Dear CWTAP Community,

Welcome to fall quarter!

We are pleased to introduce our newest faculty member, Erinn Havig, MSW. In her role as lecturer, Erinn will serve the Vancouver CWTAP students as Field Instructor for the remainder of their advanced practicum. Please see inside for more about Erinn.

Looking ahead, we are currently planning another Student Institute to be held in Spokane on February 27-28, 2015. The Student Institute is a great way for students to collaborate with their CWTAP colleagues from around the state in a professional conference setting.

Please read on for program highlights, student and alumni highlights, and more.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson

November is National Adoption Month

This year’s theme, “Promoting and Supporting Sibling Connections” is a tribute to the bond between siblings since it is the longest lasting relationship most people have. Children’s development and emotional well-being have much to do with the critical nature of sibling bonds. Research suggests that in foster care situations the outcomes are better when children are placed with their siblings. For more information please visit, www.childwelfare.gov.

Important Fall Quarter Dates

- Sept 24: Instruction began
- Nov 11: Veterans Day Holiday, EWU closed
- Nov 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday, EWU closed
- Dec 12: Last Day of Quarter
- Dec 25: Christmas Holiday, EWU closed

Save the Date

18th Annual CWTAP Student Institute
February 27 & 28, 2015

To be held in Spokane, Washington
It was a pleasure to interview MSW student Shanna Porter. Shanna is currently a CWTAP student completing her practicum at the Spokane DCFS office in the Indian Child Welfare Unit. Shanna is in her final year of the full-time MSW program in Cheney.

When I first spoke with Shanna prior to her admission in CWTAP, she was stationed in Japan. She and her husband Ethan were returning to the United States and planned to relocate to the Spokane area. Shanna spoke of how she and her husband Ethan met in the Air Force when they were stationed in Mississippi.

While living in Japan, Shanna and Ethan developed a strong passion for working with teenagers. They volunteered at an orphanage, and became involved in a program called the Adoption Movement. Additionally, Shanna taught English language, skill building, and independent living skills classes at the orphanage. Shanna also shared that she was a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate while in the Air Force. Shanna reported she was originally drawn to social work because the profession matched nicely with her deeply held beliefs and values. Shanna believes social work should be about the integration of all aspects of a person’s life.

Upon returning to the United States, Shanna started the MSW program while Ethan enrolled in Eastern’s Mechanical Engineering program. The couple recently spent two months in Nairobi, Kenya working with a program whose mission is to eliminate the orphans in poverty. She explained that most children living in orphanages overseas are not fatherless, instead they are abandoned by families who do not have adequate resources to provide for them. Additionally, her goal is to find stable loving homes for older orphans and provide high quality education for them. Shanna and Ethan are currently embarking on the process of adopting two 10-year-old boys from the orphanage in Kenya. I was struck by the commitment and passion that Shanna brings to CWTAP, DCFS and the social work profession.
Site News

Cheney: The Cheney full-time 1st year cohort is starting the quarter with eleven new CWTAP students! The Cheney full-time 2nd year cohort has added three Advanced Standing students this quarter for a total of twelve 2nd year CWTAP students.

Spokane Hybrid: The new Spokane Hybrid part-time program began summer quarter 2014. The hybrid program is designed to accommodate students throughout Eastern Washington. Students will do much of their learning on-line and in their local communities, attending classes in Spokane 2-3 weekends per quarter. There are eleven CWTAP students in this program, nine are employees.

Everett: The Everett cohort began summer quarter 2014 with 12 CWTAP students, adding five more fall quarter for a total of seventeen, eight of the seventeen students are employees.

Vancouver: The Vancouver students are nearly there with three quarters left in their program. Six are employees and seven will be seeking employment.

Alumni Spotlight

Patty Erdman, MSW Spokane

I am proud to say I am a recent Eastern CWTAP graduate. My MSW journey began in the fall of 2009 when I enrolled in the 3 year Spokane part-time program. With a full-time job and very busy family life, the part-time program was a great fit for me. I was able to adjust my work schedule to work 4, 10 hour days an be off on Monday's to attend class.

When it came time to secure my practicum placement, I knew I wanted something challenging, rewarding and outside my comfort zone. All of which I found in my practicum experience under the guidance and direction of Martha Raske, Chair/Director for the School of Social Work. Through my practicum placement, I was afforded an opportunity to fill the role of the Regional Lead for the Regional Advisory Group; which is a group dedicated to the training needs of social workers, supervisors and caregivers in Region 1. The group is comprised of Children’s Administration staff, Alliance staff, service providers, foster parents, tribal representatives and Eastern Washington University faculty. In this role, I had the responsibility of scheduling and facilitating quarterly meetings, providing regular updates to the group and I was the direct conduit between the work going on at the Alliance and regional constituents. My practicum experience turned out to be an amazing professional and personal opportunity for me. Under Martha’s consistent guidance, I was able to learn how to implement the theoretical basis of social work into my real world practice with social workers and the families we serve in the child welfare system.

My educational and practicum experience directly prepared me for the job I currently hold with the Alliance. In my current role, I supervise the 5 practice coaches and the caregiver training manager for Region 1. Statewide, the Alliance currently provides Regional Core Training (RCT) to all newly hired social work staff, Caregiver Core Training (CCT), and Supervisor Core Training (SCT).

I started with Children’s Administration in 2003 when I was hired as an intake social worker in the Colville DCFS office. I was then promoted to a social worker 3 position, and shortly thereafter was promoted to the lead sexual abuse investigator for the CPS unit. In 2007, I took a position as one of the statewide Solution Based Casework (SBC) practice model coaches for Children’s Administration. From 2007-2012 I trained, coached and worked diligently to implement SBC into the practice and culture of Children’s Administration. As a previous front-line social worker, I fully understand that the work we do with families is impactful and important.

While in the MSW program, I experienced the unexpected painful loss of both of my parents. My instructors, peers and classmates were there for me unconditionally. I don’t know how I would have been able to continue without their constant support and encouragement.

I feel blessed to be able to do my work with the Alliance and Children’s Administration, while living in a beautiful rural community. I enjoy hunting, fishing and being with my family and friends.
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