Dear Students,

We talk a lot about the importance of collaboration in social work and CWTAP is an excellent example of collaboration in action.

As you know, CWTAP is a statewide partnership between Washington Children’s Administration, and the Schools of Social Work at the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University. Together, we work closely to ensure statewide program quality and consistency. We’re committed to preparing students for a career in one of the most rewarding, challenging, and critically important areas of direct social work practice.

CWTAP is proud of its 17-year history of success in Washington State. While we are not immune to the economic challenges facing our state and nation, we are adjusting as necessary and working hard to ensure this valuable program continues in the years to come.

We are very glad to have you with us.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson

March is National Social Work Month

Social Work Month 2011 promotes the role of the social worker as a positive change agent. There are 640,000 professional social workers in the United States who have dedicated their careers to either helping people transform their lives, or improving environments that make such progress possible.

Child Welfare & Social Work Resource Links

- National Association of Social Workers: [www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)
- Children’s Defense Fund: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)
- Casey Family Programs: [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)
Student Spotlight

Kasandra Mathany—CWTAP Vancouver

Meet Kasandra Mathany, a student in the Vancouver CWTAP program. Kasandra’s dream is to become a social worker in rural Skamania County. Kasandra is employed by the Division of Child Support and commutes almost 100 miles a day to work and to attend classes in Vancouver.

While in practicum at Children’s Administration in Vancouver, Kasandra realized she had professional information that could be very helpful to parents who were clients of the Division of Child Support who also had children in foster care. During CWTAP’s intensive orientation curriculum, Kasandra met the worker on the Vancouver staff who was part of the Parent Partner Program, a program designed to provide advocacy and education for parents whose children are in foster care. This program is run by parents who have successfully completed case plans and have had their children returned to their care. After learning about barriers to successful completion of the program, Kasandra organized an information session for parents who were clients of both agencies, to address reducing barriers to success, such as obtaining a driver’s license. Kasandra worked with the Parent Partner leader to set up the session, and organized and presented information relevant to each parent’s situation. She did this after obtaining permission from her agency and her AFI. Kasandra brought the necessary handouts (including state forms) to the information session. Kasandra’s information enabled three CFWS clients to take immediate steps to have their driver’s licenses reinstated. The parent mentors and the parents they support were thrilled with Kasandra’s work and positive contribution to the success of parents.

This is an outstanding example of the Generalist Practice model in action. It is also a great example of a student integrating new learning into real life practice issues. We congratulate Kasandra for outstanding work in her Children’s Administration placement.

Alumni Spotlight

Launi Burdge—DCFS Spokane

Launi Burdge, Area Administrator in Region 1’s Spokane Office, has been with Children’s Administration almost 17 years. During her tenure with the Department, she has worked the gamut of programs from line worker, to supervisor and now area administrator. Launi is a 2004 CWTAP graduate from Eastern’s part-time MSW program in Spokane.

Launi’s passion for child welfare is palpable. She shared her core values of keeping kids safe, belief in the system, and the importance of family. Launi says, “if you look hard enough you can find family.” In fact, while she is no doubt very busy with administrative tasks in her current position, Launi provides an important service to her supervisors by putting together Native American Ancestry charts for some of their cases. Launi says, “It’s fulfilling, my supervisors really appreciate it!” It also helps Launi stay more connected to the front line.

When asked, Launi related that she maintains passion for child welfare and avoids burnout by taking care of herself. She loves travel, vacationing to new places, and seeing family. Launi is an avid fisherwoman and bow hunter. She knows her limits, is able to express them, and knows when it’s time to try a new position within the agency. She cites having a supportive husband and family as key to balancing her work and home life.

Launi was asked what advice she would give new workers and she didn’t hesitate a moment before saying, “workers must be able to be flexible, have the hard talks with people, be vocal—speak up when necessary, and have the ability to self reflect.” Launi also mentioned key attributes all Department social workers must have: “organization, structure, being okay with not knowing all the answers, the ability to ask questions, a willingness to do what it takes to get the job done and taking care of themselves.”

Launi is a shining example of passion and commitment to child welfare practice. CWTAP is very proud to say she is one of our alumni. Keep up the good work, Launi!
Congratulations to our CWTAP Graduates!

Please join CWTAP in congratulating our newest child welfare graduates, and wishing them well as they embark on their work in child welfare.

Seventeen CWTAP students graduated from the Everett part-time program on December 4 (sixteen are permanent CA employees). EWU Provost Dr. Rex Fuller presided over the ceremony. We were also honored to have had CSBSSW Dean Vickie Shields and Associate Dean Nick Jackson, SSW Chair Lynne Morris, and several SSW faculty members travel to Everett for this event.

On December 11, six CWTAP students graduated from the Spokane part-time MSW program. It was an honor to have EWU President Rodolfo Arévalo preside over the ceremony. After the ceremony there was a reception in Showalter Hall. Three of the six graduates are permanent CA employees.

Site News

We are pleased to announce the start of our next two part-time MSW cohorts. The Spokane part-time MSW program will begin March 28, 2011. The CWTAP application deadline for this cohort is March 4, 2011.

Everett's part-time MSW program will begin June 20, 2011. The MSW application and materials deadline, including all transcripts, is April 8, 2011. The CWTAP application deadline is May 27, 2011.

MSW application materials for Everett can be found at: http://www.ewu.edu/CSBSSW/Programs/Social-Work/Off-Campus-Degrees/Everett.xml. CWTAP application materials can be found at: www.ewu.edu/cwtap.

Upcoming Training

Children’s Justice Conference: May 9-10, 2011

The 19th Annual Children’s Justice Conference, sponsored by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration and the Children’s Justice Task Force, will be held at the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle on May 9-10th, 2011. Discounts are offered to currently enrolled students.

Presenters are national and statewide experts who are recognized leaders in the field of child welfare. The conference provides hands-on skills-based training grounded in the latest research. Specialized workshop tracks for law enforcement, judicial personnel, social workers, mental health workers and medical providers with emphasis on child safety, neglect, collaboration and family engagement will be provided. Professionals at all levels will benefit from these high quality, research based presentations.
This is your newsletter. Please let us know about your success stories, accomplishments, a new job, or any other news you’d like to share with the CWTAP community in a future newsletter. Send submissions to: plummcj@dshs.wa.gov.