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*Transforming our world.  
Our future. Ourselves.*

# Year in Review >>> 2020



University of  
Pittsburgh

School of  
Social Work

# Letter from the Dean

## Dear Friends,

This has certainly been quite a year! But, all of the challenges, the injustices, and the gut-wrenching losses have required us to dig deep and bring out the best in ourselves. Like all of you, we have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic as well as collective outrage over state-sanctioned killings and the broader issues of racism in our society. Through it all, the faculty, staff, and students of the School of Social Work have come together — to support each other, to share expertise and move forward, to make changes and adapt, and to push ourselves and each other to focus on the work that makes us who we are.

In the spring, we shifted all instruction from in-person to remote over 10 days. As I write this, we are less than a month from successfully finishing the fall semester, thanks to the creativity, commitment, and flexibility of everyone in the school. In addition, the school has been central in the University's COVID-19 response and community outreach.

We came together in the early summer to build on the school's strong history and leadership around issues of race. The Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) hosted a series of nationally-attended webinars (the newly created #CRSPcasts) on race, policing, and, most recently, electoral politics. We also reflected on our own culture, climate, and practices, and dedicated ourselves to become a more explicitly and fully anti-racist, anti-oppressive, inclusive, and welcoming school. [Our Commitment to Anti-racism](#), found on the following page, formalizes this focus and guides our efforts.

Our centers — CRSP, the Center on Innovations to Enhance Community Health (CiTECH), and the Child Welfare Education and Research Program



(CWERP) — have all thrived this year. And our community-engaged research has never been more prolific and evident — with highly impactful work focused on inequities of race, gender, and employment; school-based work on restorative justice; a range of studies on innovative treatment for schizophrenia and autism; studies on gender-based violence and the criminal justice system; and multi-faceted interventions to support youth and families.

We have grown this year — welcoming new faculty and staff and promoting from within. And we have expanded our opportunities for students to work with peers and faculty on newly funded training grants around opioids and child welfare.

So, yes, it has certainly been a challenging year, but Social Work rises to challenges — and this year has certainly shown that! As we approach the end of 2020, we are both exhausted and energized — and hope that you will be part of our community and commitment to transforming our world, our future, ourselves. Please connect with us as [www.socialwork.pitt.edu](http://www.socialwork.pitt.edu) to join events, engage with continuing education, learn about all that we're doing, and catch up with our faculty and staff. We look forward to the year ahead!

In strength and solidarity,

Elizabeth M.Z. Farmer  
Dean

# Pitt School of Social Work Commitment to Anti-Racism

Recent events reflect our country's history of systemic racism, and anti-Black racism specifically. Our country's imperial history devastated indigenous nations whose lands are now the literal foundation of the United States. Since 1619, when the first enslaved people were brought to what is now the United States, our collective policies, practices, beliefs, and behaviors as a nation have been built on explicit and implicit inequalities that convey privilege or oppression based on defined status characteristics. The legacy of slavery and racist policies undermine the espoused values of our country and create undeniable harm and disproportionate hardship for people of color. Any discussion of inequities, inequality, disparities, and discrimination in our society must include a specific and central recognition of its long-standing and deep-rooted racism.

State-sanctioned murders like those of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless other unarmed Black people are not new, even if their visibility is. Anti-Black racism is core to our foundation as a nation and is not confined to police brutality or state-sponsored violence. Our responsibility, as a school of social work, is to recognize the profound impact of racism on all aspects of our society, institutions, policies, practices, attitudes, interactions, and behaviors. The School is committed to work together to dismantle this existing system and create an anti-racist society, institutions, policies, practices, attitudes, interactions, and behaviors.

Our school's vision statement to *transform — our world, our future, ourselves* — cannot be accomplished without centering anti-racism as an essential and non-negotiable commitment for our school and each member of it: students, staff, and faculty. We will build on our history of tackling issues of racism through teaching, research, service, and the Center on Race and Social Problems by setting Guiding Principles which commit us to a set of activities that will move us towards our goal of being an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, inclusive and welcoming school:

1

**Anti-racism is central to all we do:** We will advance anti-racism in all business, education, and research operations, policies, and practice.

