. Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jennifer Costello

Griffin, Cali, Tarleton State University. *Improving Social Work Education: Insights from Student Feedback on Service Learning and Internships*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

Hanson, Felicity, Azusa Pacific University. *An Exploration of Methods of Interdisciplinary Communication in the Inpatient Psychiatric Setting*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alina Bond Chan.

Haught, Morgan, University of Pittsburgh. *A Call for Change: Rethinking American Foster Care - Literature Review*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Brooke Rawls

Hellesto, Ingrid, Azusa Pacific University. *Job Success and Satisfaction: An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Job Development Programs*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alina Bond Chan.

Henry, Tatiana, Slippery Rock University. *Examining the Impact of Social Media Platforms and Offline Support on College Students' Mental Health*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Christopher Streidl.

Henry, Zora, Fayetteville State University; *How Political Discourse Affects Attitudes Towards Immigrants*. Faculty Advisor: Yolanda, Massey- McCullough.

Johnson, Ameolie, Eastern Washington University. *The Impact of Friendship and Social Connection on Mental Health in Older Adults- A Systematic Review*. Faculty Advisor: Vernon Loke.

Joseph, Jasmyne, Tarleton State University; Peltz, Lily, Tarleton State University; Dowdle, Audrey, Tarleton State University. *Assessing Barriers to Awareness of Social Services Available in Rural Communities*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

King-Jackson, Shannon, Auburn University at Montgomery; Grant, Jennifer, Auburn University at Montgomery; Bennett, Jamesha, Auburn University at Montgomery. *Am I Enough? Confronting Imposter Syndrome in the BSW Experience*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Angela Smith.

Lambdin, Maria, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Destefano, Casey, University of Arkansas. *Voices from the Pantry*. Faculty Advisor: Kelly Moore.

Little, Markia, Tarleton State University; Rodriguez, Emily, Tarleton State University. *Language in Family Courts*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

Miles, Melissa, Eastern Michigan University. *Trauma to Transformation: empowering Engagement in Macro-Level Practice from the Perspective of a BSW Student*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Hailee Lauritzen.

McGlone, Laila, Virginia Commonwealth University; Diaz, Elena, Virginia Commonwealth University; Matusiak, Autumn, Virginia Commonwealth University. *Richmond to RVA: Historical Discriminatory Housing Policies and Their Enduring Consequences for Marginalized Communities*. Faculty Advisor: Kristal Parada.

McKelly, Deja, Fayetteville State University; Williams, Lexus, Fayetteville State University. *When Poverty Looks Like Neglect: The Criminalization of Low-Income Families in the Child Welfare System*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tamara Woods

McNabb, Nora, Saint Mary's College. *Reframing Suicide Prevention: Addressing Research Gaps and Practice Needs in Older Adults*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kathryn Lyndes.

Moran, Millicent, Arizona State University. *Enhancing Social Work Practice Through Ethical Integration of AI Large Language Models*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melanie O'Neil.

Najib, Alyssa, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Whitehurst, Kaiya, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. *Digital Socialization, Identity, and Mentorship: A Study of Social Media Influence on Social Work Undergraduates*. Faculty advisor: Dr. Kendra P. Alexander

O'Halloran, Grace O., Tarleton State University; Rogers, Nevaeh, Tarleton State University; Carson, J'Miah, Tarleton State University. *Hygiene Poverty Among University Students*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

O'Neill, Alyson, Seton Hall University. *Safe Consumption Sites (SCS): An Effective Harm Reduction Strategy*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Dawn Apgar

Olivarez, Emma, Tarleton State University. *The Perspective of Retention Resources for Foster Parents*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

Ortiz-Lopez, Ruby, Tarleton State University. *Assessing Communication Between Social Service Agencies and Rural Communities. A Study in Erath County*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

Ortiz-Lopez, R., Tarleton State University. *Enhancing Student Success in APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition: A Data-Driven Video Project for Social Work Education*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

Palm, Renell Marie, Seton Hill University. *Cultural Beliefs, Acculturation, and Perceptions of Mental Health Among Staff at the Latino Community Center*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Slates.

Pasha, Kamilah, Stony Brook University. Noveillino, Nicholas, Stony Brook University. *Seeing the Whole Picture: Using the Liberation Health Model in Times of Transformation*. Advisor Faculty: Leah Topek-Walker

Patton, Decoyia, Metropolitan State University of Denver. *How Mental Health Care Shapes Black Men's Re-Entry Outcomes*. Faculty Advisor: Ann Obermann.

