

# Year in Review /// 2021

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University of  
**Pittsburgh**

School of  
Social Work

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# Letter from the Dean

## Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are emerging from 18 months of being apart – of remote instruction, working from home, and renegotiating nearly every aspect of our lives. As we look back at the year, I am finding that people tend to think about what we couldn’t do or what we missed. The glory of a publication like a Year In Review is that it refocuses us on what we did do!

Our school came together emphatically last summer to build on our strong commitment to anti-oppression, anti-racism, equity, and inclusion. Throughout the year, in so many ways, we made this commitment a living and critical part of our work and interactions. As I said repeatedly this past year, “If we can’t create the world we want here in the little community of our school, we have no business telling the broader world how to do anything.” As we look back, we have definitely made gains – and we still have a great deal of work to do to meet our own goals and standards.

In this year when we were all at home, we ironically had a chance to come together — there was something intimate and connecting about having a window into each other’s homes, to grappling with political and social events so publicly and collectively, to holding lectures for thousands of participants rather than the hundred or so who can fit in our conference room. And many of us reached out to community partners, research collaborators, and neighbors in ways that broadened our efforts, understandings, and impact. As the world changed and responded, so did our outreach, research, and approaches to impact.

So, as we begin the 2021–2022 academic year, with cautious optimism for what lies ahead, we do so with a renewed sense of ourselves, our responsibilities, and our collective ability to affect the future. Everything is up for



examination and change — there are very few “givens” in the world right now. We are making our way through pandemics, state-sponsored violence, global political and natural crises. And we are doing it with a renewed sense of possibilities! We have a new understanding of just how much we can change, bend, and persevere. And we’ve seen how critical it is to bring a social and racial justice lens to everything we do, to find possibilities for enacting change, and for making sure that basic human dignity and worth are centered in this complex and divisive world we inhabit. In short, we are recognizing how important it is to bring Social Work into focus and to the center of our society. This feels like a new beginning — one that needs our initiative, commitment, stamina, and creativity.

As we move forward, please join with us and stay connected — it will take us all! Our newly updated website, [www.socialwork.pitt.edu](http://www.socialwork.pitt.edu), provides a hub for keeping up to date with events, learning more about our work, connecting with our faculty and staff, participating in our expanded Continuing Education offerings, and reaching out to share your ideas, concerns, suggestions, and passions. Onward to all that we can do!

In strength and solidarity,

Elizabeth M.Z. Farmer  
Dean

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the name "Elizabeth M.Z. Farmer" and the title "Dean" in a smaller, printed font.

# Anti-racism, anti-oppression, and inclusion work continues at Pitt Social Work



“

It's a balancing act of retaining what works  
but not stagnating in our actions.

## Inclusion and Diversity Committee leads antiracism efforts on many fronts

The Pitt School of Social Work Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) had a busy and productive year as they coordinated with faculty, staff, and students to put the “[Pitt School of Social Work Commitment to Anti-Racism](#)” into action. Last summer, in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and in the midst of devastating racial disparities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the IDC met with Dean Betsy Farmer to “discuss how the school could think, talk and act around anti-black racism,” said IDC co-chair Dr. James Huguley. “We wanted to think about our role as social work educators, how race continues to affect social work culture, and how we could take action to impact our own community and the outside world with our work.”

One of the first steps was to create taskforces that led the bulk of the efforts throughout the academic year. These taskforces worked together to create a variety of activities to engage the Pitt Social Work community. One of the early accomplishments was the curricular task force’s completion of curricular review guidelines that are now being used by the three program committees. Another activity led by the Faculty and Staff task force was a school-widereading of Ibram X. Kendi’s book “How to be an Anti-racist,” with several chapters assigned and discussed each month in large and small groups during regular faculty/staff meetings. The book was chosen for its accessibility and opened the door to many productive conversations among faculty and staff.