2

**Anti-racism starts with us:** We must acknowledge that our country's and the profession of social work's racist history has enabled our society to practice de facto White supremacy while claiming the opposite.

3

**Anti-racism is a continual work in progress:** We commit to an ongoing process of individual and collective education, discussion, and action.

4

**Anti-racism is intersectional:** We will center racism in our attention to all forms of oppression.

5

**Anti-racism demands accountability:** We will develop rigorous tools to evaluate and assess our progress.



[Read more about the Commitment to Action on the Pitt Social Work website.](#)

# New people and positions at the School of Social Work

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is growing, creating new opportunities for community engagement, professional education, and exciting faculty research.



Dr. Alicia Johnson



Misha Zorich



Jocelyn Horner



Elizabeth Osayande-Davis



Aaron Erb



Elizabeth Zimmerman-Clayton



Toya Jones



Dr. Christina Newhill



Dr. Helen E. Petracchi

## New Faculty

Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. [Alicia Johnson](#) joins the child welfare team as the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Academic Coordinator.

[Misha Zorich](#) was named the Pitt-Johnstown MSW Program Coordinator.

## New Staff

[Jocelyn Horner](#) has joined the school as the new Director of Development.

Dr. James Huguley's Just Discipline Projects has added two new staff members: [Elizabeth Osayande-Davis](#), School-based Restorative Practices Coordinator, and [Aaron Erb](#), Restorative Practice Coordinator.

[Elizabeth Zimmerman-Clayton](#) was hired as the new Student Training Program Coordinator.

## New Positions

[Toya Jones](#) is the new BASW Program Director.

Professor Dr. [Christina Newhill](#) is the new Doctoral Program Director

Dr. [Helen E. Petracchi](#) has been named Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

# The struggles and the lives of low-wage workers



The [Pittsburgh Wage Study](#) is a multifaceted research program that examines the strengths of lower-wage workers and challenges they confront. Led by Pitt School of Social Work Associate Professor [Rafael Engel](#), Associate Professor [Sara Goodkind](#), and Associate Professor [Jeffrey Shook](#), along with doctoral students [Kess Ballentine](#), [Soobin Kim](#), [Jihee Woo](#), and adjunct faculty member Sandra Wexler, the study examines the struggles and the lives of low-wage workers in Pittsburgh. Also joining the team are Sera Linardi, Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare PA team and SEIU Local 32BJ. Despite the local nature of the School of Social Work studies, over 40% of the U.S. workforce makes less than \$15/hour, and the accumulating evidence suggests this is not enough to meet basic needs. It is hoped that the research may inform policies that significantly improve the lives of low-wage workers across the United States.

The primary study of the Pittsburgh Wage Study program is *The Hospital Workers Study* a multi-year mixed methods study that investigates the effects of incremental wage increases on their individual and household well-being. Before the study began, the hospital workers organized a union and negotiated wage increases that will bring starting salaries to \$15 an hour. The study focuses on changes in material and financial hardships, participation in public benefit programs, workers' physical and emotional health, and workers' feelings about and commitment to their work. Data are collected annually using online surveys and intensive interviews.

In addition to the primary study of hospital workers, there are multiple related studies and dissertations, which include:

- A cross-sectional, online survey, collecting similar data from unionized security guards;
- An examination of the impact of a minimum wage increase to \$15 on non-profit organizations;
- An examination of the impact of the benefits cliff on low-wage workers and their young children;

- An assessment of public testimonies about wages given to the Pittsburgh Wage Review Committee;
- An examination of how low-wage single parents navigate work, school and home systems to promote child well-being;
- An examination of the effects of workplace stressors on health and mental health; and,
- An examination of the impact of COVID-19 on human service organizations and their delivery of services.

The overall research program develops relationships over time to build a rich understanding of how wage increases affect the well-being of workers and their families. Research is conducted in conjunction with community partners to better inform the policy recommendations that the studies may provide.

Members of the study team have testified in front government officials, appeared in a number of different media outlets, produced research briefs, presented at national conferences, edited a special issue and published in peer-review publications. They also maintain an active [Twitter account](#).

