



# Department of Social Work

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## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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Please visit our Social Work  
Department website to for con-  
tact information, and get learn  
more about our Social Work  
program, the profession of So-  
cial Work, and some great pro-  
fessional resources at:

<http://www.tsu.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/colabs/social-work/index.html>

## Message from the Interim Department Chair



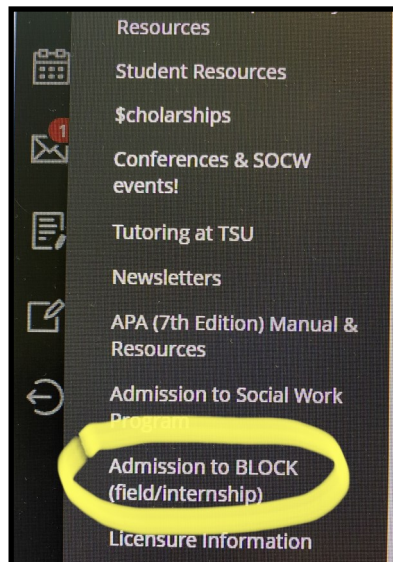
This Spring 2022 semester, we enjoy celebrating two special months: *Black History Month* in February, followed by *National Social Work Month* in March! During this time, I encourage our students, faculty, staff, and alumni to CELEBRATE their personal and professional identities!

This semester, it was a great honor for me to participate in the HBCU Alumni Association's "2022 HBCU College Fair" to recruit our next cohort of TSU Tigers, who are interested in careers in the social and behavioral sciences! It was a full day of special guests (including Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressman Al Green, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and Houston ISD Superintendent Millard House II), networking with agency providers and other HBCUs across the country. The best part of this event was meeting with all the parents and high school juniors and seniors! It was so energizing to witness how excited they were about choosing their majors AND how passionate they were about receiving an education at an HBCU.

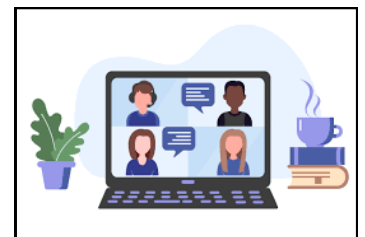
I am grateful to be able to share all the wonderful things about our TSU Social Work program, the accomplishments of our social work faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and all of the benefits of becoming a servant leader in the profession of Social Work! I hope you all join me in sharing with others you meet all the many reasons to choose a social work major at TSU- the *BEST* HBCU ever! **Go Tigers!**



## It's THAT Time of Year... Social Work BLOCK Admissions!



It's the time of year when junior-level students begin the process of applying for senior-level BLOCK. This year, the application submission and interview will be held **completely online!** All of the information about the BLOCK application process can be found in the "Admission to BLOCK" tab, located in the Social Work Majors BlackBoard. Interviews with Ms. Ifueko will be held in April. We are looking forward to preparing our juniors for a smooth transition to the senior year!



## Celebrating our Social Work “Class of 2022”

These future social workers have worked hard for the last 2-4 years to reach their Block year and are excited about all they have accomplished so far! Their field placements include a variety of agencies that provide services to children, families, older adults, and addressing issues such as HIV/HCV, substance use, mental illness, homelessness, bullying, and domestic violence.

2022 Commencement ceremony, *HERE WE COME!*



## Senior Class Out in the Community!

Senior Seminar Presentation...



Working with community partners during internship...



## Celebrating our Social Work Alumni

**Fernando Medrano, B.A., MSW** (Class of 2019)  
 Victim Witness Counselor, Travis County District Attorney's Office



My name is Fernando Medrano, and I'm currently a Victim Witness Counselor for the Travis County District Attorney's Office. In my current role, I assist survivors throughout the criminal justice process in ensuring they are informed of court proceedings, their rights, and that they are connected with the adequate resources that can assist in alleviating bio-psycho-social concerns.

The criminal justice process can oftentimes be a lengthy, complicated, and critical time for survivors, and I am there to provide survivors with further support and assistance.

On a daily basis I incorporate a strengths-based perspective and utilize motivational intervention skills to empathize with survivors and empower them throughout what could be a very stringent process. I also provide crisis intervention and safety plan with survivors to emphasize survivor's physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing. I am a part of a team here at the DA's office in that I work side by side with prosecutors and investigators to ensure that we are incorporating a survivor centered approach where survivor's voices are being heard and that their rights, needs, and wishes are being met.

Texas Southern University's Social Work program adequately provided me with the very much needed essential tools to have success in all of my future endeavors. After my time at Texas Southern, I obtained my MSSW at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin. Now I am currently studying to sit for the LMSW exam. I've never felt more ready to go about challenging social injustices and doing what is needed to bring about progressive change amongst our communities. This couldn't have been a reality if it weren't for the rigorous program and masterful professors at TSU's Social Work department. From the beginning of my professional career, I am constantly reminded of lessons learned at from my time at TSU and I will forever be grateful. Not only am I extremely appreciative towards everything TSU was able to do for me, but I am also as appreciative for everything TSU's Social Work department has been able to provide to previous alumni and future alumni, as I'm sure we are all making a quality difference for the lives of many others.



**Stephani Brodi, B.A.** (Class of 2021)  
 UH Graduate College of Social Work, MSW Student

Stephani has been highlighted in social media for her work as the student leader for the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy "CRISP Student Advocacy Day" in March, 2022!

While in the TSU Social Work program, her passion for macro-practice was evident in and out of the classroom. Stephani is now in graduate school, transforming her passion into action! Way to go, Stephani!



UH Graduate College of Social Work
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**CRISP STUDENT ADVOCACY DAY | SOCIAL WORK MONTH:**

The [Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy - CRISP](https://crispinc.org) (CRISP) presents its annual Student Advocacy Day on the Hill on March 10th.

