



March is Social Work Month

March 2024

Adapted from NASW

Submitted by: Andrea Merovich

Our nation needs social workers more than ever.

Homelessness is on the rise. The opioid addiction crisis has hit the United States hard, impacting all races, regions, and economic levels. Suicide too has risen, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Social workers are uniquely qualified to handle these societal troubles. Social workers enter the profession because they truly want to help others. They go through years of education, training, and supervision so they can do the delicate but important work of meeting people where they are and helping them achieve their goals.

Social workers are also trained to help individuals, families, communities, and even the larger society if regulations and laws must be changed in order to help people who need it. You will find social workers everywhere – in schools, hospitals, and at the federal, state, and local levels of government, corporations, social service agencies, and veteran centers.

The demand for social workers is reflected in the statistics. Did you know that by 2030 there will be more than 782,000 social workers in the United States? This makes social work one of the fastest growing professions in the country.

However, social workers need support to meet the high demand for their vital work. That is why the Social Work Month theme for 2024 is Empowering Social Workers!

Visit NASW’s Social Work Month webpage, <https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Social-Work-Month>, for everything you need to celebrate and support this month: videos, sample press releases, a sample letter to the editor, logos, advice, a social media toolkit, and President Biden’s official Social Work Month announcement.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

EMPOWERING SOCIAL WORKERS!

Inspiring Action, Leading Change

CWRC Technology Update: Please note that the Resource Center's help desk email address has been updated to HELPCWRC@PITT.EDU.

Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) Recruitment

Submitted by: Laura Borish

County Internship Coordinators: Please partner with us and encourage Social Work undergraduate students to apply for the CWEB Program!

Information about CWEB is included on the flyer, which can be shared with students from any of our partner schools: Bloomsburg University, California University, East Stroudsburg University, Edinboro University, Kutztown University, Lock Haven University, Mansfield University, Marywood University, Millersville University, Shippensburg University, Slippery Rock University, Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh, West Chester University, and Widener University.

Scan the QR code on the flyer or click on the following link to go to our website: <https://www.socialwork.pitt.edu/researchtraining/child-welfare-programs/child-welfare-education-baccalaureates>

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Supporting
outstanding child
welfare caseworkers
since 2001!

Child Welfare Education For Baccalaureates (CWEB)

CWEB's goal is to strengthen public child welfare services in Pennsylvania by educating and arming undergraduate social work majors interested in a dynamic and exciting career in public child welfare who are enrolled in a participating school of social work.

Participant Benefits

- Fully paid tuition and fees for your senior year
- Fellowship payments of \$600 a month for 8 months.
- Upon hire in a county child welfare agency: A bonus payment of \$640 or \$2,200 if completing a Civil Service Intern position (975 internship hours)
- \$100 book allowance for your child welfare class
- Smooth transition from student to employee: Training and child welfare internships are highly valued by counties looking for caseworkers
- \$200 reimbursement for LBSW registration and exam fees

beginning
complete field county
gain opportunity
helpful internship
tuition work help
supervise time
experience
worker student
casework hour
good training shadow
learning graduation
career experienced ample



If you would like to learn more, scan the QR code to the left with a smartphone or access our website at <https://tinyurl.com/CWEBInfo>

INTERESTED?

Application Deadlines:

April 30 for Fall Admittance

November 15 for Spring Admittance

Contact your school social work faculty or email cwerp@pitt.edu for details!

Bridge Update

Submitted by: Kari Giles

New or Coming Soon to Bridge

- There is a new INA toggle switch in the demographic employment screen. This option is only visible to C&Y agency liaisons and trainees who have a role of middle management or executive. The question states: “If this worker does not carry a caseload, nor supervise someone who does, and should not receive an INA, click the toggle to off”. If this toggle switch is turned off, the INA will not go to the trainee’s queue.
- INA plans/reports are currently under development.

Important Announcements

- The Bridge TBL Project is currently underway. We anticipate its launch in early summer of 2024.
- **INAs were released on March 1st** for the following counties: Beaver, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Clarion, Crawford, Cumberland, Elk, Fayette, Greene, Juniata, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Pike, Snyder, Sullivan, Venango, and Warren.
- This is a great time to make sure your active agency staff information is correct. You can do this by viewing the “Active Staff” report in Bridge.
- Please make sure your trainees’ information is correct, including their supervisor’s name.
- As a reminder, liaisons are CC’ed on all INA notifications, however, the supervisors are the ones that need to approve the INA in their “**Approval Queue**”. Unless they directly supervise the worker, **liaisons will NOT see the trainee’s INA** in their “**Approval Queue**”.
- When a trainee leaves your agency, please make sure to enter a “**Termination Date**” in their demographics, otherwise the trainee will continue to be incorrectly associated with your agency.