The team is currently planning a new survey of lower-wage hospital workers to address the impact of COVID-19 and to continue to collect data on supplemental projects that have emerged from the study.

Funders for the projects include the Heinz Endowments, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the University of Pittsburgh Social Science Research Initiative, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.



The entire project and its products can be viewed at [pittsburghwagestudy.pitt.edu](http://pittsburghwagestudy.pitt.edu).

# COVID-19 brings about big changes for teaching and learning

**In March, colleges and universities across the world were thrown into uncharted waters, and Pitt School of Social Work was no exception.**

While multiple health and safety related measures were swiftly implemented by University officials, the School of Social Work moved quickly to create a teaching support team to address faculty and student concerns. Because of the School's rapid response, the disruption to hundreds of students, faculty and staff moving suddenly from an in-person to an online environment mid-semester was minimized.

The Dean and the program directors, particularly the MSW Program Director, pulled together teams of people to support faculty. The Teaching Transition team supported faculty as they moved into the sudden shift to online learning during the spring term, and called on the various talents of people from the SSW faculty and staff to help faculty navigate the new technology of a Zoom-based class, to accept and grade assignments online, to support and troubleshoot challenges students faced suddenly learning in an online environment. The teaching team created an online resource of *Frequently Asked Questions* based on real-time inquiry and feedback, edited the vast amount of available online trainings to focus on the most immediately useful and necessary, and researched topics such as digital inclusion, ethical considerations in online formats, information on best practices, best practices, Zoom etiquette and using various learning platforms to enhance, not just deliver, course content.

In May, the team was renamed simply the "Teaching Team," and began preparing faculty and students for the move to the Flex@Pitt plan. Meeting weekly for the full summer and throughout September, the team dealt with both the immediately practical and broader implication topics, and also brought in relevant guests to address issues related to teaching such as the Disability Resources and Services Office, the Counseling Center, the Writing Center, and library services. The team also endorsed a very well received training by Dr. Tahira Walker titled "Equity and Inclusion Actions in Teaching in Flex@Pitt Model." As Fall approached, the Teaching Team decided to open the meetings, after a preliminary half hour, to all teaching faculty so that they could "drop by" and learn what the team had discovered and receive support and answers (when possible) to their questions.

Teaching Team meetings provided a structured space to discuss the nuts and bolts of adapting to a virtual classroom, the possibilities and limitations of technology, and how to best adapt course materials to the new normal. It provided a place for faculty to candidly discuss the challenges of adapting to these changes in a short span of time. This was also the place where the team discussed how to address social and racial justice issues in a digital world, and the challenges that being virtual creates.

As the Fall semester began (early, and with a new fast-moving schedule to wrap up by Thanksgiving), the SSW Teaching Team had amassed and shared a wealth of knowledge that smoothed student, faculty and staff transitions in adapting, responding and preparing for a completely new environment. Faculty are working to offer students the best experience they can, and in the process they are learning many new skills, often realizing that there are benefits to online courses that would have not become apparent so quickly without the necessity of rapid adaptation. Some have discussed how using the Flex@Pitt model is making them revisit or reconsider many of their ideas about teaching and assessment, giving them a critical eye. Others have really seen this as an opportunity to collaborate in new ways and leverage the strengths of fellow faculty members.

Most students are making the best of it as well, even if they would prefer to be in person. The Flex@Pitt model has allowed some students to better integrate field and class schedules, they have especially appreciated having the chance to do instruction from their home town and the option of virtual internships.

"Though the transition to online learning has taken a lot of effort from faculty and staff, these new capabilities have opened up the possibilities for new and innovative approaches to curriculum design and program development." said MSW Program Director [Yodit Betru](#). "It has had a surprising benefit of allowing us to engage our core stakeholder across a broader geographic region."

The fact is there may be no turning back. This has made many faculty think about teaching practices as a whole, and has encouraged them to reconsider what student engagement, assessment, and learning can look like.

# CRSP takes center stage in a year dominated by issues of race



## It has been a remarkable year of successful transition for the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP).