Another large undertaking was the bi-weekly “Anti-Racism Learning Collaborative” (ARLC) meeting, which focused each hour-long, Monday session on a different topic concerning race. In the fall, the group worked with the doctoral student group led by Dashawnna Fussell-Ware, and utilized topics from the University of Pittsburgh’s anti-black racism course. In the spring, the ARLC topics “focused on application,” explains Huguley. “What does our anti-black racism work mean for student support, classroom work, and field work? Deborah Robinson [Field Education Coordinator and Lecturer] facilitated a session on anti-racist practices in field work which

focused on sharing our anti-racist work with field instructors and adjuncts who may not always be part of the conversation.”

The most visible and important product of the IDC’s hard work this past year is the faculty and staff anti-racism work action plan. A combination of proactive and responsive activities, the action plan offers a blueprint “to do the work well in the world and to do right by our students,” shares Huguley. “We had to make sure our faculty and staff were acting in an anti-racist way. It’s a balancing act of retaining what works but not stagnating in our actions.” Action steps were developed by faculty and staff development taskforce, then reviewed by various committees, and voted on during the final Spring 2021 faculty meeting.

The action plan has four main goals: 1) a commitment to anti-racist learning and practice, 2) continuing to learn and grow in group settings and as individuals, 3) responding effectively to problems and injustices where they occur; and 4) regularly assessing the school’s effectiveness in these efforts and bringing in supports to increase that effectiveness.

These ongoing efforts are not just “one-off conversations.” The IDC knows that all of the anti-racism work will continue to be an integral part of the school’s meetings in program committees, curricular committees, admissions, student supports, and any discussions about the infrastructure, policies, and practices of the School of Social Work.

### 2020-2021 Inclusion and Diversity Committee Members:

Kess Ballentine	Alyssa Lyle
Jaime Booth	Blair Mickels
Emma Bowe-Shulman	Penny Miller
Rachel Gartner	Riley Riley
Summer-Rae Hastings	Darren Whitfield
Jay Huguley (Co-Chair)	
Mike Jasek (Co-Chair)	

# New people and positions at the School of Social Work



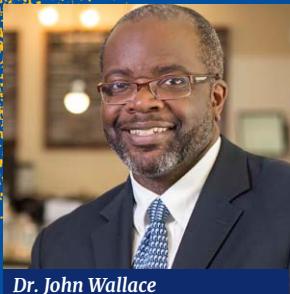
[Dr. Victor Figueereo](#)



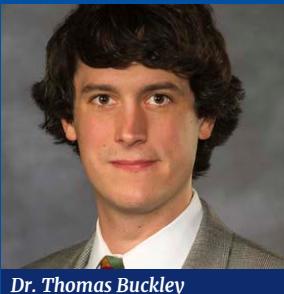
[Dr. Genevra \(Nev\) Jones](#)



[Dr. Brooke Rawls](#)



[Dr. John Wallace](#)



[Dr. Thomas Buckley](#)



[Sinika Calloway](#)



[Leah Mafrica](#)



[Jamaal Gosa](#)



[Molly Means](#)



[Spencer Scott](#)



[Michele Snyder](#)



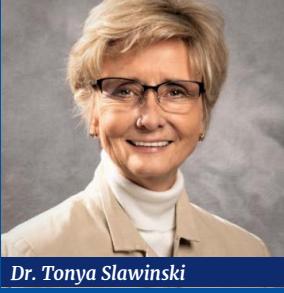
[Dr. Helen Petracchi](#)



[Dr. James Huguley](#)



[Beth Mulvaney](#)



[Dr. Tonya Slawinski](#)



[Elizabeth I. Osayande-Davis](#)

## New faculty

Two new tenure-stream assistant professors have joined the School:

[Dr. Victor Figueereo](#) and [Dr. Genevra \(Nev\) Jones](#).

[Dr. Brooke Rawls](#) is a new Assistant Professor and Academic Coordinator for the Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) program.

## New leadership at the Center on Race and Social Problems

[Dr. John Wallace](#) is the new interim director of the Center on Race and Social Problems.

## New postdoctoral fellows

[Dr. Thomas Buckley](#) joins the School as a postdoctoral fellow in gerontology.

