

**Graduate School of Social Work
University of Denver**

<http://www.du.edu/socialwork/index.html>

**Faculty Research and Training Projects
2009-2010**

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Faculty Research and Training Projects, 2009-2010**

Faculty members in the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) conduct research in diverse substantive areas affecting individuals, families, and communities. In 2009-2010, faculty investigations addressed children, youth, and families, youth development and adolescent behavior, gerontology, health and mental health, the human-animal connection, neighborhoods and communities, international development, education, and multicultural studies.

Faculty received 27 external research and training grants and contracts totaling approximately \$3.5 million dollars in 2009-2010. University of Denver sponsored projects totaled some \$19.7 million dollars in 2009-2010, all through its academic departments. GSSW represented almost 16 percent of this total, making the school one of the leading divisions at the University of Denver in terms of externally supported projects. In 2009-2010, the GSSW Butler Institute for Families managed child welfare training, research, and technical assistance projects totaling approximately \$2.9 million, among the highest volume of sponsored activity for any single group at the University. Faculty projects in the areas of at-risk youth, mental health, community practice, international development, and gerontology accounted for the remaining external funding in the past year. External funding for faculty research and training projects came from a variety of federal and state sources in 2009-2010. Among the largest contributors were the U.S. Department of Human Services Children's Bureau and Office of Minority Health. Groups such as the John A. Hartford Foundation, Piton Foundation, and the United Nations Center for Regional Development also made significant contributions to GSSW research in the past year.

Several GSSW faculty members successfully accessed the University of Denver's internal grant system to support their scholarship in 2009-2010. GSSW faculty members received approximately \$47,000 in internal research awards from the Center for Multicultural Excellence, Center for Teaching and Learning, Office of Internationalization, Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning, and Faculty Senate (Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty) in the past year.

Current faculty research and training projects are described below. For information concerning these investigations please contact:

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Children, Youth, and Families

Project and Description:

Denver's Village: Wrapping Families in Community Support Evaluation

This project is a process and outcome evaluation of the five-year diligent recruitment grant received by the City and County of Denver. This goal of this investigation is to increase the number of resource family homes for children in the care of Denver Department of Human Services that reflect the race, color, and national origin of children in care. The Denver program is a community-based, neighborhood, child centered approach involving community collaboration with Denver's four Community Collaborative Partnership Centers and the Denver Indian Family Resource Center.

Principal Investigator:

Michele D. Hanna, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Children's Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families
2008–2013: \$300,000

Project and Description:

Foster/Adoptive Identity: The Journey from Foster Care to Adoption

The purpose of this study is to explore and gain further understanding of the meaning and experience of young adults who were adopted from the United States foster care system at an older age (8 years or older). A mixed methods study, tangible outcomes for these youth (self-esteem, well being, and mental health) will also be explored. This study expands on the preliminary concept of foster/adoptive identity that emerged from a smaller pilot study on adoptive identity.

Principal Investigator:

Michele D. Hanna, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

GSSW Research Committee
\$5000

Project and Description:

Communication Privacy Management and Adoption

This project is a collaborative effort between faculty from the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work and Human Communications Department. The project examines how adoptive parents of children from China and Vietnam manage their privacy related to the adoption of their children.

Investigators:

Mary Claire Morr Serewicz, Ph.D.
Elizabeth A. Suter, Ph.D.
Michele D. Hanna, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

University of Denver Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty (PROF) Grant

Project and Description:

Honoring the Tradition of Strong Indian Families

This program offered by the Denver Indian Family Resource Center utilizes family preservation services to low-income American Indian parents to strengthen family resources and prevent unnecessary out of home placement. The intervention model includes features of wrap around services, such as a team decision making meeting and individualized treatment plan and intensive case management. The program evaluation for this grant will focus on what lessons can be learned from an intensive analysis of change over time, measured both quantitatively and qualitatively, for the families served.