In the fall of 2019, founder of the center, Dean Emeritus Larry Davis, stepped down as director, and was succeeded by the dynamic team of Dr. James Huguley, Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work, who stepped in as Interim Director of the Center, leading all center operations and planning; and Dr. John Wallace, Jr., Epperson Chair and Professor of Social Work and Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Development, who became the Senior Fellow for Research and Engagement at CRSP, providing guidance on activities and leading strategic initiatives. Drs. Huguley and Wallace have been involved with the center over the years, and each of their research interests and projects serve to connect the work of the center with the community and enhance the strategic goals of the University.

Over recent years the ability of citizen recorded cell-phone footage to document excessive police violence against people of color has shocked and appalled many at home and abroad, although of course, these events are neither new nor unusual on American soil. A watershed moment occurred in the pandemic year of 2020, as millions witnessed the on-camera state sanctioned murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN. It felt like a watershed moment, and millions of people of all races in all areas of the US expressed their outrage by their First Amendment rights to peaceful assembly to protest this latest, and horrific, example of racial injustice.

With the University of Pittsburgh closed for in-person activities, Drs. Huguley and Wallace worked to quickly establish a new series of webinars (#CRSPcasts) focused on the current emerging racial crises. As a result of their rapid

response, the virtual CRSP Speaker Series in April drew almost four times the typical lecture series audience. Recognizing the expanded potential of online events, Dr. Huguley also established the first-ever CRSP YouTube Channel to host live and previously recorded content.

The result of these digital enhancements was a dramatic growth in CRSP's digital footprint: between April and July of 2020, they hosted more than 1,900 live webinar attendees, with another 2,300 recorded video views on YouTube. Social media following also doubled over this period, further demonstrating a substantial expansion of CRSP's online national reach.

“The strategic focus on digital media was both timely and important,” notes Dr. Huguley. “It not only elevated CRSP as a national voice in online race conversations at a critical juncture, it also made important empirical resources available to thousands of people at a time of converging racial crises.”

The coming year is bringing new growth, as the center is currently seeking a full-time Research Associate to serve as the Assistant Director. With strong support from the Offices of the Provost and Chancellor, CRSP is seen as a key component of the University of Pittsburgh's overall strategy to address racial justice both on campus and abroad. Specifically, CRSP serves as the University's interdisciplinary research hub for Black faculty and other scholars across departments who are committed to racial equity research during these times of increased focus, at last, on anti-racist work.

# Training the next generation to confront the opioid epidemic



**The opioid epidemic has created a public health emergency in Southwest Pennsylvania, straining the resources and capacity of providers with its significant treatment needs and devastating the region with high rates of overdose deaths.**

Allegheny County, with its concentrated urban center and a high (sub)urban poverty rate, along with neighboring Beaver County, with its high rates of rural poverty and remote areas, are a microcosm of the opioid epidemic in the United States.

The [Coalition for Opioid and Addiction Leadership](#) (COAL) Fellowship, led by Professor [Daniel Rosen](#), with support from Assistant Professor [Brianna Lombardi](#) and Associate Professor [Rafael Engel](#), addresses the critical need for behavioral health specialists with expertise in opioid use disorders (OUD) and substance use disorders (SUD). The COAL training program in the School of Social Work will significantly increase the number of master of social work (MSW) graduates well-equipped and educated to address OUD and SUD in high need and high demand areas, perhaps working alongside law enforcement to provide better use of resources and to focus on treatment and rehabilitation rather than punishment

Funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), the COAL Fellowship is a focused interprofessional educational training program for 70 Master of Social Work (MSW) students over three years. Drawing on three interprofessional certificate tracks within the SSW (Integrated Healthcare, Gerontology, and Mental Health) this initiative expands the number of MSW students trained in behavioral health in the delivery of OUD and other SUD prevention,

treatment, and recovery services. Through the enhanced curriculum, students will become experts in the identification, assessment, and diagnosis of OUD and SUD, learn evidence informed interventions to treat OUD and co-occurring mental health conditions, and gain knowledge of interprofessional and integrated treatment models. In addition, students intern in field placement settings where they gain hand-on experience, knowledge, and mentoring in prevention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with OUD and SUD.