## New staff

[Sinika Calloway](#) has joined the School as the Edith M. Baker Integrated Health Fellowship Program Manager.

[Leah Mafrica](#) joined the School as the Recruitment & Admissions Coordinator.

Dr. James Huguley's Just Discipline Project added four new Restorative Practice Coordinators: [Jamaal Gosa](#), [Molly Means](#), [Spencer Scott](#), and [Michele Snyder](#).

## New positions

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

[Dr. James Huguley](#) has been named the inaugural Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

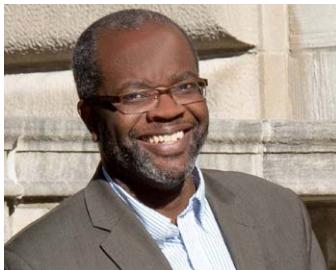
[Beth Mulvaney](#) is the new Direct Practice Chair within the MSW program.

[Dr. Tonya Slawinski](#) has accepted a full-time appointment stream faculty position to continue the role as Adjunct Liaison/Support, along with teaching and other faculty activities.

[Elizabeth I. Osayande-Davis](#) has taken the lead as the Director of Operations at the Just Discipline Project.

# New leadership and infrastructure around diversity and equity

## Wallace steps up at the Center on Race and Social Problems



Dr. John Wallace, Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Development and David E. Epperson Chair and Professor of Social Work is the new Interim Director of the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP).

"First, I am honored that Dean Farmer chose me serve as the interim director of the Center on Race and Social Problems." said Dr. Wallace. "The Center is a national treasure and it has served as a critically important voice around race for Pitt and the Pittsburgh region for nearly twenty years. I have two priorities as interim director. The first is to honor the legacy of our founder, Dean Larry Davis, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Center on Race and Social Problems next year. My second priority is to lead a successful search for our next director."

The new position allows Dr. Wallace to integrate his ongoing work as Vice Provost and to position CRSP as an intellectual hub for underrepresented faculty and other faculty at the University who study race. In his current post, Dr. Wallace has helped lead the effort to hire faculty with expertise in race and the social determinants of equity, health and well-being. The recent hires will have a home at the center, which will work with the University to jointly amplify initiatives, networking, and supports to ensure the productivity, connectivity, and success of underrepresented faculty and faculty whose scholarship focuses on understanding and addressing issues related to race.

### #CRSPcasts draw record numbers

CRSP didn't let COVID-19 get in the way of its long-standing speaker series, and instead expanded its audience to over 3,700 attendees. The newly branded #CRSPcasts feature experts on race from around the country. Topics included race and the aftermath of the capitol siege, black infant mortality, and suburban schools among other issues. The entire CRSP speaker series catalogue is available on the [CRSP website](#).

## New Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion position created

### Associate Professor

James Huguley has been named as the Pitt School of Social Work's first Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADDEI)



will provide essential leadership and focus to support the ongoing efforts to cultivate a school that is welcoming and respectful of all people, and one that advances equitable, inclusive, anti-racist, and socially just aims and practices across the school's internal-and external-facing activities.

"I'm honored to be able to help facilitate this important work." said Dr. Huguley. "As a school we've made a commitment to being a just and anti-racist community, and to reflect both internally and outwardly. I am excited to collaborate with our faculty, staff, and students to do the inner- and outer- work necessary in making that vision more and more real every day."

In collaboration with the dean, the other associate deans, and academic and student leaders, the ADDEI will work to apply the anti-racist action plan to key strategic priorities, including: the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff; ensuring access to and success for historically oppressed students; planning and implementing faculty and staff culture-building and professional development efforts; and curricular content.

"I am extremely grateful that Jay has agreed to fill and help shape this critical role" said Dean Betsy Farmer. "Jay's own program of work around equity, inclusion, and justice, his experience within the Center on Race and Social Problems, and his demonstrated leadership within the school in tackling difficult conversations and creating space for important discussions all make him the right person for the critical work that we are doing. I look forward to working with him in this role to expand and sustain our efforts around equity, inclusion, anti-racism to create a truly welcoming and inclusive school."

