

Volume 12

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

December 2025



THE EAGLE



ADVOCATE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTH CAROLINA
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY'S SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

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Why Social Work?



Social workers help people of every age and background, all across the country. The most well-known aspect of the social work profession is providing direct services or therapy directly to clients. We help guide people to critical resources and counsel them on life-changing decisions. We also advocate for change to improve social conditions and strengthen the social net.

EAGLES SERVE

<https://www.nccu.edu/cash/social-work>



INSIDE THE SOCIETY



BSW Social Work Society

2025 Fall Executive Board

President- Ayanna Dennis

Vice President- Jada Jones

Recording Secretary- Caela Harp

Corresponding Secretary- Jocelyn Burrell

Community Service Chair- Khloe Bigger, Summayah

Jones and Haliyah Marcell

Event Coordinator- Shaniah Littlejohn (Honorary

Member: London Powers)

Public Relations Chair- Niyehma Garland

Membership Coordinators- Amaur Hill and Kzaria

Watson

Miss Social Work Society- Fantasy Stokes

Mister Social Work Society- Jaden Thomas-Edwards



Event Highlights

- Pumpkin painting/ Pumpkin carving bonding event
- Coronation of our Miss and Mister
- DV Voices against violence
- Study session
- "Sip Happens" collab with psychology club
- "You Matter" table for mental health during 10:40 break
- Fundraising table during 10:40 break
- Jazz and Community: a collaborative dance class
- Case and Effect (November 10th)
- Community Service (November 12th)
- End of the semester Reflection Circle

Welcome Message

Hey Social Work Fam!

We're so proud of everything we've accomplished this semester so far. From our bonding events to welcoming new members, it's been a busy semester of connection and growth. As we head into the end of the semester, remember to take care of yourselves and stay motivated! We've got plenty of exciting things coming up!

— Ayanna Dennis, President

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THE CHANGE MAKERS CHRONICLE

Social Work Graduate Student Association



Welcome Message

Hey Social Work Fam!

We are so proud of everything we have accomplished this semester! From our Welcome Back Kickback, to our Master Capstone Project Series, to welcoming over 20 new members, it's been a busy semester full of connection and growth. As we head into the spring semester, remember to take care of yourself during the winter break, keep going, and stay motivated! Please keep an eye out for all of the exciting events we are having!

- Ceaira Gillis, President

2025 Fall Executive Board

President

Cierra Gillis

Vice President

Robert L Perkins Jr

1st Year Vice President

Tya Blake

Secretary

Khaliyah Ingram

Treasurer

Acacia Kenion

Parliamentarian

Carlos Bryan

Community Outreach Coordinator

Santana Jones

Faculty Advisors

Dr. Banks



Event Highlights

- MSW Beginning of the Year Kickback
- Master Capstone Series : Intro literature review
- Master Capstone Series: Free Knowledge
- Thanksgiving Food Giveaway

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CLASSROOM GUEST SPOTLIGHT

Transformative Dialogue in Social Work Education



Dr. LaMarcus D. Howard, PhD, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center at North Carolina Central University, joined MSW students enrolled in the Social Work and Psychopathology course for an engaging and impactful class session.



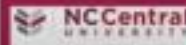
Dr. Howard's interactive discussions:

- The pressing mental health concerns impacting today's college students
- Leadership lessons drawn from his academic and professional path—from BSW to PhD
- Strategies for effective advocacy to reduce mental health stigma and barriers to care
- Integrating social work practice, research, and transformative leadership for students pursuing clinical careers
- This visit offered a meaningful and transformative learning experience

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Howard serves as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at North Carolina Central University, leading the Student Health and Wellness portfolio. He oversees services including the Student Health Center, Counseling Center, Accessibility Services, and Recreation and Wellness Center, advancing holistic well-being and student success. Dr. Howard earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University, and BSW and M.Ed. degrees from Central Michigan University. A scholar-practitioner, mental health advocate, he researches access, persistence, and leadership in higher education and frequently presents nationally. A Flint, Michigan native, he enjoys travel, sports, fitness, concerts, and time with family and friends.