Investigator(s):

Marian Bussey, Ph.D.,
Nancy Lucero, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Denver Indian Family Resource Center, \$30,000

The Butler Institute for Families (<http://www.thebutlerinstitute.org/>)
Cathryn Potter, Executive Director

Project and Description:

National Workforce Institute

Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5-year project involves serving as the evaluation partner for a national child welfare leadership and workforce development project. As evaluator, the Butler Institute serves on the management team for the National Workforce Institute (Katharine Briar Lawson, PI), takes part in collaborative knowledge management and assessment activities, and serves as the evaluation team for all NWI activities.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2008-2013; \$1,810,262

Project and Description:

Mountains and Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center

Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5-year project is a collaborative effort with the University of Texas at Arlington and the Native American Training Institute. Butler Institute program managers lead the Region Eight technical assistance projects and serve as evaluators for the project. The implementation center will award some 5 million dollars to states and tribes for system change initiatives.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2008-2013; \$906,000

Project and Description:

Western Workforce: A Comprehensive Workforce Intervention

Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5-year project tests a workforce assessment and intervention model focused on organizational health in three western sites, urban, rural and tribal. The project also embeds a child welfare stipend program in each of the sites.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2008-2013; \$2,500,000

Project and Description:

National Resource Center for Tribes

Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5 year project creates a National Resource Center for Tribes which will become the Children’s Bureau Network's focal point for coordinated and culturally competent child welfare training and technical assistance to Tribes. In partnership with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI), the Indian Child and Family Resource Center, and The Native American Training Institute, Butler Institute serves as the Project evaluator.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2009-2014; \$278,846

Project and Description:

Preventing Re-Victimization among Young Women in Foster Care

This project tests an intervention with adolescent young women in foster care aimed at preventing re-victimization in dating relationships. The project is a collaboration between the University of Denver Department of Psychology and the Butler Institute.

Investigator(s):

Anne DePrince, Ph.D., Principal Investigator
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D., Co-Investigator

Sponsor:

National Institute of Justice
2009-2012; \$750,000

Project and Description:

Denver Village

A collaborative project with Denver Department of Human Services, this project focuses on the recruitment and retention of adoptive and foster families.

Investigator(s):

Michele Hanna, Ph. D.

Sponsor:

Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.

2008-2013; \$300,000

Project and Description:

Colorado Child Welfare Research and Training Project

These seven contracts with the State of Colorado provide technical assistance and professional development to Colorado’s child welfare system, including development and delivery of the major portion of the Colorado Child Welfare Training Academy, for new and experienced workers, , advanced training for human services managers, collaborative research with state and county agencies and child welfare MSW stipends.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Colorado Department of Human Services

2005-2011; \$3,791,536 = 1,388,071 (for 2011)= \$5,109,607.

Project and Description:

Jefferson County Service-Integration Project Evaluation

This three-year project evaluates the effectiveness of a service integration intervention focusing on child welfare and TANF services. The project includes a random assignment study of a parent-mentoring program, and development and testing of manualized intervention protocols aimed at reducing minority over-representation in child welfare services. The Butler Institute for Families serves as the independent evaluator.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.

2007-2012; \$150,000

Project and Description:

Trainer’s Boot Camp

The Trainer’s Boot Camp is an intensive, weeklong, professional development program for child welfare trainers developed by the Butler Institute for Families. This set of contracts brought the Trainer’s Boot Camp to Washington, DC, and to the Indiana and Colorado child welfare systems.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsors:

Participant Fees

2008-2011; \$50,000

Project and Description:

MVP (Most Valuable Player) Incentive Program Evaluation

The Jeffco Youth Project and the Supporting People in Need Foundation (SPIN) is working with TANF eligible students in Jefferson High School and their families to pilot an incentive program to improve academic skills, increase motivation, and give recognition to students who may not have performed well in the past. Students receive monetary incentives for meeting program expectations for attendance, after-school activity, credit accumulation, and CSAP proficiency. Te Butler Institute for Families is evaluating the program’s impact on student participant outcomes such as GPA and grades, attendance, behavior, and CSAP performance.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor: SPIN Foundation

2008-2010; \$45,000

Project and Description:

Community Infant Program Evaluation

The Community Infant Program (CIP) is a cooperative effort of the Boulder Departments of Mental Health, Social Services and the Health Department. CIP is a preventive-intervention

service that aims to improve parent-child health outcomes, promote positive parent-child relationships and prevent child abuse and neglect. The program's evaluation includes the examination of multiple family outcomes including family functioning, maternal and child mental and physical health outcomes, child social-emotional developmental outcomes, social service involvement, home environment, parenting, family support and resource use.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Boulder Department of Mental Health
2009-2010; \$25,000

Project and Description:

Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS)

This collaboration with the University of Denver's IAALS provides data analysis support to national research initiatives focused on the federal court system.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

