

# Social Work Alumni Network

Issue / 03/ Spring 2023

# NEWSLETTER

The Chicago State University Department of Social Work

[www.csu.edu/socialwork/](http://www.csu.edu/socialwork/)



## Dr. Doris Perry, PhD, MSW

Founding Chair of CSU's MSW Program

Unbeknownst to her, Dr. Perry didn't expect to one day leave Michigan to start a legacy here in Chicago. "I found interest in working at CSU after a friend encouraged me to join in developing the MSW program." Inspired by her own experience, Dr. Perry sought out to make the program one that would be remembered. "The proudest moment of my career was obtaining my MSW. It was a big deal. Back then having a MSW was the equivalent of a Ph.D."

As the program evolves, Dr. Perry shares her thoughts about effective Social Workers. "An effective Social Worker is knowledgeable and confident. When you have these two things, you're going to be able to make the most impact."



## Alumni & Faculty Spotlight

# The First Ladies

Meet our First Ladies of the MSW Program at CSU - Dr. Doris Perry, the first Director of the CSU's MSW program and Ms. Candy Bennett, Alumna, first graduating class and current Director of Academic Advising at CSU. Dr. Perry & Ms. Bennett are change agents of our time who deserve this spotlight.

Catch a glimpse of why they chose CSU and their vision for the program.



## Candy Bennett, MSW

CSU Director of Academic Advising & 2001 MSW Alumna

Similar to Dr. Perry, Ms. Bennett found her way to the newly founded MSW program via encouragement from faculty members. "I won't forget Dr. Joan Hill & Dr. Perry encouraged me to apply to the program. I was concerned at first. My background was in Psychology, but most of my experience was Social Work, as I worked with seniors in the community. I was told by Dr. Hill & Dr. Perry 'we need advocates like you; we need change agents.'"

For any future Social Workers, Ms. Bennett would like to share that an effective Social Worker "needs to have humility. You may have knowledge and book sense, but don't forget that people you work with may not be in that book. Take time to see and understand the person in front of you."



# 2022 - 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Big congratulations to  
**Jitim Young**  
Dr. Rasheed Scholarship Awardee  
&  
**Colt Scroggins**  
Gladys Scott Scholarship Awardee



## GET INVOLVED

We want to meet our fellow Alumni & get your fresh ideas on how to make the Network even better. Let us know your thoughts by taking the survey below!

**TAKE SURVEY**



UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSION

Post MSW  
PEL School Social Work  
Licensure

May 3, 2023, 5:30 PM CT  
Join the Zoom here  
<https://www.csuedu/socialwork/>

The Master of Social Work program aims to foster, strengthen, and renew lifelong relationships by engaging Alumni and others who support the Master of Social Work program at Chicago State University. Help us raise money for Alumni events & MSW scholarships! Support the mission and donate by clicking the link below.

**DONATE**



# CELEBRATING Our Network!



## Dr. Jennifer M. Doucet, DSW, LCSW, MSW

2013 MSW Alumna

Class 2013 Alumna, Jennifer Doucet currently serves as a Co-Chair for our Alumni Network. Jennifer is now Dr. Jennifer Doucet as she just recently defended her dissertation for her Doctorate in Social Work!

Her dissertation is titled "KNOWLEDGE, MISTRUST, AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN ADULTS IN ILLINOIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS. A QUALITATIVE PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY."

Jennifer is set to graduate in May of this year. Congratulations Jennifer!

## Julio Lopez, LCSW, MSW

2020 MSW Alumnus

"I graduated from the MSW program at Chicago State University in the Spring 2020 semester. I found myself working in the nonprofit sector of mental health where under LCSW supervision, I was able to obtain my required hours and establish my study habits to apply and take the LCSW exam as soon as possible. My studying paid off and I was able to pass my exam on the first try in August 2022. I wasted no time in finding a new career and I am happily working as a psychotherapist at a skilled nursing facility here in Chicago (a 15 minute drive from me!). As a psychotherapist, I have become a consistent presence in my patients' lives where I find myself providing mental health support and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive, and developmental disorders using my specialized and advanced clinical training and skills. It is a career path I never imagined myself doing, but one that I find very rewarding when progress and positive change is evident in the life of my patients."



## TRENDING:

- If you have received your MSW, don't wait to apply! [Apply for your social work license today!](#)
- CSU's Faculty went on strike... Click here to see CSU's official statement. [What They're Saying vs the Facts](#)
- **FREE CEUs!** click [here](#) to register for "The Trauma of Racism" virtual workshop hosted by Centerstone May 17, 2023



**Let us know if another CSU Social Work Alum deserves a shout out!!!**

email us at  
[mswalumnet@csu.edu](mailto:mswalumnet@csu.edu)

Feel free to email us at [mswalumnet@csu.edu](mailto:mswalumnet@csu.edu) if you would like to post upcoming community events and resources, opportunities to earn CEUs and trending news here .

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