

SCHOLAR ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative

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Jo Adams, Editor

Assessing the Needs of Child Welfare Scholars and Alumni for Employment Support Services Begins

This spring, I will be emailing, telephoning and visiting alums, and senior scholars asking questions about employment support. In order to prepare scholars for work in a Department of Social Services, an assessment of the needs of the first year of work and the last semester of school will help with what we can provide.

The assessment will begin in February. I would like as many of you as possible to participate.



Snow in North Carolina is only good for snowmen, not driving.

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!!

I want to know the challenges of your first year of work and what has been especially helpful in your first year of employment. I am working on a Job Search Handbook for Child Welfare Scholars, hoping this will help get scholars started with their employment.

In time, I will be talking to agencies so they can tell us what they need from the Collaborative and what they want scholars to know when they arrive for work. That way, the present scholars will be even more prepared.

I hope that the Collaborative, will not only prepare scholars to work in child welfare but also to prepare them to stay in child welfare.

Your assistance is greatly needed and appreciated.

Special points of interest:

Law School-Social Work Event, sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill Child Welfare Collaborative. February 11, 2006

"Celebrating Resiliency of Children, Families & Social Workers", ECU 2nd Annual Child Welfare Education Collaborative Conference, February 22, 2006

NCACDSS, 2006 Fiscal, Personnel & Technology Conference, March 8-10, 2006

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina's 25th Statewide Conference, March 21-22, 2006

Understanding and Influencing State Policy, NCSW-NC and CWEC, March 29, 2006

Ninth Annual Student Social Work Conference, UNC-W "Strengths Based Solution-Focused Work" with Insoo Kim Berg, April 7, 2006.

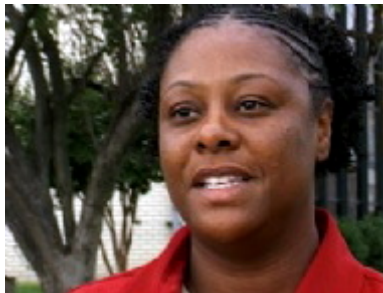
Spotlight on JMSW Scholars

Onique Williams

Onique Williams, JMSW Scholar Graduate, has been promoted to Social Work Supervisor in Investigations at Durham County DSS.

"We celebrate this wonderful news and this commitment helps motivate all of us," says Maura Nsonwu, Collaborative faculty, JMSW

Sheila Ann Johnson



Sheila Ann Johnson, a JMSW Collaborative Scholar was a candidate in the 2005 School Board Election in Charlotte, NC.

Shelia has three sons, one of whom is a student in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system. She is currently a Social Worker for Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services- Youth and Family Services Division and recently completed her obligation to the

Collaborative. When I talked to Shelia about why she ran, she said," As social workers we have a tendency to let other people make decisions for us. The policies of the school board weren't working. My conscience told me it wasn't working and I had to do something. I tried to get them to become more inclusive. I came in second, so I will run again."

Shelia was endorsed by the newspaper and from several members of the other party. Visit the website www.ncschoolmatters.com to read more about the election and Sheila.

Were you just promoted? Have you been in your job for awhile and want to share with others your accomplishments? Have you finished your obligation and staying in your position or with your agency? Let us know so we can celebrate with you!!

Q & A

Since our first Newsletter, I have received several questions. I think the answers will help other scholars.

Q: I recently went to a training session to prepare for taking the LCSW test. I am getting concerned about getting my supervision hours in. Some of us work in rural areas where the

licensed workers (those able to provide supervision) are few to none. Do you have any suggestions about this?

A: Right now, the Collaborative is not involved with the licencing of scholars. I have to refer you to the Clinical Board for their guidelines. We are aware of the challenges you face in a small county and over time, we hope we can work with DSS. There is a website you can go to for information.

<http://www.nccbsw.org>

Q: I have decided that the position I am working in is not a good "fit" for me but I haven't finished working off my obligation. What should I do?

A: Please call your University Coordinator and talk with him/her. Perhaps you need a mentor or someone to talk with in your agency. If you do plan to leave your position at this county, your University Coordinator must be contacted so proper steps can be taken to put you into job search extension for a limited time and you will not immediately go into payback. Your Coordinator will consult with the Director as to how much time you will be given to find new employment. After that, it will be up to you to find a new position or begin repayment. Remember, let your University Coordinator help you through this transition and keep them informed. Also, be sure to sign up for the Child Welfare Jobs Listserv. Agencies all over the State have vacancies.