IAALS
2009-2010; \$11,000

Project and Description:

Northeast and Caribbean Implementation Center (NCIC)

This project provides the NCIC with technical assistance in support of their Massachusetts Implementation Project. Work focuses on development of a structured system and training to assist supervisory staff in the use and management of data in the conduct of their jobs.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Northeast and Caribbean Implementation Center (NCIC)
2010-2011; \$32,000

Project and Description:

Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center (ACCWIC) Mississippi Project

This project provides the ACCWIC with technical assistance in support of their Mississippi Implementation Project. Work focuses on organizational assessment and training to enhance supervisory staff performance in all aspects of their jobs.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center (ACCWIC)

2010-2011; \$14,000

Project and Description:

State of Georgia

This system evaluation and technical assistance project assists the Georgia State University and the State of Georgia Department of Children and Family Services to develop, implement and to provide ongoing evaluation for their child welfare training system.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Northeast and Caribbean Implementation Center (NCIC)

2010-2011; 102,000

Project and Description:

Hawaii Supervisor Project

This project provides technical assistance, curriculum development and training of trainers to implement an updated and Hawaii-specific training package for supervisors.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Hawaii PACT

2010: \$59,448

Project and Description:

Minority Over-Representation Project

This collaborative research project with the Denver Department of Human Services and the Denver Juvenile Court examines service and outcome patterns for families served by the juvenile court. Findings will be used to guide program development aimed at reducing minority over-representation in child welfare court cases.

Investigator(s):

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Denver Department of Human Services
2010; \$39,996

Youth Development and Adolescent Behavior

Project and Description:

Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development

Using a positive youth development approach, this project focuses on youth leadership development at three public housing communities. The project provides a group of youth with the tools for active participation in developing programs at a youth center through the Bridge Project, and evaluates the outcomes of this effort.

Investigator:

Inna Altschul, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

University of Denver, Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning
2007-2009; \$10,000

Project and Description:

Hispanic families in the Fragile Families Child Well-being Study

Using data from the Fragile Families Child Well-being Study, this project focuses on identifying risk and protective factors associated with child maltreatment in Hispanic families with a particular focus on the role of acculturation.

Investigator(s):

Inna Altschul, Ph.D.
Shawna Jo Lee, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

Academic Outcomes of Mexican American Youth: Establishing an Evidence Base for Policy and Program Intervention.

This project focuses on developing and assessing a comprehensive model of school, family, and individual factors that underlie academic outcomes among Mexican American youth with the goal of developing policy and programmatic interventions to improve academic outcomes for this population. The comprehensive model is based on a synthesis of social science evidence across multiple disciplines and is tested using data from the National Educational Longitudinal Survey.

Investigator:

Inna Altschul, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

Assessing Civic Engagement in Children and Adolescents

The goal of this project is to develop and validate a measure of civic engagement for use with children and early adolescents.

Investigator(s):

Nicole Nicotera, Ph.D.
Inna Altschul, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

Assessing Suicidal Intentions of Troubled Youth

The measurement of suicidal intent is crucial for effective interventions and valid research, yet the predominant measure of suicidal intent has shown mixed results with adolescents. This study uses quantitative and qualitative measures with adolescent psychiatric inpatients to better understand how to assess suicidal intent in young people. The study is a collaboration with John Peterson, M.D., the chief psychiatrist of Denver Health and Hospitals' adolescent inpatient psychiatric unit.

Investigator(s):

Stacey Freedenthal, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

University of Denver, Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty Fund
Total (2007-2009): \$13,995

Project and Description:

Empowering Disadvantaged and High-Risk Youth: A Community-University Partnership in Public Housing Communities

A risk and resilience framework for understanding and preventing adolescent problem behaviors is being used to implement a university-community partnership aimed at providing academic enrichment, personal development and wellness, cultural enrichment, and career development activities and interventions to 75 high-risk youth and parents residing in three public housing communities in Denver. Longitudinal data collection assessing the effects of project interventions on academic performance and other behavioral outcomes began in 2006.

Investigator:

Jeff Jenson, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2006-2009; \$800,000

Project and Description:

Comparative Studies of Risk and Resilience

The nature of risk and resilience among samples of Japanese, Korean, and African college students are examined in these ongoing investigations.

