

Director's Message



The **School of Social Work** has been through some leadership changes and updates. Celeste A. Jones is the current director of the school, Michele Eggers is the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) director, Meka Klungtvvet-Morano and Chelsea Cornell are the co-directors of the Master of Social Work (MSW) program, and Molly Calhoun is the distributed learning coordinator. Although Vincent Ornelas has now shifted to only teaching, we would like to thank him for his many years of service as the BSW director. We have two new faculty, Cindy Vang and Juni Banerjee-Stevens, we received several new grants, and the Advisory Board held a Town Hall: Building Our Social Work Community forum on April 20. The forum discussed feedback from our curriculum review survey, asked for more feedback, and seek gaps in the curriculum.

This newsletter is the first of many and is sponsored by the School of Social Work Advisory Board. We will have at least one newsletter a year, and more if possible. This is our attempt to let the community know what the School of Social Work, the faculty, the students, and our alumni have been up to.

This issue you will be introduced to our new faculty, learn about alumni, our students in practicum, what the faculty are currently working on, our recent grant awards, events in the community, and more!

Sincerely,

Celeste

Celeste A. Jones MSW, PhD

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Student *Success*

The California State University Statewide Research Competition

The School of Social Work is proud to announce that two of our amazing MSW students Jennifer L. Miller-James and Christopher Robinson were selected to compete after presenting their research at the [37th Annual Student Research Competition](#). This competition is sponsored by the Adelante Student Club, the Office of Graduate Studies, and Instructionally Related Activities, and highlights excellence in student scholarly research and creative activities via 3-minute or 10-minute student presentations—ten winners from the 10-minute presentations advance to the statewide CSU Research Competition, which takes place on April 28 and 29 in San Diego, CA. Both Jennifer and Christopher were selected to compete at this statewide competition.

The Chico State School of Social Work acknowledges the hard work, passion, and commitment it takes to produce this level of quality research, which will inform our social work field and practice. Thank you for your dedication and determination Jennifer and Christopher, have a great time in San Diego! Please check out a summary of the research these students have produced ([linked to the right](#)).

Presenter: Jennifer Miller-James, Graduate Student in School of Social Work

Paper Title: [Social Factors that Affect the Lived Experiences of Birthing People](#)

Committee chair: Sue Steiner

Committee Member: Michele Eggers



Presenter: Christopher Robinson, Graduate Student in School of Social Work

Paper Title: [Child Welfare Social Worker Retention: The Relationship of Secondary Trauma and Pandemic Stressors](#)

Committee chair: Susan Roll and Judy Vang

Committee Member: Chelsea Cornell

Lt. Rawlins Merit Award

MSW student Stephanie Gaito is one of ten students across the university to receive the 2022—2023 Lieutenant Robert Merton Rawlins Merit Award. Each year, faculty members nominate students based on their scholarship, involvement in extracurricular activities, and outstanding accomplishments. Nominations are based upon these standards, long with evidence of students' sincere intent to complete their education, increase their personal knowledge, and to achieve success in every aspect of their lives.

"Stephanie Gaito is an impressive students who exemplifies excellent ethics and integrity. She is known to be honest with herself and those around her, and constantly assesses her bias and privilege. In situations where social injustice is present, Ms. Gaito is the first to speak up and advocate for social justice and equity. Her actions speak to who she is: selfless, loyal, fair, respects others, respects herself, caring, compassionate, responsible, hardworking, patient, motivates others, expresses gratitude, values openness, is accountable for her actions, flexible, reliable, helps those in need without any expectation of repayment, exemplifies appropriate behavior in the classroom and within the community, and has instilled a sense of trust and support within our program. Stephanie embodies the characteristics and behavior of a Lt. Robert Merton Rawlins recipient and it is an honor to have taught and mentored her in her social work education." -Judy Vang, lecturer, School of Social Work

ALUMNI

Where are they Now?

Meet **Dominique Silva Soares, MSW Class of 2022**

"I always knew I wanted a master's degree because I knew my compensation would increase if I had one; what I didn't realize was that by pursuing an MSW at Chico State, I was going to meet professors that were going to assist me with stepping entirely out of my comfort zone and help me to put work into my passions that were once just thoughts. I have a cousin I watched graduate from the MSW program 10 years ago. She was a single mother of four who worked for Butte County Juvenile Hall, and I wanted to be just like her. Years later, after gaining employment with Butte County's Children Services Division, I was informed of the Title IV-E program. This program covered the cost of an MSW as long as one committed to being employed with the agency. I was accepted into the program in 2020 and completed it in 2022. Although child welfare didn't work out for me, practicing social work in higher education is exactly where I'm supposed to be, at least for now".