The COAL Fellowship also aims to enhance knowledge and skills of field instructors, community providers, social work and university faculty in prevention, treatment, and recovery services for OUD and SUD by offering seminars and advanced training opportunities.

“Pitt SSW has a strong background in mental health and addiction treatment training and is well –positioned to become a leader in behavioral health training and workforce development in areas that have been particular hard hit by the opioid epidemic,” said Dr. Rosen. “This fellowship is unique in that brings together a community of students, faculty, and partners to lead the charge in combating this devastating public health crisis.”

In addition to partners within the University from disciplines including Social Work, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Nursing, the COAL Fellowship has partnered with over 15 field sites to offer hand-on training and mentorship to their students.

# Who is Caring for the Caregivers?

Photo: Aimee Obidzinski/University of Pittsburgh

## On October 27, 2018, 11 congregants were murdered at the Tree of Life synagogue building in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The *Who is Caring for the Caregivers* project, led by Associate Professor [Rafael Engel](#), Professor [Daniel Rosen](#), and doctoral program alumnus and post-doctoral fellow [Daniel Lee](#), examines the emotional and psychological well-being of staff one year after the murders. The study population includes all levels of staff employed at the social service agencies and educational institutions located in the affected community including social workers, teachers, and administrators, among others. This is the first study that describes the effect of a mass-murder on not just the professionals working directly with the family members of those murdered and survivors of the shooting, but on staff who did not have direct contact. “We began this work because as members of the community, we witnessed the emotional impact of the murders on the staff of these agencies” said Dr. Engel. “Because the staff are so professional in all their work, it is easy to forget that they too could be affected by the shootings.”

The survey was sent to directors at 12 social service agencies and schools in the community and a total of 167 individuals responded. One-third of them had at least one current mental health screen — depression, anxiety, PTSD, generalized anxiety disorder, or other symptoms of a mental health impact

The [10.27 Healing Partnership](#) is a Pittsburgh-based organization that fosters a sense of community well-being by providing opportunities for reflection, support, and connection for individuals and their loved ones impacted by the October 27, 2018 attack and others who experience hate-induced trauma.

The *10.27 Healing Partnership* is also a committed community partner for the University of Pittsburgh Caregivers project and is now working on building trauma informed organizations with the affected agencies, in collaboration with the Pitt Social Work researchers, to take the findings and translate them into practical solutions.

As part of the collaboration with the *10.27 Healing Partnership*, the Caregiver researchers met with trauma experts and national experts on mass shootings and then disseminated the findings to the eight agencies most involved in the study to lay out next steps. The key question is: “How do you create trauma informed organizations?” The three primary agencies the Caregivers researchers and *10.27 Healing Partnership* staff engaged were the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, and Jewish Family and Children’s Services.

The team met with their executive directors and staff who verified that study and assistance was needed, and eagerly endorsed the work of the Pitt team.

“This was a classic case of how you do research that engages the community, and you engage community so you can do your research,” explained Dr. Engel.



**The first published paper from this study, “[Psychiatric Sequelae Among Community Social Service Agency Staff 1 Year After a Mass Shooting](#)” is available on [JAMA Network Open](#).**

# Leading the University's COVID-19 Community Response



Dr. Mary Ohmer



Dr. Aliya Durham

## Community Engagement has always been a priority at the Pitt School of Social Work.

Home to the longest standing community organizing program in the country, the school has prided itself in taking a leading role at the University of Pittsburgh's community engagement efforts. In fall 2019, this work was recognized when the Carnegie Foundation awarded the University of Pittsburgh the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. Director of Community Engagement and Assistant Professor [Aliya Durham](#) and Associate Professor and Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) Chair [Mary Ohmer](#) have been instrumental in this work.

Both Drs. Durham and Ohmer were appointed by Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement Lina Dostilio to work with her and other staff at the Office of Community and Governmental Relations (CGR) on Pitt's COVID-19 Outreach and Community Response Task Force to support community partners and neighborhoods impacted by the pandemic. Their work with the COVID-19 taskforce has taken center stage in 2020, and their contributions have helped strengthen the response by both the University and the community to this pandemic.