Investigator(s):

Julie Laser, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

Evaluating Arts Programming for Youth Empowerment

This project uses a quasi-experimental design to examine the efficacy of youth arts programming for academic and civic outcomes of at risk middle and high school in Denver neighborhoods. The study engages two community partners, the Bridge Project (<http://www.du.edu/bridgeproject/>) and Art from Ashes (www.artfromashes.org).

Investigator(s): Nicole Nicotera, Ph.D.

Sponsor: University of Denver, Public Good Fellow grant.

Project and Description:

Public Achievement and Civic Learning of Denver Middle and High School Students

This project is evaluating the civic learning outcomes for high school students who participate in the Center for Community Engagement (CCESL) Public Achievement (PA) program. PA is a program that places DU undergraduate students in Denver public schools where they work with youth who learn to conduct community research in order to create change on an issue the youth select.

Investigator(s):

Nicole Nicotera, Ph.D.

Frank Coyne, Associate Director of CCESL

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

Risk and Resiliency among Sexual Minority Youth

This is a community-based, collaborative project with Rainbow Alley, a program of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Colorado which provides a comprehensive array of services to youth. Using secondary data analysis, it explores various patterns of risk and resiliency among sexual minority youth. Current aspects of the project include examination of cutting behavior in the population, the role of gender nonconformity in

increased risks, the protective impact of gay-straight alliances and utilization of different services, and explanations for differing degrees of educational engagement.

Investigator(s):

N. Eugene Walls, Ph.D., Julie Laser, Ph.D., Kristie Seelman, MSW, Sarah Nickels, MSW, Stephanie Bell, Cynthia Hazel, Ph.D., J. P. Reyes, M.A., and Hope Wisneski, MSW.

Sponsor:

Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning, University of Denver: \$41,831.

Gerontology

Project and Description:

PROGRESS: Providing Real Opportunities for Gero-rich Experience in Social Work Services: Practicum Partnership Project Grant.

The central aims of this project are to generate interest among social work students in working with older adults and their families by increasing their exposure to this area of practice through a specialized training stipend program. Selected through a rigorous application process, stand-out students participate in rotation model competency-based geriatric social work field education. Dr. Reed and Ms. Stark (Project Director) work closely with a set of Field Instructors whose expanded role positions them as educational partners in this exciting work. This program offers students rich educational experiences both in the field as well as through integrative seminars and intensive workshops related to geriatric social work. Interest in geriatric social work in general and specifically in the PROGRESS program has grown steadily since its inception.

Investigator(s):

Colleen J. Reed, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

John A. Hartford Foundation (Administered through the Social Work Leadership Institute at the New York Academy of Medicine).

2006-2009: \$75,000

Project and Description:

Geriatric Social Work: Building Capacity with Evidence-based Practice

Nationally, the older adult population grows at unprecedented rates. Social services for older adults are often lacking and/or overburdened. The aims of this project are to forge dynamic partnerships between the university and service providers, engage our community partners --- providers of services to older adults and families, increase the understanding of evidence-based

practices, and foster and support the capacity in organizations by connecting existing services with the body of evidence and envisioning intervention innovations.

Investigator(s):

Colleen J. Reed, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Colorado Health Foundation, Denver, CO. 2007-2009: \$85,000

Health and Mental Health

Project and Description:

Safety Strategies and Coping Skills among Homeless Young Adults

Through mixed quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, this study examines trauma experienced on the streets among homeless young adults. The study builds on previous research investigating the role of transience and substance abuse as both coping methods as well as precipitants to trauma experiences and posttraumatic stress disorder. Approximately 200 young adults in shelters, drop-in services, and transitional housing will participate in Denver, with similar data collection taking place in Austin, TX and Los Angeles, CA. Findings will inform development of a brief trauma-focused psycho-educational group to help youth protect themselves and cope with trauma experiences on the streets.

Investigator(s):

Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

University of Denver, Faculty Development Fund
\$3000; 2009-2010.

Project and Description:

Going Home after Katrina: Evacuation and Displacement for FEMA Trailer Residents

While those residents of New Orleans who were able to evacuate and rebuild have been able to resume their lives in their home city, thousands of the poorest residents, those without cars or too sick to leave before the storm, remain scattered throughout the states, with little hope of ever being able to return. This study is based on interviews with a group of evacuees who lived in the largest FEMA trailer court until the day it closed, and focuses on their experiences, their access to services and basic resources, and their plans to find a home.

