Welcome to Spring Quarter!

Director’s Corner

Dear CWTAP Community,

I am pleased to report our 15th annual CWTAP Student Institute, held in March, was a resounding success. Eastern students from Cheney, Yakima and Vancouver attended this year’s Institute and presented along with students from the University of Washington. This year’s theme, “Maintaining Child Safety: Doing it well in a time of diminishing resources,” was well received by all.

Several students from the Spokane/Cheney area were invited to attend the American Society on Aging 2012 “Aging in America” national conference in Washington DC over spring break. Please see inside for more information about their experience.

Eastern sent 24 students to the Children’s Justice Conference recently where they had an opportunity to meet their peers from the University of Washington, meet and network with other child welfare professionals, and learn about the latest trends in child welfare.

Please read on and discover more about your CWTAP colleagues and other happenings in Eastern’s MSW programs around the state.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson

Helpful Links

National Association of Social Workers:
www.naswdc.org

Child Welfare League of America:
http://cwla.org/

Children’s Defense Fund:
www.childrensdefense.org

Child Welfare Information Gateway:
www.childwelfare.gov

Casey Family Programs:
www.casey.org

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families:
www.acf.hhs.gov

National Resource Center for Child Protective Services:
www.nrccps.org

May is National Foster Care Month

Per the website, www.fostercare.month.org

“National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to shine a light on the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in foster care. The campaign raises awareness about the urgent needs of these young people and encourages citizens to get involved.”

Please visit their website for more information.

Important Spring Quarter Dates

Apr 2: Spring Quarter Began
May 28: Memorial Day Holiday, EWU closed
June 15: Last Day of Quarter
June 25: Summer Quarter Begins
Site News

Cheney/Spokane: Cheney full-time 2nd year MSW students will be graduating June 16, 2012. Congratulations! Spokane part-time program students began foundation practicum this quarter.

Everett: Everett’s part-time MSW program is recruiting Advanced Standing students to begin summer 2012, and the regular cohort will begin Foundation Practicum this summer.

Vancouver: The Vancouver part-time MSW program students are on their final quarter of the cohort, they will graduate June 2, 2012. You are almost there! New MSW cohort to begin summer 2012.

Yakima: Yakima’s MSW students began their Advanced Practicum this quarter. Carl Duman has assumed responsibility as Field Instructor for our Yakima students.

Vancouver CWTAP—By Carl Duman and Kasey Cote

The Vancouver CWTAP cohort is entering one of the most challenging quarters of the part-time program. Students are on the final leg of the three year journey toward successful completion of their MSW and gaining employment in DCFS. Students are writing their competency statements, preparing for oral examinations and interviewing for CA jobs simultaneously. Nineteen CWTAP students will be graduating in Vancouver on June 2nd. About half of our CWTAP students were CA employees when they started, a quarter of the cohort who entered as non-employees secured employment with CA while still in school and another quarter are currently interviewing in the Vancouver DCFS office for open positions. The students have done well in the MSW program and in CWTAP. They are fired up for their final challenge which is to pass their oral examinations!

We wish our current students much success in their child welfare careers and in their future professional endeavors. They have worked very hard in the program to accomplish their goals. It has been a pleasure to be the “guides on the side” as they have navigated the waters of their MSW education.

There is a lot more happening here in Vancouver. Just as the students we have come to know and become fond of are graduating, we are meeting our new students for the first time.

The Vancouver CWTAP program conducted interviews for the new 2015 cohort which starts on June 25th. Meeting the new students keeps us from feeling too sad about students we are saying goodbye to.

To the new students we say “welcome, hop on it is going to be an adventurous ride!”

We are happy to be part of a program that helps bring people of high quality and integrity into State service.
Everett Graduation:
Congratulations to our 6 Everett CWTAP students who graduate December 4, 2010. The ceremony will take place at 2:00pm at the Historic Everett Theater, located at 2911 Colby Avenue in the heart of downtown Everett, at the intersection of Hewitt and Colby Avenues (south of the Bank of America Building).

Several CWTAP students were fortunate to join other EWU students and faculty on a journey to Washington DC for the “Aging in America” conference. This was made possible by Dr. Maria Hernandez-Peck who graciously extended this opportunity to our CWTAP students in the Cheney and Spokane programs. CWTAP thanks Dr. Hernandez-Peck for including our students. Here is what some students had to say about this wonderful experience.

Luis Ochoa
Wow the trip was amazing! Thank you Dr. Hernandez-Peck and Dr. Martha Raske! I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to travel with the group of students to Washington DC. The impact I felt when I got to hear the senators (such as Bernie Sanders from Vermont) speak so vehemently and charismatically in support of the Older Americans Act, will always remain in my memory. The speakers were amazing; they propelled us forward in the Social Work field. The experience we shared in meeting, and speaking with Senator Maria Cantwell and Congressman Jim McDermott is something I will never forget (wow they took time off their incredibly busy schedule to meet with us) it was awesome! It was certainly a high point in our trip. And what can I say about the sites; the Lincoln Memorial, JFK Eternal Flame, The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (including the changing of the guard), The Washington Monument, WWII Memorial, Viet Nam Wall, attending the Supreme court while it was in session! Everything was incredible! I could go on and on, but I am very grateful to those who made this trip possible, with all sincerity-Thank You and God Bless!

Judy Leyerzapf
Thank you for allowing us to have the opportunity to experience Washington DC this way. I appreciated the connections with Professor Hernandez-Peck and Chair Martha Raske. I value my cohort/friend connections even more now as well.

Meeting with Senator Cantwell and Congressman McDermott, gave me an example of what we are about. As social workers, we do have an ability to have an audience with a policy maker and person of power. We are a bridge, broker, and advocate for vulnerable populations and this was strong evidence for me.

Mary Vargas
My DC trip was very educational and was certainly an experience of a lifetime. I attended a meeting where the Senators spoke on behalf of the aging, it was not only inspiring but also educational. I also had an opportunity to meet with different Senators such as Maria Cantwell and Jim McDermott. We expressed our Child Welfare concerns and also shared our highlights as MSW students. I want to express my gratitude to Dr. Hernandez-Peck, she was gracious to have CWTAP students be part of this fabulous event. Being on this trip, I was able to build friendships with other MSW students as well as with Drs. Hernandez-Peck and Martha Raske, and Bob Stirling. Thanks to all for making this trip inspiring and memorable!!

Melissa Kehmeier
I had the very unique opportunity of attending the American Society on Aging conference in Washington DC along with several Eastern Washington University students and faculty members. The most exciting part of this trip for me was the Advocacy Day where several students, along with faculty members, met with various members of the Washington State Senate and Congress. This was an exciting and wonderful arena. This day was also particularly historical in that it was the last day that the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the healthcare bill. Luckily, a few of us were able to obtain entry into the courtroom to hear the arguments being presented to the 9 justices. It was only for a short period of time but definitely one of the most memorable of the entire trip. Thank you.
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