

Spring 2019

CWTAP Quarterly

*Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program
Eastern Washington University*

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Director's Corner

Dear CWTAP Community,

Winter quarter was busy for Eastern. In March UW Seattle hosted the 22nd Annual Student Institute with record numbers of students in attendance and a record number of student presentations. Additionally, EWU sent four students and three faculty to the San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment. Students attending the conference were selected based on essays they wrote expressing their interest in attending, what they hoped to learn, and how they would share their learning with other students and child welfare professionals. Essays were submitted from students across the state and the strongest among them were selected. Please see below how Cheney student Joceline Mendez is using and sharing what she learned from the conference.

Now that spring quarter is here we are busy recruiting and admitting students and preparing our upcoming graduates for hire. Our full-time program (Cheney campus) will be graduating nine CWTAP students in June. And while our Eastern Washington Hybrid program is completing their second year this quarter, we are preparing to admit another Eastern Washington hybrid cohort behind them this summer. Having two staggered cohorts run in one part-time program is something we have not done in many years.

Please see inside for more information about our students and alumni, and this year's Lobby Day in Olympia.

Thank you for your support of CWTAP.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson LeBlanc

CWTAP Student Attends National Conference

Submitted by Joceline Mendez, Advanced Practicum Cheney Full-Time program

I had the opportunity to attend the 34th Annual San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment. The opportunity to attend this conference was presented to EWU CWTAP students. Those who wished to attend had to submit an essay and fortunately, I was one of four CWTAP students that were selected to attend the conference. Presentations that I particularly enjoyed included the "Racial and ethnic differences in the impact of ACES on mental and physical health in a nationally representative sample of adolescents" by Jennifer Elkins and "Assessing for trauma-exposure among immigrant children: what are we missing?" by Michael De Arellano, PhD. I was able to bring this information back to my practicum experience, particularly in preparing me for the 2019 CWTAP Annual Student Institute in Seattle, WA held in March. I presented on Undocumented Parents and Children in the Child Welfare System. Michael De Arellano's presentation really informed my presentation. I learned about different types of trauma that immigrant children and families might experience when they immigrate to the United States, and how assessing for this trauma is important so that these families receive appropriate services. I am from southeastern Washington, and I hope to build my career in that region. This region is diverse and this conference gave me the opportunity to learn more about how I can reach out and work with diverse populations and how to be more aware about how diverse cultures and backgrounds differ. I also had the opportunity to attend presentations led by practitioners from various disciplines all working in the Child Welfare sector. The conference was informative and I would recommend future students to take part in this conference if given the opportunity!

Alumni Spotlight

*Alex Cawley, MSW
By Erinn Havig*



It is my great privilege to introduce Alex Cawley, alumnus of Eastern Washington University's 2015 cohort in Vancouver. Alex has now worked for the Department since August 2015. During his time here, Alex began by working in Child and Family Welfare Services (2 years), then worked as a Family Assessment Response worker for nine months before accepting his current position as an Adoptions worker in January 2018. Alex is excited that his work has allowed him a comprehensive lens of the child welfare system and intersecting systems.

Alex is very skilled at interacting with all people. One aspect of his job that he really likes is he gets to work with kids, foster parents, adoptive parents, biological families and every variety of system. The multitude of partners (court, school, hospitals, tribes, justice) has been an amazing experience for Alex. Alex has completed his CWTAP service period and is planning on staying with the Department. He also has been working on licensure and would eventually like to start a private practice for adolescents, teens and adults as a second career pathway. When asked about what Alex's advice is to help people stay in child welfare, he states, "Moving around definitely helps. Having a variety of experiences and options is key. That along with the right supervisors."

Alex continues to utilize his social work skills in supporting new solutions for better work such as the integration of adoption staff into Permanency Planning Meetings as another permanency focused person in the room. He lights up with excitement for his job when describing tough cases or what some deem to be "hopeless cases" where he is able to help find the right adoptive home for children and youth in care. In his free time, Alex enjoys vacationing to Cabo and Hawaii, and a love for cars. The Vancouver office is fortunate to benefit from his skills and experience!

Important Dates

April 1
Instruction Begins

May 27
Memorial Day (closed)



June 14
Last day of Quarter

June 15 – June 23
Break

Student Spotlight

Caitlin Copp - CWTAPEastern Washington Part-time MSW Hybrid Program by Sherita Parratt

Caitlin Copp is a CWTAPE student currently enrolled in the Eastern Washington part-time MSW hybrid program. She will be graduating in the Spring of 2020. She recently started her advanced practicum with the Department of Children, Youth and Families in Ellensburg, WA. This last quarter, Caitlin was hired in the Ellensburg office and is currently enrolled in Regional Core Training.

Caitlin earned a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2007 in Monmouth, New Jersey. She spent many years working with individuals with profound mental health concerns transition back into the community. She was inspired to obtain a Master's Degree in social work and work more with people and service delivery. She moved from the east coast to the west coast and joined the hybrid program.

Caitlin resides in Cle Elum, WA with her husband and two young children. Her daughter Hannah is 2 years old. She recently gave birth to her son, Wyatt, over the winter break in 2019. Caitlin is a busy mother, student, and social worker. She enjoys spending time with her family, exploring new places and traveling. She said her family enjoys spending a lot of time outside. For self-care she appreciates having time to read and also napping!

The advice that Caitlin would offer individuals considering the CWTAPE program is to take a lot of notes. She shared there is a lot to learn and her notes help her to reflect and support her practicum. She also shared it is important to not hesitate to ask a lot of questions. She reports she has thoroughly enjoyed her CWTAPE experience and feels that it is a wonderful program.



Lobby Day

by Kara Rozeboom

On February 18, 2019 several Everett CWTAPE students joined other Everett MSW students and attended Social Work Lobby Day in Olympia, Washington. For some students it was the first time they had been to the Capitol building and stepped on the marble. In the morning they heard inspirational speakers and attended a legislative workshop. In the afternoon they met with legislators in the House and Senate buildings. Some students shared their thoughts on pending bills with their representatives. Many students told me that attending Lobby Day was an awesome experience and by attending Lobby Day, it took the fear out of advocating at a macro level. Lobby Day was a day to remember!

Pictured left to right



Back row: Foluso Oluwole, Deanna Kazen, Tonya Wall, Ann Robinson, Ann Swadener, Katie Brotten, Sonya Klippert, Ashley Williams.

Front row: Nicole LaCasse, Bukola Atuyota-Ejughemre, Tara Dalton, Catherine Gitau, Rebecca Barrett, Lindsey Kehoe.

Contact Information

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	<p>Please submit suggestions to: dpatterson@ewu.edu</p> <p>Contributors to this issue: Nancy Fagan, Sherita Parratt, Kara Rozeboom, Gerry Charvat and Diana Patterson LeBlanc.</p>	

Helpful Links

Helpful Links

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence: www.allianceforchildwelfare.org

National Association of Social Workers – Washington Chapter: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

Child Welfare League of America: www.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 and Families: www.acf.hhs.gov