Investigator:

Marian Bussey, Ph.D.
Carol Plummer, Ph.D. (LSU)
Laura Jewett, Ph.D. (LSU)

Sponsor:

GSSW Research Committee; \$3,000

Project and Description:

Post Trauma Transformation in Social Work Students

This project is based on analysis of data at two time points 3 and 9 months after the community disasters caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Students at five social work programs in the Gulf Coast states completed surveys that assessed their the nature of the stressors they experienced during the disaster, as well as risks and protective factors and their relationship to a measure of post-trauma transformation.

Investigator(s):

Marian Bussey, Ph.D.
Carol Plummer, Ph.D. (LSU)
Catherine Lemieux, Ph.D. (LSU)

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Human-Animal Connection

Project and Description:

The Colorado Link Project

This study works toward developing sustainable efforts at data collection assessing the prevalence of animal abuse in Colorado. The collaboration defines existing practices and describes how current animal abuse issues are addressed from initial report to final disposition. The second year of the project focuses on development of an educational curriculum and associated handbook. Emphasis will be placed on having these materials accurately reflect the most critical needs for first responders and to assist systems and multi-disciplinary participants to work effectively together to reduce abuse toward animals and the subsequent impact on human health. At completion of the final year a statewide strategy will be established for dissemination of the standards and guidelines.

Investigator:

Philip Tedeschi, MSW

Sponsor:
Animal Assistance Foundation
2009-2010; \$200,000

Neighborhoods and Communities

Project and Description:

Neighborhoods, Health, and Hardship

The study is an examination of the social determinants of health and hardship in low-income urban neighborhoods. Specifically the study tests the effects of concentrated disadvantage, neighborhood social cohesion and informal neighborhood social control on the material hardship and mental health of mothers living in low-income neighborhoods.

Investigator(s):

Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description

Civic Leadership and Moral Action: Multicultural Leadership Strategies that Strengthen the Capacity of Community to Enact the Common Good

Civic leadership has always been an important factor in motivating and mobilizing individuals and groups in society to facilitate creating the good life for citizens. This qualitative project seeks to understand the process of individuals in civic leadership roles as they move from moral vision, values and beliefs to moral action taken within the public realm. The research also examines how context - institutional influences, social relationships, cultural influences, and leadership capacity - impact leadership behavior and vision. The purpose of the project is to offer new insights into the critical process of moral development, moral identity, and moral behavior of leaders, and describe the strategies used to produce civic action. The results will inform the development of a training model for civic leadership.

Investigator

Susan S. Manning, Ph.D.

Sponsor

Center of Civic Ethics, University of Denver
Not currently funded

Project and Description

The Evaluation of Denver Housing Authority's Park Avenue HOPE VI Revitalization Project

This HOPE VI project replaces public housing with newly constructed and expanded units of mixed income housing. The study is a five-year process and outcome program evaluation that examines the impact of the project on the lives of former/returning residents of the public housing units and the lives of those in the surrounding community.

Investigator(s):

William Cloud, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Denver Housing Authority, \$30,000

Project and Description:

Models of Women's Community Organizing

This qualitative study examines models of community organizing used by women's organizations in Colorado and Western states.

Investigator(s):

Jean East, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

GSSW Research Committee, \$2,500

Project and Description

Child Care Cliff Effect Study

This study examines the experience of low income women and families in four Colorado Counties. The project focuses on women's experiences with the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program and their strategies for managing potential loss of benefits. The results of the study are being used for policy legislation for 2010 in Colorado.

Investigators:

Jean East, Ph.D.

Susan Roll, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Women's Foundation of Colorado and the Kellogg Foundation.

2007-2009; \$29,000

International Development

Project and Description:

Human Security in Northern Kenya: Assessment, Capacity-Building and Operational Tools to Promote Sustainable Livelihoods and Conflict Management

The work of this project on human insecurity in North Rift and North East Kenya aims to reduce vulnerability and increase human security of communities affected by conflict in Northern Kenya by building the capacity of the community and empowering vulnerable groups affected by conflict through identification and promotion of sustainable livelihood and conflict management strategies. The rationale for capacity building and conflict management is to empower people through exchange of information, promotion of knowledge and building of skills for improved livelihoods and to enable the local community to deal with conflicts in a sustainable manner. Through identification and promotion of both sustainable livelihood and conflict management strategies, the project attempt to address the two aspects of human security: freedom from fear (conflict) and freedom from want (creation of sustainable livelihoods).