# Child Welfare Resource Center expands anti-racist work

The [Child Welfare Resource Center](#) (CWRC) began to expand their race equity efforts more than a year ago, prior to the most recent wave of racial injustices that occurred in the United States. The events of 2020 drew renewed and expanded public attention to just how deeply embedded systemic racism is throughout the nation, including within the child welfare system. These events deepened CWRC's commitment to becoming an anti-racist organization as well as assist their stakeholders and collaborators across the state with their own efforts around race equity, while working to become a stronger, more equitable organization itself.

## Examples of anti-racism work this year included:

- Developed an internal race equity workgroup tasked with leading their efforts, inclusive of staff throughout the agency, as well as leadership at the highest level;
- Contracted with the Center for the Study of Social Policy to strategize about how to understand, embrace, and influence this work;
- Involved all staff in education, reflection, and discussion through an individual, organizational, and community lens;
- Completed an agency wide assessment on "Transforming Agency Culture" to learn more about perceptions, observations, and areas of focus;
- Included race equity a standing agenda item at monthly staff meetings, discussing topics such as: the desired future state for this work, working agreements, common language, the impact of race in everyday work, and racial color blindness;
- Leveraged the expertise of colleagues within the School of Social Work: Dr. James Huguley provided historical perspective regarding how to be color brave and Dr. John Wallace shared his race equity knowledge as well as an overview of the extraordinary work he is leading in the community of Homewood in Pittsburgh.

With this foundation, CWRC will be working to center racial equity in their services and products and incorporate antiracist policies and practices into who they are and what they do. CWRC will be advocates and contributors for systemic change in the child welfare system to address long-standing issues of racial disproportionality and disparities in intervention and service outcomes for black and brown children. Racial equity is essential to achieving their goals of safety, permanency, and well-being for all of Pennsylvania's children, youth, and families.

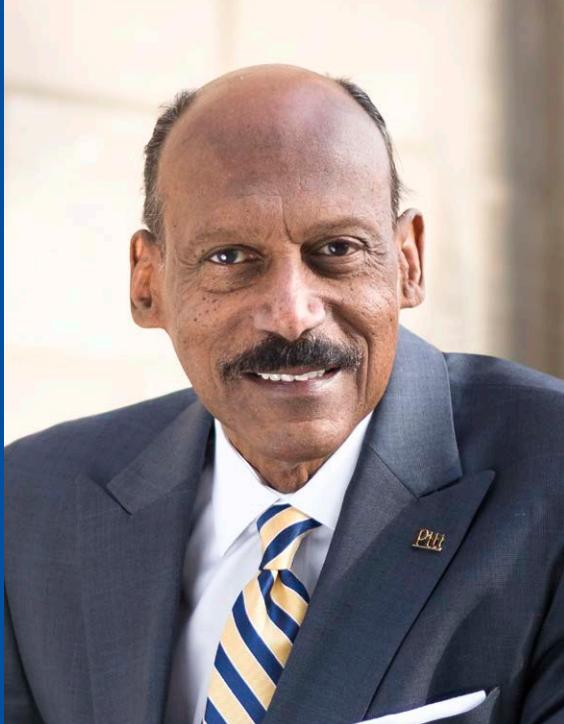
## Anti-Racism Virtual Summit 2021

Pitt Social Work co-sponsored the Anti-Racism Virtual Summit 2021 held March 16–18, and co-hosted by SWHELPER and CSWE. Sessions covered a multitude of topic including: "Disrupting and Dismantling Anti-Black Racism in Academia," "Immigrants, resettlement, and healthy societies," and "When BIPOC communities are harmed by the systems designed to serve and protect them."

[Sessions are still available to view online.](#)

## Accessibility efforts move ahead

The School of Social Work's electronic information technology (EIT) workgroup has become a university-wide leader in increasing accessibility to all electronic elements in the school and to partner with the university to assure full compliance with Electronic and Information Accessibility Policy and Procedures. Currently, the EIT workgroup is focusing on raising awareness and educating staff of the requirements for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance for the School of Social Work and Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center's websites, live events, and instructional training (including curriculum development).



