

Social Work Month 2023

Achievements of CWEB/CWEL students and Graduates

**Featured
Tuesday,
March 7**

SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2023

Child Welfare Education and Research Programs

TARA MAHAROWSKI

**CURRENT PITT CWEL
STUDENT**

TARA RECEIVED THE GRADY H ROBERTS JR. ENDOWED STUDENT RESOURCE FUND FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN FIELD FOR HER WORK AT WESLEY FAMILY SERVICES (WFS) DURING HER INTERNSHIP. WHILE INTERNING AT WFS, TARA HAS COMMITTED HERSELF TO ALL ASPECTS OF CHILD PERMANENCY. TARA'S WORK HAS INCLUDED RECRUITING AND TRAINING RESOURCE PARENTS, PROVIDING PROCESS GROUPS TO EXISTING RESOURCE FAMILIES, SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR ADOPTED FAMILIES, INTENSE PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN TRANSITIONING TO ANOTHER PERMANENCY OPTION, AND IDENTIFYING CONNECTIONS FOR OLDER YOUTH AS THEY TRANSITION TO ADULthood. CHILD PERMANENCY IS ONE OF THE THREE GOALS OF THE CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE. TARA'S AWARD ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANT WORK SHE IS DOING TO MOVE MORE CHILDREN TOWARDS PERMANENCY AND A MORE STABLE FUTURE.



**Congratulations, Tara for receiving this well-deserved
award!**

**Featured
Tuesday,
March 14**

SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2023

Child Welfare Education and Research Programs

REBECCA PANTALL

**CURRENT PITT CWEL
STUDENT**

In 2021 Rebecca received the Georgia Hernandez Award for Excellence in Child Welfare Practice. This award is presented annually to one Allegheny caseworker who exemplifies excellence in case practice; a commitment to the DHS vision and values; and consistently demonstrates CYF core competencies. Here are some of the thoughts from Rebecca's peers when nominating her for the award: "Rebecca continuously volunteered throughout the pandemic to go into houses with known covid positive cases, and to transport children who had tested positive as well."; "Rebecca is one of the best caseworkers I have worked with over the 20 years I have been in the field. I trust her explicitly and have complete faith in her assessment abilities, as well as her ability to have positive interactions with families despite the issues at hand." The quotes from Rebecca's peers highlights her commitment to the children and families served by the child welfare system.



**Congratulations, Rebecca for receiving this well-deserved
award!**

**Featured
Thursday,
March 16**

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ANNE SCHLEGEL

**PITT CWEL
GRADUATE**

After becoming the director of Washington County Children and Youth Services in June 2020, Anne quickly realized the need for community outreach to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through targeted community partnerships and the conviction that strong communities strengthen families, key stakeholders invested in child abuse prevention. By fostering these community partnerships, Anne received the 2021 Washington County "One Kid At A Time" Community Award presented by the Academy for Adolescent Health. Anne says of her award: "I was grateful to be presented with this award and continue to support the work of the Academy for Adolescent Health of educating, advocating, inspiring and empowering one kid at a time!"



**Congratulations, Anne for receiving this well-deserved
award!**

**Featured
Tuesday,
March 21**

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**HOLLY HOSTLER
BLOOMSBURG CWEB
GRADUATE**

Holly received the Outstanding Competence in Fieldwork Award for her internship at Juniata County Children and Youth Services. This award is given to a student who exhibits exemplary achievement in their field placement. Other areas that are considered for this award include contributions to political action and social justice as well as evidence of sensitivity and excellence in cross-cultural practice. Holly's receipt of this award showcases her exemplary social work skills that she will carry with her as a children and youth caseworker.



**Congratulations, Holly for receiving this well-deserved
award!**

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Tuesday,
March 28**

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**MINNIE GOSHORN
SHIPPENSBURG CWEL
GRADUATE**

Minnie was promoted to the director of Franklin County Children and Youth Service on September 9, 2021. She was nominated by her peers for the 2021 Franklin County Government Values award for Continuous Improvement. She was presented with the award March 4, 2022.

The county's definition of Continuous Improvement is as follows- We will hone our processes, our services and ourselves knowing that big results come from many small changes over time. Minnie's receiving this award not only shows that she personifies the definition of continuous improvement, but also show the respect and admiration she has from her peers.



**Congratulations, Minnie for receiving this well-deserved
award!**

**Featured
Thursday,
March 30**

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JASON VAN NESS

PITT CWEL STUDENT

Jason is a 2023 recipient of Pitt's Graduate and Professional Student Government's Leadership and Service Award. This award recognizes current University of Pittsburgh graduate and professional students for their service and leadership to the university, community, and world at large. Jason says about the award: "The award required a considerable amount of service efforts, community organizing and networking across campus in order to have a solid application that stood out from other students. In doing so, I remained a visible presence and representative for Pitt's School of Social Work. Most importantly, I was able to integrate and draw upon my previous efforts in child welfare and create new systems of contact that can have a sustained impact within the University and surrounding regions when I return to my role as a caseworker at Allegheny County CYF. This award means so much to me, not only as a validation of my potential to create change in the world, but also it reminds me of the wonderful people who I have as supports. As I always say, 'us social workers believe you cannot understand the person without looking at their environment; and mine is filled with awesome people'."



Congratulations, Jason for receiving this well-deserved award!