Investigator(s):

James Herbert Williams, PhD, Jack Jones, PhD
Asfaw Kumssa, PhD, United Nations Centre for Regional Development

Sponsor:

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO., United Nations Centre for Regional Development. Nairobi, Kenya. 2008-2011; \$150,000

Education

Project and Description:

Methods for Integrating Evidence Based Practice into the MSW Curriculum

This study introduces an innovative technology to teach MSW students to utilize empirically-supported interventions in providing mental health treatment to children and adolescents. The study investigates the utility of the tools for MSW students, learning outcomes associated with this instruction, and students changes in attitudes toward Evidence Based Practice (EBP). A second phase of the study also integrates the latest methods for teaching the Evidence Based Practice Process into a required research sequence, examining students' changes in attitudes, acceptance, and plans to use EBP in their practice associated with this new EBP instruction.

Investigator(s):

Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Denver; \$20,000

Project and Description:

Technology and Social Work Education

This research is a two-year project that includes three studies on technology integration in social work education. The first study is a mixed method study that includes a survey and focus groups of Deans at social work schools in the United States to get leadership and organizational perspectives on technology in social work. The second study engaged a faculty development process as a learning community with six GSSW faculty and two staff, and the third study involved the same group in the delivery of social work classes using web based technologies.

Investigator(s):

Walter LaMendola, Ph.D.

Jean East, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

Center for Teaching and Learning; \$20,000

Project and Description:

Teaching and Learning about Privilege

This project explores various aspects of the issue of privilege in the context of graduate education and social work practice. It explores learning trajectories and ally social identity development, themes in resistance to examining and challenging privilege, and the impact of education about privilege on social work practice.

Investigator(s):

N. Eugene Walls, Ph.D., Nicole Nicotera, Ph.D., Susan Roll, PhD, Kristie Seelman, MSW, and Sarah Nickels, MSW.

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

Barriers to Full Citizenship: Transgender Experiences on Colorado Campuses

This is community-based, collaborative project with the Colorado Anti-Violence Program, explores various types of barriers that trans-identified and gender variant students, staff, and faculty experience on college and university campuses in Colorado that inhibit or prevent their full participation and citizenship in campus communities.

Investigator(s):

N. Eugene Walls, Ph.D., Kristie Seelman, MSW, and Sarah Nickels, MSW.

Sponsor:

University of Denver, Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning; \$7,359.

Project and Description:

Exclusionary Practices in Social Work

Historical research aimed at understanding the history of segregation in social work education prior to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Investigator(s):

John Kayser, PhD

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

The History of Social Work Training in Colorado, 1890-1935

Historical research examining the early history of social work training in Colorado.

Investigator(s):

John Kayser, PhD

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Multicultural Studies

Project and Description:

Narratives of Liberation and Resistance: A Qualitative Study

This project will capture the narratives of a diverse collection of people in Cuernavaca Mexico. A purposive sample of identified persons who represent various aspects of social justice activism will be interviewed to explore their stories of liberation and resistance and to capture and deconstruct the pathways that led participants through experiences of oppression to liberation.

Investigator:

Lynn Parker, Ph.D.

Sponsor:

University of Denver, Internationalization Office
2009-2010; \$2,000

Project and Description:

Exploring the Experiences of Parenting for Gay and Lesbian Latinos

This research investigates the influence that being gay or lesbian and Latino/a has on the experience of parenting within the context of a dominant culture paradigm. The study focuses on the strengths used by parents developed out of their cultural identities (queer and Latino) and applied to their parenting styles, goals, and philosophies. .

Investigator(s):

Debora Ortega, Ph.D., MSW
Michael Chifalo, MSW (Ph.D. student)
Jennifer Boeckel, MSW (Ph.D. student)

Sponsor:

Not currently funded.

Project and Description:

State of Latinos: Immigration

This policy research report presents data on recent patterns of migration and settlement; dispels pervasive myths about immigrations and immigrants and attitudes toward immigration based on poll data from the last several years; assesses the cost associated with enhanced boarder enforcement; reviews recent immigration legislation and presents recommendation for a comprehensive immigration reform policies

Investigator(s):

Lisa Martinez, Ph.D. (Sociology)
Debora Ortega, Ph.D., MSW

Sponsor:

Fundacion Azteca America
