

Fall 2018

CWTAP Quarterly

*Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program
Eastern Washington University*

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Director's Corner

Dear CWTAP Community,

We are pleased to begin a fresh new academic year at Eastern. The start of a new year always brings change and I'm delighted to announce two of our newest faculty members.



Sherita Parratt joined our team in May and supports the Spokane based part-time Hybrid program. Sherita brings with her 19 years of experience with CA (now DCYF) and has held a variety of positions in Indian Child Welfare, Legally Free, Homefinders and Child and Family Welfare Services. Most recently, Sherita has been a Child & Family Welfare Services supervisor.

In May, Kara Rozeboom also joined the CWTAP team. Kara supports the Everett part-time Hybrid program. Kara brings with her 21 years of experience with CA (now DCYF), and has held a variety of positions including CPS Investigator, CA Trainer, Intake Supervisor, CPS Program Manager, and FAR Program Manager. Over 14 years were spent teaching and training social workers in public child welfare. Most recently Kara has been a CPS Quality Practice Specialist and a regional expert on child safety.



Kara and Sherita are both MSW graduates from Eastern and CWTAP. Between the two of them they bring 40 years of child welfare experience in addition to a good understanding of Eastern's MSW and CWTAP programs.

Please see inside for more information about our students and alumni, and our new part-time hybrid MSW program starting in Spokane summer 2019.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson LeBlanc

Important Dates

September 3
Labor Day
November 12
Veteran's Day
November 21
No Class
November 22
Thanksgiving Day



November 23
Native American Heritage Day
December 7
Last day of Quarter
Dec. 8 – Jan. 6
Break

Alumni Spotlight

*Chris Thompson, MSW
By Sherita Parratt*

Chris Thompson is a CWTAP alumni who graciously agreed to be highlighted in this quarter's newsletter. Chris graduated in 2015 from Eastern Washington University (EWU) with a Masters in Social Work. Chris previously earned his Bachelor in Social Work from EWU. For the last 20 years Chris has been instrumental in working with the youth population here in Spokane, WA. This includes working for the YMCA running their adolescent day camp and volunteer work at Crosswalk, Spokane's teen shelter for high-risk youth. He ran a non-profit called SOS Outreach whose mission was to take at-risk youth snowboarding while implementing core values and life skills. Over time, Chris has developed a strong passion in working with at-risk youth. This passion was fueled even more while being placed in the Adolescent Unit with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) during his practicum.



Currently, Chris is a "Missing from Care" locator for DCYF Region 1. His primary goal is to locate dependent youth who are missing or on the run and implement interventions to get them safely back into placement. He does a lot of outreach work with the Spokane homeless organizations that work with the homeless population in Spokane. He coordinates with local law enforcement and federal law enforcement across states, families and relatives, probation officers, and criminal and dependency court to locate youth and provide services for them. In June, Chris was awarded the Lutheran Community Service Partners in Service Award for his outstanding work in the community and making meaningful change for Spokane's at-risk youth.

The advice that Chris would offer individuals considering the CWTAP program would be make sure you take advantage of the opportunity to shadow and observe multiple social service specialists in their area of expertise. The more exposure you are provided in public child welfare the better able you are to determine if it is the right fit for you as a career. Also, Chris strongly encourages self-care for others as well as himself. He rides his bike to work every day. He is married with a 4-year-old son and shared that he and his family are very intentional about going on a new adventure every weekend and getting out and doing something as a family.

Student Spotlight

Laurel Tull, CWTAP Hybrid Part-Time Program, Everett By Kara Rozeboom

Laurel is a CWTAP student in the Everett hybrid program. In June, she finished her first year in the 3-year part-time program.

Laurel was adopted at birth through WACAP, an International non-profit adoption agency. Being adopted herself, she said it is powerful to see all the adoption work that goes on behind the DCYF closed doors. At age 9, Laurel heard work stories from her auntie who is a CDMHP that sparked her love for helping people. Laurel said that even on her auntie's worst day, she was making a difference. Laurel has been chasing the dream of working with children and families ever since.