Q: How do I find out how much work time I have left on my employment commitment?

A: Contact your University Coordinator. They are your first

line for information. Your work time begins with the date on your Employment Verification Form where it says Beginning Date of Employment. Right now if you have been a scholar for 1-2 semesters, your payback is one year from the Beginning Date of Your Employment. If you choose to leave your position after your employment obligation is complete, remember to check your beginning date and leave after that date or you'll have financial repayment.

Q: I am a BSW scholar, who has completed my employment commitment, and I am interested in looking into the MSW program at another school and wondered if there were any plans on adding new programs to the Collaborative in the near future.

A: To become part of the Collaborative there has to be discussions between the University and the Collaborative regarding affiliation. The curriculum analysis and review process then has to be completed to document the integration of the child welfare competencies in the social work curriculum. The Collaborative would then need additional money to expand and only those schools that have secured the pre-service training waiver will be eligible for funding.

To make that happen, the NC Legislature would have to appropriate more money to fund the additional schools. You can always write a letter to your congressman/woman advocating for more money for the Collaborative. As a BSW scholar, you know the importance of the training, specialized courses and the financial incentives that the Collaborative gives to social workers going into child welfare.

If you have questions that you would like to post and discuss on the scholar alumni listerv, please send them to www.scholaralumni@listerv.unc.edu. You may find your colleagues are able to answer your questions from a different point of view.

Improve Your Capacity to Influence Important State Policy That Affects Social Work

Understanding and Influencing State Policy Legislative event will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2006 from 9:00 am – 4:00pm. It is sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers-NC Chapter and NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative. All BSW and MSW programs in North Carolina are invited. RSVP to Wendy at NASW at wkirwan@naswnc.org by March 1, as space is limited.

Participants will meet with advocates, lobbyists, legislators and others who work on state policy issues. Special focus will be given to issues related to mental health, child welfare and health issues. The morning will include panels and discussion while the afternoon will connect social work students with experts in specific practice areas. Cost is \$1 per person as a contribution to the NASW Legislative Efforts.

NC State December Graduates



Lauren Gilmore & Heather McAllister

We would like to welcome Heather McAlister and Lauren Gilmore into the Child Welfare Collaborative Scholar Alumni. Both of these scholars graduated from North Carolina State University on December 14, 2005. Heather completed her field placement at Southern Regional Center in Wake County in their CPS unit with Richard Hayner as her supervisor. Heather volunteered as a Guardian at Litem for over 2 ½ years and her experience as a GAL influenced her to return to school and earn her BSW degree.

Lauren Gilmore completed her field placement with Johnston County DSS in their treatment unit, supervised by Monika Atanesian. Lauren became interested in social work after volunteering for a Crisis Pregnancy Center and being able to utilize her Spanish speaking skills to assist Spanish-speaking clients.

NC State is very proud to bring these two scholars to the Child Welfare profession.

Summer Field Schools Offered by NC State and UNC-G

What the world
needs now
is.....more
Spanish-speaking
social workers.

Consider attending the Social Work Field School in Guatemala in Summer 2006.

Linda Williams, Director of Field Education at NC State University, will present a 5-week immersion experience for social workers and students from May 19 through June 23. Credit is available for both graduate and undergraduate students. Applications are available online at:
<http://www.ncsu.edu/studyabroad>

Students live with host families, work one-to-one with a Spanish teacher 4 hours a day, and work in a variety of service learning settings. The School is located in the Lake Atitlan area of Guatemala, and students live in communities around the Lake. There is a weekly integrative seminar, field trips to Antigua and Quetzaltenango, and opportunities to learn about the Mayan people and their culture. If you work with Latino families, this is an excellent way to enhance your cultural competence.

If you would like more information about the program, contact
Linda.Williams@ncsu.edu.



Summer 2005, NC State Field School, Amy Melton (center) NC State Collaborative Scholar



UNCG senior, Karin Lauff works with child on service project during '05 language and culture immersion near San Jose, Costa Rica.

UNC-G Offers Spanish Immersion in Costa Rica

Learn Spanish and improve your understanding of Latino culture. The Social Work Department at UNCG will again be taking BSW and MSW students to Costa Rica for our language and culture immersion. May 20 to June 8, social work course credit. Cost is about \$2600 not including airfare. For additional information contact Dan Beerman at
drbeerma@uncg.edu or 336-256-0528

If you are interested in one of these two field schools, contact either Linda Williams at NC State or Dan Beerman at UNC-G.