Dominique is currently an Admissions Specialist/Advisor for the Educational Opportunity Program at Chico State. She facilitates a training titled "Check Yourself" on practicing self-awareness when it comes to personal biases in hopes of fostering inclusivity on and off campus. She also is a member of the MLK Unity group. This past February, the MLK Unity group collaborated with the Chico State Black Student Union and put together an event called "Victory in Unity." This on-campus event kicked off Black History Month and honored the work of Martin Luther King, showcasing African American talent in our local community.

There was an estimated 300 community members in attendance. Recently, Dominique had her first article, "Being Black/African American in a Predominantly White Workforce: Challenges, Barriers and Lessons Learned," published in a journal of student research and creative work through the Chico State Adelante Program. That same week, she was accepted into the doctorate program at California Baptist University for Organizational Change and Administration. Congratulations Dominique!

Dominique's short-term goals are to continue supporting first generation, low-income, marginalized, and students of color in higher education. Her long-term goals are to continue promoting diversity and inclusion in predominantly white workspaces.



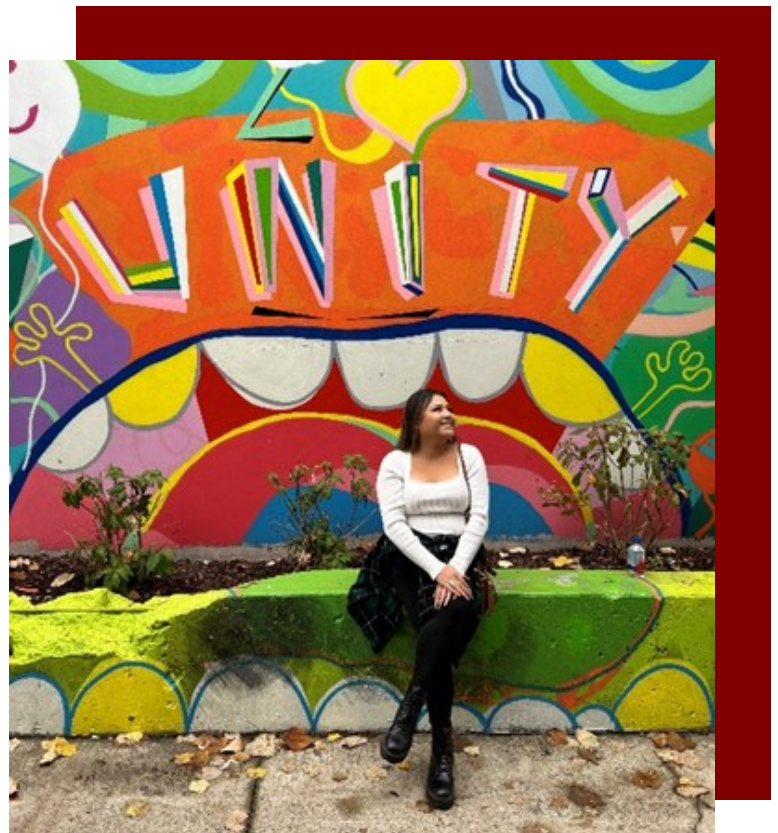
ALUMNI

Meet Vania S. Buck

Vania S. Buck graduated from the two-year MSW program in May 2021 and transitioned to her position with Tehama County Department of Social Services as a bilingual emergency response investigator. After graduating, Vania continued her research surrounding recruitment, retention, and support for bilingual social workers. Vania proposed the pilot course titled “Bilingual Social Work in Child Welfare” to the School of Social Work that would train and prepare current bilingual students in their program before entering the child welfare workforce. This course was approved and is currently being offered for bilingual students in the Title IV-E Stipend Program.

Vania recently published her first academic article titled “Bilinguals Serving Latinx Families in Child Welfare” in a special issue of the Child Welfare League of America’s *Child Welfare Journal*: “Promotion of Latino and Hispanic Child and Family Well-Being.” In her article, she brings awareness of the experiences of bilingual social workers in child welfare agencies and promotes possible ways for child welfare agencies to support bilingual social workers. In addition to her published article, Vania has presented her research findings at multiple child welfare agencies and conferences. Vania continues her research and is in the process of publishing a curriculum article highlighting the pilot course she founded in our department.

Vania recently accepted a remote position as a research associate with the Butler Institute at the University of Denver where she evaluates efforts for recruitment and retention of public and tribal child welfare agencies across the United States. This year, Vania is pursuing PhD programs and hopes to further her education and research.



Practicum Profile

Mackenzie Miller is a graduating senior, currently completing their BSW placement on the Chico State campus at the Gender & Sexuality Equity Coalition (GSEC) where they develop and coordinate educational and advocacy related events and actions. Mackenzie has been involved in work that highlights the importance of having social workers in spaces that center the experiences of people marginalized by their gender and/or sexuality, using feminist and queer theories to guide their practice.