Phornsavanh, Ameya, University of North Carolina Wilmington; Day, Rhi, University of North Carolina Wilmington; Ontiveros, Esmeralda, University of North Carolina Wilmington. *Policy, Power, and the Storm: The Human Toll of Disaster Governance During Hurricane Katrina*. Faculty Advisor: Daysja Terry

Polk, Gabrielle, Dillard University. *Structured Environment and Stronger Outcomes: Preparing Social Work Students to Support Children with Autism*. Faculty Advisor: Dalila John

Porter, Paradise, University of Alaska Fairbanks. *Impacts of the Second Trump Administration on Social Service Agencies in Alaska*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Retchenda George-Bettisworth.

Racenscraft, McKenna Jane, Western Kentucky University; Webb, Cansas, Western Kentucky University-MSW. *Navigating Intergenerational Estrangement: Implications for Social Work Practice and Policy*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gayle Mallinger.

Rodriguez, Lesli, Tarleton State University; Mendoza, Daniela, Tarleton State University. *Balancing It All: A Self-Care Survey for Parents*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ebony Lang.

Rollman, Carissa, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. *Learning to See Through a Trauma-Informed Lens: Evaluating Training Impact*. Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jennifer Costello

Sanner, Benjamin, Seton Hill University. *The Power of Prevention Services in Child Welfare Systems*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Slates

Simon, Faith, University of St. Catherine. *How the Gender Pay Gap Affects a Single Mother's Ability to Provide and Access Childcare*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Marcy Mears.

Scott, Gianna, Azusa Pacific University. *In-Class SEL Lessons and Student Behavior: Examining Behavioral Outcomes in an Urban Elementary School*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alina Bond Chan.

Showers, Adriel, Azusa Pacific University. *Exploring Moral Distress Among Social Workers at an Urban Pediatric Hospital*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alina Bond Chan.

Stumpo, Nic, Virginia Commonwealth University. *Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse People Need to Experience Belongingness in Healthcare Settings*. Faculty Advisor: Jacob Fritz-Goffnett

Taylor, Kate, University of Mary Hardin- Baylor. Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Equine-Assisted Psychoeducational Program for Veterans, Military Personnel, and First Responders: Pilot Study. Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jennifer Costello

Thomas, Allyson, Seton Hill University. *Personal and Professional Mental Health Stigma Among Direct Care Staff: A Gendered Perspective*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Slates

Thompson, Alona, Arizona State University. *Birth Behind Bars: Reproductive Justice, Incarceration, and the Role of Social Work in Restoring Dignity*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Marcos Martinez

Vaughn, Natalie, East Tennessee State University. *“Bucks for Wheels”: A Proposed Intervention to Combat Intergenerational Poverty in Young Adults*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Donna Cherry.

Williams, Nyla, Fayetteville State University; Turner, Adara, Fayetteville State University. *Potential Ramifications of the Removal of DEI Material in Public Education*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tamara Woods

Wilson, Madison, Clark Atlanta University. *Love Thy Elders: A Valentine’s Day Celebration*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Enchante Franklin.

Wilson-Cobb, Trinity, Norfolk State University; Robinson, Kayla, Hampton University. *Addressing the Holistic Needs of Athletes: Integrating Athletic Training and Social Work Practices*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sonya Robinson

Young, Delicia, Jackson State University; Sanders, Kayla, Jackson State University. *The Influence of Wounded Healer Characteristics on Social Work Students’ Empathy and Workforce Readiness*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Candace L. Riddley.

### **MSW Student Presentations**

Abdel, Casiano, Tarleton State University. *Informal Caregiver and Dementia. A Literature Review*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nathalie P. Jones & Dr. Ebony Lang.

Barbour, Tiara, Western Kentucky University. *The Impact of Library Staff Training on Human Trafficking Awareness*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel Boamah.

Bare, Hayley, Radford University. *Preparing Social Workers for Telehealth Practice: Experiences and Insights*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Rakes.

Bourbina, Paige, Eastern Michigan University. *Measuring Staff Perceptions of Social Service Needs in Public Libraries: How Social Workers Can Help*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Margaret Ann Paauw.

Buchholz, Arianna, Loyola University. *Community Building in Carceral Systems: A Somatic Approach to Wellness*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Marquitta Doresey.

Campbell, Alexis, Norfolk State University. *Aging in the Era of Climate Change: A Socio-Historical Analysis*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sharon Alston.

Collamore, Kimberly O., Tarleton State University; Braley, Colby S., Tarleton State University. *Barriers to Participation in and Trauma Surrounding Religion for Queer Populations*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nathalie P. Jones.

Derosier Cranfill, Calli, Wingate University. *The School to Prison Pipeline*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wendy Sellers

Homer, Janeal, University of Maryland. *Preparing Students for a Rapidly Changing World: Mindfulness Strategies to Reduce Test Anxiety and Enhance Learning*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kim Downing.