Laurel received her Bachelor in Human Services from Western Washington University in 2010. As part of her program she did an internship as a Mental Health case manager at Compass Health in Marysville, WA. She also was working as a discharge planner at a psychiatric inpatient hospital until it closed in 2010. Laurel took a detour into nursing to help support her family but has always wanted to work in direct service with children and families to feed her soul. Laurel received her Licensed Practical Nurse degree from Bellingham Technical College in December 2012. In 2015 Laurel and her husband began fostering their now son. He was adopted by Laurel and her husband in 2017. Being an adoptee and a foster/adoptive parent helped Laurel to realize that being a social worker of color in a system made predominantly of foster children of color was important. This has inspired Laurel to want to be a racial mirror. Laurel wants children to see her, someone who looks like them with a similar background as many of them, and teach these children a different and positive path. From January 2013 through July 2018 Laurel had been working as a psychiatric nurse at Island Hospital in Anacortes. Currently she is working for a staffing agency as a per diem psychiatric nurse in various outpatient clinics.

Laurel is shocked how much she loves her practicum at the Mt. Vernon DCYF office. She likes that every single day at DCYF is so different. She enjoys the variety of desk work and field work and says she is surrounded by some amazing social workers and supervisors. Laurel states her practicum is instilling professional confidence in order for her to step outside her comfort zone. Laurel says this experience is empowering for her and has taught her to trust herself. Laurel is so professionally happy and loves all the new learning. Her daughter told Laurel that she has never seen her mom so happy. She looks forward to making a difference in the lives of children and families. CWTAP has allowed her to give back to her community, to be a part of something large, and to do what her social worker did for her.

For self-care, Laurel enjoys doing anything outdoors. She says being in nature is the perfect anti-anxiety remedy. She also loves going on family road trips.



Announcements

Welcome DCYF!

As most readers are aware, on July 1st the Children's Administration moved from under the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) and joined the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to form a new agency: the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF). Next year, on July 1, 2019, the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration will also join the new DCYF agency. While day-to-day operations appear much the same on the "street level" the changes are substantial.

For more information about this change, please visit:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/>.

New MSW Program Starting Summer 2019

Eastern's Spokane based part-time MSW program (weekend hybrid) is starting a second cohort in June 2019. Applications for the new cohort are now available, deadline for application submission is February 4, 2019.

For more information please contact Stacey Chay at schay@ewu.edu; 509-828-1406 or visit www2.ewu.edu/css/programs/social-work/eastern-washington-programs/msw---eastern-washington-weekend-hybrid-msw-program.

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

Contact Information

<p>Eastern Washington University</p> <p>CWTAP 102 Senior Hall Cheney, WA 99004</p> <p>Phone: (425) 405 - 1624</p> <p>www.ewu.edu/cwtap</p>	Everett	Cheney/Spokane
	<p>Diana Patterson LeBlanc <i>Director</i> dpatterson@ewu.edu (425) 405-1624</p> <p>Nancy Fagan (Interim) <i>Program Coordinator</i> nfagan@ewu.edu (425) 405-1625</p> <p>Kara Rozeboom <i>Field Instructor</i> krozeboom07@ewu.edu (360) 651-6915</p>	<p>Debbie Charron <i>Program Coordinator</i> dcharron19@ewu.edu (509) 359-2359</p> <p>Gerry Charvat <i>Field Instructor</i> gcharvat@ewu.edu (509) 363-4629</p> <p>Sherita Parratt <i>Field Instructor</i> sparratt@ewu.edu (509) 363-3411</p> <p>Jaysanna Wang <i>Fiscal Specialist</i> jwang12@ewu.edu (509) 359-4265</p>
	Vancouver	
	<p>Patti Kirsch Daggett <i>Program Coordinator</i> pdaggett@clark.edu (360) 992-2081</p>	<p>Erinn Havig <i>Field Instructor</i> ehavig@ewu.edu (360) 993-6934</p>
	<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>	