Director’s Corner

Dear CWTAP Community,

Welcome to 2014 and winter quarter. This quarter is particularly exciting since this is the last quarter for our Spokane part-time students. The Spokane students will graduate on March 21, 2014. Of our 18 CWTAP students in this cohort, 16 are already CA employees. Some started out that way, and others were hired along the way. Congratulations graduates!

Please read on for more information about our students, alumni and programs including our new Eastern Washington (Region 1 & 2) hybrid learning program. This program replaces the current Spokane part-time “one-day Monday” and our Yakima part-time evening programs. The application deadline for the Hybrid program is February 3, 2014. The program begins summer 2014.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson

Save the Date
22nd Annual
Children’s Justice Conference
May 12 & 13, 2014
To be held in Spokane, Washington

For more information go to:
www.dshscjc.com

Save the Date
17th Annual
Student Institute
March 7-9, 2014
To be held in Seattle and hosted by UW Seattle and UW Tacoma

Important Winter Quarter Dates
Jan 1: New Year's Day, EWU closed
Jan 6: Instruction begins
Jan 20: MLK Holiday, EWU closed
Feb 17: President's Day, EWU closed
Mar 21: Last day of quarter

Hybrid Learning Program
The Spokane Hybrid program is accessible to students throughout eastern Washington. Students will attend classes at the Riverpoint campus in Spokane up to three weekends (Saturday and Sunday) per quarter with additional assignments completed online. This 3-year part-time program begins summer quarter 2014, the application deadline is February 3, 2014. Once admitted, students interested in a career in child welfare are encouraged to apply to CWTAP. For more information, please visit ewu.edu/socialwork and ewu.edu/cwtap.

Everett Part-Time Program
The Everett part-time MSW program is now accepting applications, with an application deadline of February 3, 2014. Once admitted, students interested in a career in child welfare are encouraged to apply to CWTAP. For more information, please visit ewu.edu/socialwork or ewu.edu/cwtap.
I have the privilege of introducing to you, Spokane Part-Time MSW/CWTAP student, Erik Larson. Erik will be graduating with his cohort at the end of winter quarter.

Erik was born in North Dakota and is the youngest of eleven children. He is the second one in his family to earn a master’s degree. Erik will tell you he was “raised poor,” however his family was “rich in laughter and love.” Erik spent his years growing up between two households, with his mom during the school year and his father during the summer. If you have ever met Erik, the word theatrical comes to mind. Believe it or not, Erik was a shy child who often hid behind his mother’s leg. Erik found his passion for the spotlight in the 5th grade when his mother signed him up for a small part in the musical production of South Pacific with the local community theatre. Erik graduated from high school in 1989 and was accepted with a full scholarship to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy School of Fine Arts in New York City. At the end of his first year at AMDA, his mother suffered a massive stroke and was partially paralyzed. Erik was financially dependent on his mother at this time, so he decided to take some time off to earn money. Erik got a job right away as a nanny for the Attorney General of New Jersey. Missing his family, Erik moved to Anchorage, Alaska where several of his siblings and father lived. In Alaska Erik worked at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Anchorage. Erik worked there for several years, then decided to go back to school. With a goal of becoming a teacher, Erik enrolled at Northwest College of the Assemblies of God in Kirkland, Washington and majored in elementary education. Erik later changed his focus from education to social work. This change occurred because Erik went back to Alaska to earn money for his final year of college and worked with Alaska Children’s Services, a residential facility for adolescents with severe behavioral issues. This experience was so profound that Erik went back to Northwest College and changed his major to Behavioral Sciences.

Erik is married to his best friend, Allison. Together they have four very active children involved in sports, acting and dancing. Erik has worked for Children’s Administration since 2006. He started as an investigator in the Indian Child Welfare unit and was quickly promoted to Social and Health Program Consultant 3 in the Family to Family unit, facilitating FTDM’s. Erik was recently hired on as the new Spokane Office FAR (Family Assessment Response) Lead. Erik’s practicum, which has turned into a part of his regular job duties is the Region 1 Fatherhood Engagement Lead. Erik says “fatherhood engagement is a passion of mine.” Erik has been instrumental in training staff on the importance of researching, engaging and involving fathers from day one of a case. He works hard with a local committee called DADS (Divine Alternatives for Dads). For the last five years this committee has raised funds for an annual Engaging Fatherhood conference and resource fair. Erik is a leader and driving force behind this conference.

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)
Site News

Cheney: The Cheney full-time 1st year cohort begins foundation practicum this quarter. The Cheney full-time 2nd year cohort will begin their second quarter of advanced practicum.

Spokane: Students are in their last quarter, they will graduate at the end of the quarter. Graduation is on March 21, 2014. Congratulations graduates!

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

Vancouver: The Vancouver MSW program is starting their second quarter of foundation practicum.

Alumni Spotlight

Eamon Morgan - Adoption Unit Supervisor
Lynnwood
by Chris Williams

2006 EWU CWTAP Alum Eamon Morgan has been with the Department for 7 years. He began his career in child welfare as a CPS worker in Smokey Point, where he spent two years before transferring to CFWS in Lynnwood. After a year, he was asked to try his hand in a new special recruiting position with the Adoptions Unit where he intensively searched for adoptive families for children with medical, behavioral, or other issues that had previously prevented them from being adopted. One of which, Eamon notes, was adopted only one week from her 18th birthday. After three years in this position, Eamon was hired as a CFWS Supervisor in Lynnwood, and recently became Lynnwood’s Adoption Unit Supervisor.

Early on in Eamon’s career, he worked in mental health, providing services to adults with chronic and severe mental health issues. In this work, he found this population was dramatically underserved and saw a great need for advocacy. Eamon learned that he enjoyed being a voice for those otherwise ignored by society.

Eamon has enjoyed his time with the Department, and loves his job. He loves learning what our children need, and advocating for those needs. As a supervisor, Eamon is able to advocate for change on a larger systems level, which he finds to be satisfying. He loves having to think “outside of the box,” and that working with people is rarely monotonous. Eamon believes that children deserve to have a safe “forever family,” and feels privileged to be an advocate for them.

Eamon reports he has become boring with age, but his two daughters take the edge off. He enjoys traveling with the kids and learning about other cultures. As a foster family, Eamon loves helping his foster children reclaim their childhoods.
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