Jimenez, Maria, Tarleton State University; Austin, Brianna, Tarleton State University; Moss, Jocelyn, Tarleton State University. *Circle of Care Program: Sustainability and Impact for Caregivers of those with Alzheimer's and Dementia*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Amanda Wilson Harper.

Lang, Azariah Norvell Gail. *The Impact of Gun Laws and Gun Violence on Mental Health: Implications for Social Work Practice and Policy*. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nathalie Jones.

## Student Poster Judges

A Kai Mumpfield	KaRon Spriggs-Beth	Debra Olson-Morris
Alicia Gomez	Roxana Holland	Jessica Vega
Amanda Hassan	Ruby Aguilar	Kay Gresham
Amber Bell	Sandy Howard	Kerry Kennedy
Anceie Smith	Sonita Barnes	Kim Anderson
Angie Smith	Yasoda Sharma	Kristina Gordon
Anita Gonzáles	Cassandra Barragan	Maria Taylor
Azzie Forbes	Chris Martin	Megan Bolden
Barbara Decker	Cynthia Peters	Natalie Munoz
Bipasha Biswas	Barbara Decker	Shelita Jackson
Brooke Rawls	Cardacia Davis	Trinette Boon Langley
C. Scott Ingram	Marshelia Harris	Elena Mrozinske
Carolyn Tollett	Michelle Robertson	Paula Nieman
		Janice Toliver-King

## Participants: “Social Work is a Profession”

Georgia Anderson	Anita Gonzalez	Lorri McMeel
Jahanna Bailey	Kay Gresham	Jacob Sanchez
Judith Crocker-Billingsley	Amanda Hassan	Tifani Smith
Nikki Pauls DeSimone	Sandy Howard	Carolyn Tollett
Frances Ferrante-Fusilli	Laura Masgalas	Beth Tripi
Cheryl Thompson	Chris Martin	

## BPD Student Fellows

### *Co-Chairs:*

**Dr. Ann Obermann**, PhD, LCSW, Professor of Social Work, Metropolitan State University of Denver

**Dr. K. Scherrer**, PhD, LCSW, MA, Professor of Social Work, Metropolitan State University of Denver



**Deyana Chism, Lincoln University** is a senior social work student at Lincoln University. I'm president of the Student Social Work Association and the Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work, and I'm active in the Baptist Student Union College Ministry. I'm passionate about empowering communities through programs, mentorship, and initiatives that support under-resourced youth and advocate for social justice.

**Paradise Porter, University of Alaska Fairbanks**, is a first-generation honors Social Work and Japanese Studies student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She is an experienced student leader aspiring to work in the field of macro and international social work.



**Nora A. McNabb, Saint Mary's College**, is a junior double-majoring in Social Work and Political Science. Her social work research focuses on suicide prevention policy efforts, mental healthcare access disparities across marginalized communities, and ethical considerations and comparative policy analysis of Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD). Her central political science interest is the political socialization of the American Catholic vote, which she hopes to publish in the coming year. Currently, McNabb is a research intern for Hope Squad Government Affairs and Program Innovation—a school-based peer-to-peer suicide prevention model on whose national council she previously served—where she supports policy research, is developing a grant guide for schools, and contributes to program innovation efforts to expand access to peer-to-peer suicide prevention across generations. Additionally, McNabb works as an undergraduate research assistant in the McGrath Institute for Church Life's Fiat Program for Faith and Mental Health, where she conducts qualitative analysis to evaluate the course's effectiveness.



**Decoyia Patton, Metropolitan State University of Denver**, is a senior in the Bachelor of Social Work (BSSW). I am passionate about serving individuals and communities impacted by the justice system, with a strong commitment to supporting communities of color. In my career, I aspire to share my knowledge by teaching coping skills, advocating for social justice, and addressing systemic inequities that affect mental health and reentry outcomes. I believe that representation matters. My long-term goal is to earn a PhD and contribute to research, education, and community-centered practice in social work.



**Maria T. Lambdin, University of Arkansas at Little Rock**, is a senior undergraduate social work major with extensive research involvement and academic leadership experience. Her academic and professional interests focus on social policy, systems-level reform, and applied research in nonprofit and community-based settings. She has led and contributed to two faculty-mentored research projects, including Signature Experience Grant-funded work examining corporal punishment policy and campus food insecurity using mixed-methods and program evaluation approaches. Her research has been recognized through competitive funding and conference presentations. Maria plans to pursue graduate study and policy-relevant research, with the goal of working in research and advocacy organizations to advance equity-focused social reform at national and global levels.