One of the most active projects is the [Care and Connection Caller \(CCC\) Program](#), which trained and deployed Pitt volunteers to support community partners in reaching out, via telephone, to the families and individuals they serve to check in with them, assess how they were feeling and doing during the pandemic, and to connect them to food, housing and other resources. The CCC program was led by Dr. Ohmer and Carrie Finkelstein, MSW (SOCWK'20), who started at CGR as a MSW student working on the CCC project and, after graduation in April 2020, was hired full-time to work on this and other projects.

Over 100 Pitt volunteers were trained for the CCC program, and they made over 1,000 calls for seven community partners during the height of the pandemic. These community partners served African American and Latinx populations, as well as families and senior citizens. Many of these callers continue to make calls as the work of the CCC program has shifted more to advocacy as the community partners have begun to identify key issues being raised in their calls with residents, including food insecurity, housing insecurity, and education access.

As fall 2020 drew closer, the COVID-19 Task Force discussed educational inequities facing families with children learning remotely without internet access, laptops, or other supports in the Pittsburgh Public School district, and what, if any additional support, the university could provide. Dr. Durham and Finkelstein connected with the United Way's efforts to support approximately 45 community organizations in need of assistance. Dr. Durham also took the lead on connecting with 2 agencies (Project Destiny and the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh) in need of volunteers to support 13 different locations organizing educational pods for children grades K through 12.

The CCC program has now followed the lead of its community partners and has transitioned to voter mobilization as the election nears. One thing is certain, the program can adapt and mobilize University volunteers to support the communities that Pitt serves.

# Continuing Education goes virtual



## **The Continuing Education (CE) program at Pitt School of Social Work has a long history of educating and supporting social workers across the region.**

Led for many years by Professor Emeritus Tracy Soska until his retirement in 2019, it has hosted thousands of professionals every year.

New Director of Professional Education [Molly Burke Allwein](#), LSW (SOCWK '11) knew that she would have big shoes to fill with Soska's departure, but 2020 ushered in an unexpected pandemic that upended courses and accelerated planned changes to the long-standing program.

Fortunately, Allwein had already begun to make the move to virtual learning, offering the first CE program with live virtual options in February. By early spring all courses were required to be moved online, and the CE office had to reconfigure their entire schedule. Under Allwein's leadership ably supported by dean's office staff member Shana Stein, the transition was a remarkably smooth one, and feedback from attendees has expressed how grateful they were that Pitt was able to pivot from only in-person courses to fully online in such a short period of time so that there was no disruption to them attaining the credits they needed for their licensure cycle that ends February 2021.

"Although the beginning of the Covid-19 era brought about extreme upheaval of almost every aspect of our lives, for the Professional Education program at Pitt it simply accelerated our planned timeline," explained Allwein.

"We already had plans for robust digital educational offerings for helping professionals including short webinars, self-paced courses, and 30-hour micro credentials. We realize that social work education — much like society as a whole — needed to adapt to the digital future. Plus, helping professionals are busy folks who should be able to access continuing education programs on their schedule."

In the midst of the move to virtual learning, Allwein has continued to grow the CE program, launching "CE On Demand" — 10+ asynchronously recorded CE courses that have been created in partnership with an instructional designer and videographers. These self-paced courses live on Canvas Catalog learning management platform and participants can register and take these courses at any time. Topics of courses ready to launch include: *Telesocial Work: Teletherapy, Ethics, Nonprofit Legal Series, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Suicide Prevention*, and several trainings centered on working with LGBTQIA+ populations and more, with new courses being added every month.

In addition, the first micro credential program was launched — *Problem Gambling*. This program meets training and education criteria for International Gambling Counselor Certification, known as the ICGC-I, and also provides 3 hours of ethics and 1 hour of suicide training through the lens of problem gambling.