Agency Hire Date *

1

/

31

/

2022

Which of the following best describes your role under the Agency? If your role is unknown, please keep the default of Direct Service Worker. *

Direct Service Worker

Effective Date of Current Role *

1

/

31

/

2022

Termination Date

MM

/

DD

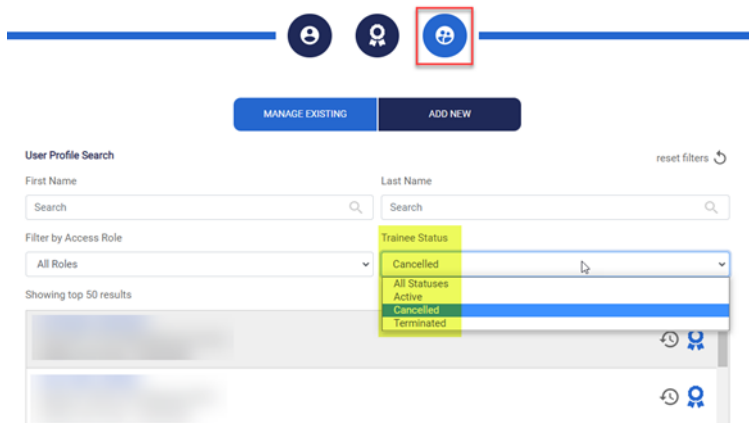
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- Please make a point of looking for any trainees that are in “**Cancelled**” status. Go to the “**Manage Users**” screen, click on the “**Trainee Status**” dropdown, and select “**Cancelled**” (see screenshot below). Trainees that are in this status are typically missing demographics information, for example, their date of birth, email, or a “**Termination Date**” (see previous bullet point). Once you have checked their demographics information and filled in any blanks, please contact Kara Muir via the Bridge Helpdesk at BridgeHD@pitt.edu to have the trainee’s record resolved.



The screenshot shows the 'Manage Users' interface. At the top, there are three circular icons: a person, a group, and a plus sign. Below these are two buttons: 'MANAGE EXISTING' and 'ADD NEW'. The main section is titled 'User Profile Search' and includes search fields for 'First Name' and 'Last Name'. There is also a 'Filter by Access Role' dropdown set to 'All Roles'. A 'Trainee Status' dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Cancelled', 'All Statuses', 'Active', 'Cancelled', and 'Terminated'. The 'Cancelled' option is highlighted. Below the dropdown, it says 'Showing top 50 results' and there are some blurred table entries.

For Further Assistance

- For anyone who would like to set up a one-on-one Bridge training via Microsoft Teams, please contact BridgeHD@pitt.edu. This training can be for new liaisons or for anyone who may need a refresher.
- We would also love to hear any feedback, suggestions, and ideas you may have about Bridge via our online form at <http://forms.cwrc.pitt.edu/BridgeFeedback/>.
- If you have any technical issues or questions, please email the Bridge team at BridgeHD@pitt.edu.



Opportunity to Participate in a Research Project

Submitted by: Marlo Perry

Recruitment continues for our research project entitled, “*Supporting Superwomen: Emotional Labor, Gendered Racial Microaggressions, and the Superwoman Schema in Black Female Child Welfare Professionals.*” Funded through the School of Social Work’s Center on Race and Social Problems, this grant builds on earlier research on emotional intelligence competencies in Pennsylvania child welfare professionals (CWPs), and is led by Marlo Perry, Helen Cahalane, and Deb Gadsden.

We know that emotional labor (faking and/or suppressing emotions) is inherent in child welfare work. However, there is an additional layer of emotional labor for Black women working in child welfare, who are faced with navigating gendered racial microaggressions — or even outright racism — in their daily work, whether by colleagues, leadership, and/or families on their caseloads. We want to better understand how these experiences relate to elements of emotional health, professional well-being, and commitment to the field. Findings from this project will be used to develop trauma- and racially-informed supports and interventions for these valuable members of our workforce.

Participation involves completing various surveys (some daily over a two-week period on your computer and an invitation to participate in a focus group or interview. *Eligible participants are Black females who are employed by a Pennsylvania public child welfare agency, carry a caseload, and are at least six months post-certification.* Participants will be compensated. Interested participants can sign up for an information session to learn more: <https://bit.ly/SupportingSuperwomen>. They can also contact Dr. Marlo Perry directly with questions: map225@pitt.edu.



Regional Team Contact Information

Our local number is 717-795-9048

Our fax number is 717-795-8013

Registration and winter weather number 1-877-297-7488

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