# Remembering Dean Emeritus Larry E. Davis

**May 11, 1946 – March 30, 2021**

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work mourned the passing of [Larry E. Davis](#), dean of Pitt's School of Social Work from 2001–2018 and founding director of its Center on Race and Social Problems. Davis died on March 30, 2021.

When Davis arrived at Pitt in 2001, he was already recognized as a leading scholar of the narrative about race in America and its role in social justice. In his extensively published research, he explored such concepts as “the psychological majority” and “the racial tipping point,” which are critical to anticipating, understanding and constructively managing the impact of race on the dynamics of group interaction in a wide range of settings, including neighborhoods, schools and the workplace.

Under his leadership, the School of Social Work was ranked among the country’s top social work schools by U.S. News & World Report. He recruited faculty members with wide-ranging specialties, made the school’s doctoral program more rigorous and gained a reputation for being the kind of leader who helped others be successful.

Davis created Pitt’s Center on Race and Social Problems, the first such center to be created at any American school of social work. Its scholars conduct and disseminate applied social science research

on race, color and ethnicity and mentor emerging scholars on race-related social problems. Through its programming, the center regularly engages community leaders with current research relating to race.

One example of Davis’ leadership was 2010’s “Race in America” conference, which brought 1,300 scholars, researchers, students, leaders of industry, public officials, community leaders and others to Pitt’s campus to grapple with the problems of race and inequality that exist in America today.

“Dean Davis was clearly a larger-than-life figure who led this school and the field in ways that brought together his personal experiences with his keen ability to think deeply and profoundly” said current Pitt Social Work Dean Betsy Farmer. “His life and work had an incredible impact on so many people, and it is a true loss not only to his family, the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Social Work, but to all of the scholars and community leaders whom he has inspired with his work that was dedicated to challenging racism in our society. He was a mentor to many young academics over the years and has inspired the work of others throughout his career.”

# Continuing Education grant supports supervision to expand LCSW workforce



**Molly Burke Allwein** LSW, Pitt School of Social Work's director of professional education received a \$200,000 grant from the Staunton Farm Foundation to establish a Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) Training Institute and Licensed Social Work (LSW) supervision matching program in the greater Pittsburgh area.

This program specifically focuses on providing support to social workers of color, as well as those who work in rural or under-resourced areas or neighborhoods. The goal of this grant is to help LSWs who may not have opportunities to get supervised hours so that they can move towards LCSW licensure. It helps create equity in opportunities, licensure, advancement, and retention where LCSWs are desperately needed. The program team will recruit 4 LCSWs per year as a cohort of grant-funded learners who will enroll in the LCSW Supervision Training Institute (TI) at no cost to them.

The 4 LCSWs per year who are selected for the grant funded cohort and trained through the TI will commit to working with 4 LSWs each (also selected by the program team) for up to 4 years to provide group and individual supervision to them at no cost to the LSWs. The LCSWs will receive funding from this grant

to cover the cost of providing those supervision hours. By the end of the four years of this project, the TI will have produced 16 highly trained LCSWs able to provide quality supervision services to Pittsburgh area LSWs, and the supervision matching program will have sponsored the supervision hours of 64 LSWs in the process of earning their LCSW credential.

"I am so grateful for the chance to bring this innovative and exciting project to life, and to build the experience and capacity of social workers in the greater Pittsburgh area" said Allwein. "Social Workers are highly trained and educated professionals who work to enhance the well-being of all and particularly those who are vulnerable and oppressed. The behavioral and mental health expertise of social workers is even more critical for our world now than ever before, and we are thrilled to be able to add newly trained and licensed professionals to our ranks as a result of this funding. Our team is proud to partner with Staunton Farm Foundation and help advance this important mission."

Find more [Continuing Education](#) information on our website.