No matter what lies ahead the CE program will continue to offer courses in three ways: live in-person, live virtual, and self-paced recorded. No matter what someone's preference or learning style is, there will always be an option available for them through the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

# Doctoral Program Highlights

## Fellowships

- **LauraEllen Ashcraft** was awarded a second year of her Clinical and Translational Science Fellowship (TL1) from the National Institutes of Health for her project “Evidence-Based Chronic Pain Management in Primary Care.” The fellowship is a translational research training program for pre- and post-doctoral students who find innovative ways to advance research from the initial discovery through improved patient outcomes and health policy. Her co-primary mentors are Associate Dean for Research and Browne Chair Shaun Eack and Jessica Merlin, MD, PhD, MBA from the Division of General Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh.
- **Kess Ballentine** was selected for a 2019–2020 NASW Foundation’s Eileen Blackey Fellowship Award. The Eileen Blackey Doctoral Fellowship provides partial support to social work doctoral candidates who are engaged in dissertation research in welfare policy and practice.
- **Laurenia Mangum** and **Cortney VanHook** were named 2020–2021 Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Minority Fellows. The CSWE MFP doctoral fellowship is designed for social workers, with a social work master’s degree, who are preparing for leadership in practice, research, teaching, and/or policy promulgation in mental health and/or substance abuse with racial/ethnic minorities.

*Laurenia Mangum with her award from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs.*

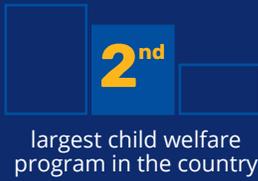


## Funding

- **Laurenia Mangum** was selected to receive the William T. Green Award in Public Health Studies. The award provides her support for her project entitled “The Live Experiences of HIV Positive African American Single Mothers Navigating HIV Medical Services While Parenting Dependent Children.” Mangum also received a prestigious award from the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs. She was selected for the Go Beyond Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Graduate Student Scholarship in 2020, which provides leadership development opportunities to emerging leaders in maternal and child health research.
- **Serwaa Omowale**, joint PhD Social Work/MPH student, was the recipient of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) diversity supplement, which will support her work with Dr. Dara Mendez (Project PI), in the Department of Epidemiology in the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. Omowale’s work focuses on understanding, addressing, and improving maternal health and birth outcomes among Black women. This grant supports a training opportunity that will provide Omowale with advanced maternal and child health disparities knowledge, analytical skills, and research methodology skills to become an independent researcher in maternal and child health disparities. Her research project will focus on understanding the relationship between stress, discrimination, and adverse birth outcomes.
- **Yan Yuan** was awarded a Fahs Beck dissertation scholarship for her dissertation “Exploring the Roles of Trauma and Emotion Dysregulation in the Developmental Pathways for Borderline Personality Disorder among a Sample of Inner-city Women.” The Fahs Beck Fund’s primary goal is to support research that contributes to a greater understanding of and solutions for problems affecting individuals, families and communities.

# By the Numbers

## \* Educational Excellence



156

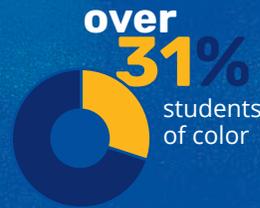
The School provided 156 paid training and pre-doctoral fellowships

totaling more than **\$1.85 million dollars** in student support for FY 2020.

## \* Diversity & Inclusion



Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) is the **first and only** interdisciplinary race center in a school of social work in the country.



## \* Scholarship & Research



over **\$2 million** in research expenditures

& Child Welfare Education and Training programs support students and training across the state of PA, totaling

over **\$24 million** in annual expenses



## \* Community Engagement

2 community engagement centers embedded in the community and supported by the University.

13 funded collaborative research projects with a community partner

1,400 field work opportunities including over 400 mental health placements

Students collectively provide

over **200,000**

field placement hours to service agencies and organizations worth over **\$5.7 million annually.**

## \* Alumni & Career Networks

over **10,000** alumni

here in Pittsburgh

across the country

around the world

VanKirk Career Center offers **one-on-one** career counseling

**3,100** Continuing Education program attendees

over **330** sponsored or co-sponsored programs



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