SOCW 6135
SOCIAL WORK & PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
NC CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



LaMarcus D. Howard PhD

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Celebrating a Legacy

Dr. Larry Williams

Congratulations on your retirement! We are deeply grateful for everything you have contributed to this university and to the Social Work Program. Your leadership and dedication have carried on a proud 17-year legacy, leaving an impact that will be felt for years to come



Please take a moment to share a video or message to Dr. Williams using this QR Code:



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Social Work Superstars: BSW & MSW Edition



Ayanna Dennis

The Community Impact Student Award recognizes students with strong community involvement, the ability to inspire peers, and evidence of sustainable impact. Ayanna was praised as a natural advocate for positive change—participating in March to the Polls and supporting her peers through the BSW application process, which led to the highest number of applications the program has ever received. She also helped organize a campus program to raise awareness about domestic violence and educate students on how to respond if they or someone they know were affected, handling the topic with notable care and tact. In the community, Ayanna interns with the Durham Center for Senior Life.



Austin Reaves 🏆

Austin accepted a paid summer internship with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) through its Experiential Learning & Opportunity Internship Program (ELOIP). Over the 10-week program, he worked with the Division of Social Services on a project that incorporated experiential and project-based learning. The internship helped him build skills in problem-solving, collaboration, organization, data analysis, and project management, while also offering seminars, presentation practice, and an end-of-summer immersion event.

ELOIP was part of NCDHHS's workforce development initiative to grow the number of professionals supporting North Carolina's systems of care, including social work, health education, nursing, behavioral health, environmental health, and other human services fields.

INTER-PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENTIAL (IPE) SIMULATION PRACTICE A Milestone for NCCU Social Work & Nursing Departments



NC Central University
Department of Social Work
SOCW 6115

MSW students enrolled in Dr. Penny Carroll's Social Work and Psychopathology course piloted a 5.0-hour interprofessional (IPE) experiential simulation at NCCU's School of Nursing Eagle General Hospital. This highly engaging, immersive experience enhanced students' clinical assessment skills, understanding of primary and provisional diagnoses and working as a professional team.

A key goal of this initiative was to promote cultural humility, leadership and field readiness from classroom learning to applied clinical practice.

Through the IPE collaboration, students gained meaningful insight into both client and practitioner perspectives while reflecting on competency-based practice relevant to real-world settings.

Sincere thanks to Professor Caitlin Eckert, MSW, LCSW, Dr. Tina Scott, DNP, PMC-NE, CHSE, RN, and our outstanding MSW students for making this inaugural collaboration a success.

More collaborative initiatives are planned for 2026

"Through simulation, social work education becomes experiential, reflective, and transformative—ensuring students are not just prepared for the field, but ready to lead within it."

— Dr. Penny Carroll

Fieldwork Friday



SECU Grantees

Ms. Moore, Field Director, led a handful of BSW students as grantees in the SECU Foundation's Public Fellows Internship Program. Through that opportunity, social work students from NCCU gained hands-on experience working with vulnerable populations in North Carolina communities. It culminated in an event this fall where students presented their experiences and personal impact to the SECU board. This event highlighted real world social work in action, giving students chances to provide services, learn professional skills, and contribute to community well-being.



NC Central
UNIVERSITY

Department of Social Work

ONE SCHOLAR. ONE FUTURE. YOUR LEGACY

Give \$25 for 2025

In honor of the academic year 2025, we are inviting alumni and friends to pledge \$25 toward scholarships for students in the department. Your gift may feel small but combined with others it becomes textbooks, tuition support, and opportunities that shape the next generation of social workers.



www.nccu.edu/institutional-advancement/giving-online

Select "Social Work Program" from the drop down menu

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Fall 2025 Graduates

BSW Graduates

Naomi Acklin

Karina Acuenteco-Perez

Andrea Grier *

Yontiana Hardison *

Haliyah Marcelle

KaMya Montgomery

Angelia Pinkard

Ana Rivera Rios

Taleeya Tapp

Shimiea Williams



MSW Graduates

Rakeeme Baldwin

Aaron Jones

Nicholas Major

Fanny Navarro

Charity Philips

Tai Pruitt

Taylor Semple

Congratulations!

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*Happy Holidays
&
Happy New Year
Social Work Family*