**“ I am so grateful for the chance to bring this innovative and exciting project to life, and to build the experience and capacity of social workers in the greater Pittsburgh area.**

# Faculty examine the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workers



News coverage of the effects of COVID-19 on low-wage workers has provided examples and stories of the myriad struggles and hardships they have faced. Many of these workers, deemed essential, continued to work despite health risks and challenging environments. Some received “survival” pay, a temporary bump in salary, while many have continued to work for low wages.

A new study by University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work faculty [Ray Engel](#), [Sara Goodkind](#), and [Jeff Shook](#) entitled “Assessing the Effects of COVID-19 on the Economic, Health, Mental Health, Workplace and Family Well-being of Health Care Workers” looked at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the well-being of hospital service, clerical, and technical workers and nurses.

Funded by The Heinz Endowments, the study utilized existing partnerships developed through the [Pittsburgh Wage Study](#), a longitudinal study of the effects of wage increases on service, clerical and technical hospital workers.

From March through May 2021, the researchers conducted a survey of 536 unionized nurses and healthcare service workers from four Pittsburgh-area hospitals. The survey asked a set of questions about a range of topics. Mental health measures included commonly used screens for depression (PHQ-2), suicidal ideation (Question 9 from PHQ-9), a

COVID-modified posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD-5), generalized anxiety disorder (GAD-7), and vicarious trauma (Vicarious Trauma Scale). Items related to personal and employment burnout (Copenhagen Burnout Inventory) and perceived stress (PSS-4) were also included. Descriptive statistics were used to report the percentage of respondents with a positive screen.

Findings have shown that COVID-19 made a tremendous impact on healthcare workers. Over one-quarter of all workers screened positive for depression, anxiety, and/or PTSD. One in 10 workers reported suicidal ideation. Nurses and healthcare service workers reported similarly high levels of anxiety, depression, PTSD, and suicidal ideation. Nurses also reported significantly more vicarious trauma and work-related burnout than do healthcare service workers, though both groups experience these at high levels. Finally, both nurses and healthcare service workers reported high levels of personal burnout.

“There is no question that the percentage of positive mental health screens are high compared to the general population and that 10% of the respondents report suicidal ideation should be of immediate concern” said Dr. Ray Engel. “At a minimum, the hospitals should make accessible on-site mental health services, identify ways in which the hospital can provide self-care activities during work time, and more broadly examine hospital practices that exacerbate the stress and burden on these workers.”



## Academic Excellence and Innovation

### BASW and MSW programs reaffirmed

BASW and MSW Programs were reaffirmed with flying colors. In the midst of an extremely complex year, it was also time for the MSW and BASW programs' reaffirmation of their accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Self-studies for the reaffirmation process are always useful for self-reflection, and in the midst of this year's focus on racial justice and public health, it was particularly insightful to engage in this challenging process. "After the 18-month self-study process, it was extremely fulfilling to have both our MSW and BASW program reaffirmed until 2028," said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Helen Petracchi. "This continues over a century of accreditation for our MSW Program and almost half a century of continuous accreditation for our BASW Program — one of the first accredited baccalaureate programs in the country."

### 12-month Advanced Standing MSW program

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work now offers a 12-month Advanced Standing program starting in Fall 2021.

Pitt's Advance Standing (AS) students now have an additional option. In addition to the long-standing 3-semester AS option (fall, spring, fall), students can now complete the AS Program in 12 months (fall, spring, summer).

Students who have received a BSW/BASW from a CSWE-accredited undergraduate program are eligible for advanced standing.

"Students can complete their undergrad and graduate degrees in 5 years. It is a savings of both time and tuition. We know that graduate school is a significant commitment, and we're excited that this additional option will provide more students with the opportunity to achieve their goal of an MSW degree," said Associate Dean for Student Success Keith Caldwell. "We also know that an MSW is a great way to advance your career. For working professionals, a part-time enrollment option allows you to complete the MSW in a little more than three years."



