Dear CWTAP Community,

Welcome to fall and a fresh academic year!

I’m pleased to report 100% of our spring graduates from both the Yakima and Cheney programs are now working for the Children’s Administration. Many of our graduates moved west to join offices in Region 2.

Over summer, four more students from the Vancouver part-time program joined CWTAP, one of these students is advanced standing and already employed by the Department. In Cheney, nine first year and two advanced standing students joined the full time program; one of the first year students is already employed by the Department in After Hours.

It is probably not surprising given current vacancies in the Department that several of our more experienced new students have been hired by the Department already.

Welcome new students and employees! We wish you much success.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson

November is National Adoption Month
“Partnering for Permanency”

This is a month to raise awareness about the need for adoptive families for children and youth in foster care. The emphasis this year is the partnerships necessary to create permanency for over 100,000 children and youth in foster care.

Important Fall Quarter Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Fall Quarter Began</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day, EWU closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28/29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday, EWU closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>Last Day of Quarter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 25</td>
<td>Christmas Holiday, EWU closed</td>
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Helpful Links

- National Association of Social Workers: [www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)
- Child Welfare League of America: [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)
- Children’s Defense Fund: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)
- Casey Family Programs: [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)
- National Resource Center for Child Protective Services: [www.nrccps.org](http://www.nrccps.org)
Beth Kuzera is one of many outstanding graduates of EWU’s part-time Vancouver cohort of 2009. By the time Beth applied for the part-time MSW program, she had been a CA employee for eleven years. Beth began her work with CA as a Home Support Specialist and worked with families in that role for many years. When making a referral for a Home Support Specialist, workers frequently requested Beth be assigned to work with their families and counted themselves fortunate if this occurred. Beth worked tirelessly with the most challenging of families, often assisting them to learn new skills and behaviors so they could maintain their children safely in their homes.

Beth was then hired as a social worker in what was known as the Court Unit. Upon placement all families were transferred to this unit for the shelter care hearing, dependency filing and the dependency hearing. As many of you know placement creates an immense amount of work. To have an entire caseload consist of placement cases is definitely a challenge. It goes without saying this was a fast-paced and demanding position.

Beth was then hired in the adoption unit. Families transferred to this unit only after numerous services over time had failed to remedy the parent’s inability to create a safe environment in the home. At this juncture only significant and substantial change would forestall the filing of a Termination Petition Request. Time and time again, Beth engaged these parents, helped them to make the needed changes and achieve reunification. At the same time, Beth became very interested in the concept of having successful parents become mentors for parents currently in the system. She became very involved in the Peer Mentoring program.

After the Vancouver office reorganization, Beth found herself in a CFWS unit. Together with her supervisor, Ross Brown, Beth was instrumental in developing the Parent Partner Program which links foster parents with parents who have children in the system. Recently Beth was appointed supervisor of the unit in which she recently worked. Beth states the learning curve is steep, but she welcomes the challenge. Way to go Beth!
Site News

Cheney: The Cheney full-time program begins fall 2013, with 9 brand new CWTAP students. Two advanced standing students will join the Cheney full-time 2nd year cohort, making eight total 2nd year CWTAP students.

Spokane: Students are in their fourth quarter of advanced practicum, they will graduate winter quarter 2014.

Everett: Students are in their third quarter of advanced practicum, they will graduate spring quarter 2014.

Vancouver: The Vancouver MSW program is starting foundation practicum this quarter. Also this quarter, three regular part-time program students joined the CWTAP cohort. An advanced standing student joined the CWTAP cohort over summer.

Student Spotlight

Serena Meidinger is a second year Everett part-time MSW CWTAP student. She has spent the past year and a half as a Social Worker with Child and Family Welfare Services in Everett and recently became a Family Drug Treatment Court social worker. She loves family drug court and working with parents who choose to participate and are committed to doing what is in the best interest of their children and families.

Serena’s educational path has been rich and varied, having attended seven different colleges. After earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of Montana and spending a year at the Art Institute of Seattle, Serena started a MSW program, but ended up earning a MBA in Management from Walden University before discovering her true calling as a social worker and enrolling with EWU to complete her MSW.

Serena loves Christmas time, and could watch “Elf” and “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” every day of the season. Serena’s lack of talent as a skier is eclipsed only by her lack of talent as a snowboarder! She participated in a sprint triathlon four years ago and looks forward to having the time to participate in another after she graduates.
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