This virtual event is a great opportunity for students to connect with other social work students to learn more about federal-level policy advocacy.

Our own student Stephani Brodi is a student leader for this event.

LEARN more about registering: <https://crispinc.org/2022-student-advocacy-day/>

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VIEW a GCSW-compiled a list of college, local, & national events that will take place during our favorite time of year: [bit.ly/SWMonth2022-Events](https://bit.ly/SWMonth2022-Events)

TELL US how you plan to celebrate. Share your plans and who inspires you to be a better social worker here: [bit.ly/GCSW-SWMonth2022Form](https://bit.ly/GCSW-SWMonth2022Form)

### Alumni visit with current seniors

Every year, our esteemed Social Work alumni give back to the TSU Social Work program by serving as Guest Speakers in some of our senior classes. Our alumni give the current seniors talk about their experience at TSU, graduate school, and in the workforce. Mentoring the current seniors by providing recommendations and sharing lessons learned helps to motivate our seniors and give them tips about how to increase success as students and professionals!

Below are some of the TSU Social Work alumni who have come to speak with our senior class this academic year. We are so grateful to you!



Tiffany Luna, B.A. (Class of 2021)  
Community Liaison  
City of Houston Health Department



Calvin Vannoy, LCDC, B.A. (Class of 2021)  
Veterans Service Officer  
Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office



Brittany Earthman, MSW (Class of 2019)  
Student Support Manager at  
Communities In Schools



Jamie Banks, LMSW (Class of 2019)  
Care Coordinator at The Harris Center for Men-  
tal Health and IDD

## Featured Community Resources

THE **TSU CAREER SERVICES CENTER** IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR OUR STUDENTS TO GET HELP WITH WRITING PROFESSIONAL RESUMÉS, JOB SEARCHES, MOCK INTERVIEWING, NETWORKING AND... FREE PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS TO CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI!

FOR MORE INFORMATION → → [HTTP://WWW.TSU.EDU/STUDENTS-SERVICES/DEPARTMENTS/CAREER-SERVICES/INDEX.HTML](http://www.tsu.edu/students-services/departments/career-services/index.html)

THE **BAKER-RIPLEY NEIGHBORHOOD TAX CENTERS** OFFER FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EARNING UP TO \$58,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION → → [HTTPS://WWW.BAKERRIPLEY.ORG/SERVICES/BAKER-RIPLEY-TAX-CENTER](https://www.bakerripley.org/services/baker-ripley-tax-center)

THE **HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD** OFFERS A FREE HELPLINE FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING DEPRESSION AND/OR ANXIETY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION → → CALL (713) 970-7000

**FAMILY HOUSTON** OFFERS FREE FINANCIAL COACHING FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO INCREASE THEIR FINANCIAL LITERACY. ALL SERVICES ARE FREE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION → → [HTTPS://FAMILYHOUSTON.ORG/](https://familyhouston.org/)

**PAPERPENCILPEN.ORG** IS A HOUSTON-BASED AGENCY THAT PROVIDES FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO COLLEGE STUDENTS IN-NEED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION → → CALL 281-777-1395



## What's NEW in the Department???

- ⇒ Our TSU Social Work Department has developed 5 new agency partnerships, which serve as internship sites for our senior social work majors. Some of these new agency partners include: Etoile Academy Charter School, Kazahs Emergency Shelter, Bethel Christian Academy, Christian Community Service Center, and District B Community Services.
- ⇒ The Social Work Department has a LOT of helpful student resources ONLINE, in the Social Work Majors blackboard. These include community resources, scholarships, and jobs for social work majors! Social work majors not on this blackboard should email a request to be added to Dr. Willis at: [Nicole.Willis@tsu.edu](mailto:Nicole.Willis@tsu.edu)
- ⇒ Ms. Lewis, the Administrative Assistant for the Social Work Department, has been promoted to the position of Interim College Business Administrator, which is housed in the Office of the Dean! Congratulations, Ms. Lewis!
- ⇒ Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, TSU Debate Coach and Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Social Work was featured in the Houston Chronicle newspaper last September, in a story entitled, *"I Am Indeed My Brother's Keeper": Texas Southern Debate Coach Inspires Empathy, Caring for Others*". This article describes Dr. Batiste-Roberts' dedication to helping families in the child welfare system and her passion for teaching and leading at TSU. Dr. Batiste-Roberts makes all of us TSU Proud!

## Celebrating Social Work Month!

Happy Social Work Month to all our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Field Instructors! We are so happy to celebrate the profession of Social Work with you all, and we hope YOU share the story of social work with others in the community! You can utilize a variety of the below resources to help tell **our** story!

### Sample Press Release:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=792arn4NVqo%3d&portalid=0>

### Social Media Toolkit:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Social-Work-Month/Social-Media-Toolkit-for-Social-Work-Month-2022>

### Logos and Zoom backgrounds:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Social-Work-Month/Social-Work-Month-2022-Logos>

### Social Work Month Videos:

<https://youtu.be/R6NYI1Uvn08>  
<https://youtu.be/JBjz0ix190w>  
<https://youtu.be/ONHRV0pvA7g>  
<https://youtu.be/6KG95P79w98>  
<https://youtu.be/R6tCCY3tLqU>



There are a variety of student organizations that social work students can join this year, focusing on leadership and service! These include: the Social Work Student Organization (SWSO), ABSW, and Phi Alpha Honor Society (Xi Mu Chapter). Students are encouraged to learn more about requirements for how to join any of these student organizations for the 2021-2022 academic year by visiting their organization tabs in the in the Social Work Majors Blackboard!



**Congratulations to the Department of Social Work Phi Alpha Honor Society 2021-22 Inductees!**