# Browne Fellows adapt during a challenging year



The [Browne Leadership Fellows Program](#) is an interdisciplinary fellowship aimed at preparing students, who are not social work majors, to be engaged civic leaders working to advance economic and social justice

This year ten, undergraduate students were placed in the Pittsburgh area communities of Garfield and Millvale. Fellows' fields of study ranged from finance, urban studies, and political science to applied developmental psychology, neuroscience, and rehabilitation science.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, partner agencies adapted and hosted students using a hybrid model of both in-person and virtual student learning experiences. For summer 2021, two teams of Browne Fellows were immersed in the community, learning alongside youth, parents, and seniors in projects focused on

- environmentalism: conservation; hydrology; solar energy; tree adoption; and urban gardening
- community development: food insecurity; public safety/crime prevention; and community engagement (PRIDE/outreach/inclusion)
- and resident needs: quality and affordable housing; childcare (afterschool and summer); quality educational options (literacy/arts in education); and access to human services

During the course of their placements, the fellows led some impressive initiatives including supporting efforts to raise awareness and funds to purchase 150 acres of greenspace for conservation; conducting research and mapping potential for large-scale solar panel installations on commercial properties; and providing in-person and virtual STEM instruction to youth enrolled in arts-based summer camp, among other projects. The fellowship is designed to orient non-social work students to learn and embrace social work values and understanding into their chosen professions and futures.



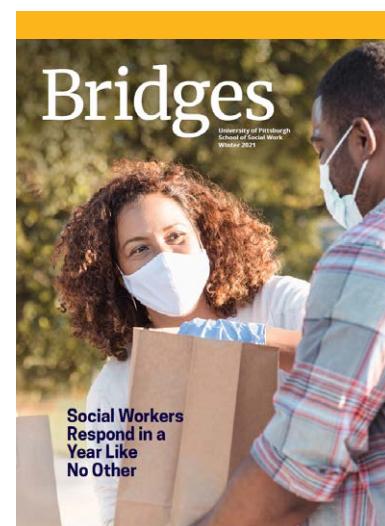
## New fellowship opens doors for students

Professor [Daniel Rosen](#) (PI), along with Drs. Rafael Engel, and James Huguley (Co-Is) have received a new award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for \$1,871,836 to provide specialized behavioral health workforce training to Pitt School of Social Work Master of Social Work (MSW) students.

Approximately one in six young people have a behavioral health condition and more than 20% of adolescents have considered suicide. For those youth who are exposed to trauma, violence, and adverse experiences, the rate of mental health problems, substance misuse, and suicide is even higher. The long-term developmental ramifications of behavioral health challenges cause difficulties in school and work, and are associated with poor physical health and well-being. Yet, more than half of youth with a treatable mental health disorder do not receive counseling or treatment. According to Dr. Rosen, “this grant will play a critical role in training the next generation of social workers to address the crises in behavioral health among young people”.

This new award will address the critical shortage of trained behavioral health providers, and in doing so the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work will design a didactic and experiential educational program to increase the number of MSWs equipped to address youth behavioral health needs in high need and high demand areas. The Behavioral Health Scholars Program (BHSP) will prioritize experiential training for MSW students in interprofessional field settings including integrated primary care clinics, federally qualified health centers, school-based mental health programs, tele-behavioral health organizations, and other community based mental health agencies.

Key community partners include Adolescent Medicine at UPMC, Homewood Children’s Village, and the Squirrel Hill Health Center.



### Bridges magazine goes digital

Bridges magazine is now available online at the new [Bridges website](#).

The cover story focuses on alumni and SSW responses to the dual pandemics of 2020.



# Selected Recently-Funded Research and Training Highlights

## Mental health

- Assistant Professor Nev Jones is engaged with The OnTrackNY Early Psychosis Intervention Network (EPINET) award, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The award funds a state-wide learning healthcare system spanning 23 specialized early psychosis programs across New York state. The award funds numerous mixed methods practice based research and quality improvement projects; current sub-projects Dr. Jones leads include an effort to understand clients' experiences of self-reported data collection and measurement-based care; and the implementation of young adult peer support. These efforts link to the broader national NIMH-directed [EPINET initiative](#).
- Assistant Professor [Travis Labrum](#) is an awardee of the Steven H. Sandell Grant Program, administered by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Approximately 700,000 adults with a mental illness have their Social Security benefits managed by a representative payee, with roughly three-fourths of representative payees being family members. Through qualitative interviews of adult beneficiaries with mental illness and family representative payees, the funded project will explore participants' perspectives for how satisfaction with representative payeeship can be strengthened and how challenges can be ameliorated.

## Community and well-being

- COSA Chair and Associate Professor [Mary Ohmer](#) is Co-PI and Site Co-Lead on the new *Child/Youth Thriving Matrix: A community-level strategy to reduce youth violence* grant funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The project will assist high-risk youth and families and promote resilience and equity in communities that have recently faced civil unrest through implementation of evidence-based violence prevention, and community youth engagement programs, as well as linkages to trauma-informed behavioral health services. Partners include the Allegheny County Department of Human Services and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.
- Assistant Professor [Deborah Moon's](#) Family Success Network (FSN) is a project to develop and test a tiered approach to community-based maltreatment prevention. The FSN is funded by a Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families grant to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund from the Children's Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families. The goal of the FSN is to offer comprehensive primary child maltreatment prevention services through a single-access-point program in three under-resourced counties in Ohio with high maltreatment rates (Mahoning, Columbiana, Trumbull counties). As a Co-PI and a Site-PI of the project, Dr. Moon is overseeing the implementation study as part of the process evaluation of the FSN program in collaboration with other PIs at Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University.

## Education and Justice

- Over the past year, The Just Discipline Project (JDP), led by Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion James Huguley, built on its previous success by establishing four new partner school sites across the region at Wilkins STEAM academy, Turtle Creek Steam Academy, Duquesne City Elementary School, and Machester Academic Charter School. They also continued their work with their Flagship partner at Dickson 6-8 Steam Academy. Their efforts were supported through an ongoing grant from The Heinz Endowments, and their research-to-practice partnership with The Pittsburgh Study at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Additionally, the JDP spent last year developing a trauma-responsive intervention that is supported by an internal grant from the Chancellor's SEED awards.

## Dissertation funding

- Doctoral candidate [Dashawna J. Fussell-Ware](#) received a grant from The Staunton Farm Foundation to assist with the implementation of a survey on mental health literacy among Black youth living in Allegheny County. Several community organizations, including Steel Smiling, Inc., The Mentoring Partnership, and The Boys & Girls Club of Western Pennsylvania have signed on to be partners in this work. Fussell-Ware's project focuses on adolescents and transition-age youth between the ages of 12 and 25. Formal data collection is expected to begin in October 2021.
- Doctoral candidate [Laurenia Mangum](#) has received a new grant award entitled, "Contraceptive use decision-making and uptake among Black women living with HIV" from the Society of Family Planning. This award is part of the Emerging Scholars in Family Planning Grant and the study will explore contraceptive use attitudes and health-seeking behaviors among Black mothers living with HIV in the United States. This will be a companion study to her more extensive parent dissertation study examining the impact of network structures and social determinants on HIV care and outcomes among Black caregivers living with HIV.

# By the Numbers



University of  
Pittsburgh

School of  
Social Work

## \* Educational Excellence



largest child welfare  
program in the country



and oldest standing  
community organizing  
program in the country

177

The School provided 177 paid training  
and pre-doctoral fellowships

totaling more than **\$1.9 million**  
**dollars** in student support for FY 2021.

## \* 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.



students  
of color



full-time faculty  
members are  
faculty of color

## \* Scholarship & Research

3 research centers

Center  
on Race  
and Social  
Problems  
(CRSP)

Child  
Welfare  
Resource  
Center

Center for  
Interventions  
to Enhance  
Community  
Health  
(CiTECH)

over  
**\$2 million**

+  
in research expenditures

52 active  
research  
projects

&  
Child Welfare Education and Training  
programs support students and training  
across the state of PA, totaling  
over **\$30 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  
**205,000**  
field placement hours  
to service agencies and  
organizations worth over  
**\$5.85 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

**6,200**

Continuing Education  
program attendees

over  
**350** sponsored or  
co-sponsored programs



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