In particular, Mackenzie's work focuses on the dignity and worth of each person by helping to create a safe space on campus for women who feel the negative impacts of a male-centered world, and for queer communities who are being targeted by anti-gay and anti-trans legislation across the country. At the GSEC, people are celebrated for who they are, regardless of cultural norms that suggest there is more value in some people because of their gender or sexuality. Events such as *The Vagina Monologues* and Queer Prom create safe spaces for women and queer communities to be uplifted. The social work value of social justice is reflected every day at the GSEC. Mackenzie has supported the development of a response to racist incidents on campus, coordinated presenters for the Annual Womxn's Conference, and been a part of countless activities at the organization that encourage equity and inclusion.

This placement will support Mackenzie's continued learning about advocacy and organizing as they continue into the MSW program this summer and help to serve as a model for the importance of social workers in macro-level practice.



Photo above is Mackenzie behind the scenes at *The Vagina Monologues*. Photo to the right is Mackenzie and a fellow intern handing off clothing donations to the Stonewall organization.



Practicum Profile



BSW distributed learning student Allison Rivers Samson is completing her practicum at Ghidotti Early College High School. Ghidotti is part of the Nevada Joint Union High School District and provides a supportive and rigorous learning community for historically disadvantaged, low-income, and first-generation college students.

Ghidotti is a new placement site for the School of Social Work this year and was developed specifically because of Allison's passion to work within her community and with teens. Allison's passion for this population stemmed from her participation in the district's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Committee. She heard the students' voices and saw gaps in support for minoritized students.

The student voices were clear—they needed more access to mental health supports.

Allison believes in culture building and prevention and focuses her energy there, starting with asking students what they need and developing programming based on those responses. One such program is Connection Café, a group designed by Allison that provides Ghidotti's students a place to relax and connect with their peers. In sharing their stories and struggles, other students can learn that they are not alone in how they are feeling. In addition, Allison provides a safer environment where students are empowered to ask for feedback and help with their problems or simply share what they are going through and feeling.

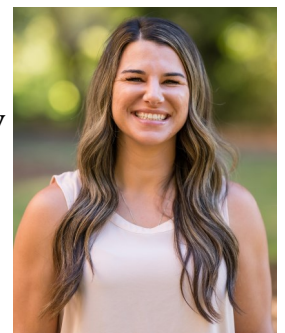
Allison has been accepted to the MSW 1-year DL program and hopes to continue providing support to the school district in new and innovative ways. She is currently participating in the Honors in Social Work program and her project is focused on altering an existing peer mentoring program on the Ghidotti campus. Based on students' comments and needs, she is adjusting and integrating new ideas that will enhance the effectiveness of the current program for the students and provide social connectedness.

As part of her practicum, Allison had the opportunity to present to the senior "Phoenix" class, which is a class designed to provide social emotional learning, life skills, and college and career readiness support for students. Her presentation was focused on justice and equity and was so well received that she has been asked to present to all the grade-level Phoenix classes in the school. Another fun project Allison was able to develop was a collaborative effort with the school's film studies class. They made a video of the younger grades interviewing the seniors to give advice to the new students at the school on how to be successful at Ghidotti.

New Faculty

Hello, my name is Heather Krystek-Dueñas (she/her), and I joined the faculty this academic year to fulfill a new role within the Title IV-E team. My primary responsibility includes partnering with students and agencies as an agency field instructor. I received my bachelor and master of social work degrees from California State University, Chico and was a Title IV-E participant during both programs.

Prior to becoming employed at Chico State, I gained experience working within the child welfare and mental health systems at Butte County Children's Services and Behavioral Health. I worked in various capacities including in Family Treatment Court, immediate response, as a staff development officer, and as a clinician for youth. During my time at Children's Services I also had the pleasure of serving on a county wide multidisciplinary team as a forensic interviewer. In this new role, I am excited for the opportunity to work with students in an educational setting and to continue engaging in important conversations around the work that is being done and that is still left to pursue. I am passionate about identifying and combatting secondary trauma and maintaining values while navigating the system.



New Faculty



Nyob zoo! Hello! My name is Cindy Vang and I am an assistant professor in the School of Social Work. I am the proud daughter of Hmong refugees, the sixth of nine siblings, and the cool aunt to four nieces and four nephews. I received my PhD in social work from Arizona State University and my MSW from California State University, Sacramento. I was previously on the faculty in social work at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Since joining Chico State in the fall of 2022, I have truly enjoyed having more opportunities to engage with social work students and learning more about the resilience of this northern region.

As a practicing social worker, I primarily supported community-based older adults, so I welcome conversations if you are interested in learning more about social work practice with older adults. My research and teaching interests are guided by the pursuit of healing and liberation, and centers the knowledge, practices, and values of marginalized groups and communities. I teach across the BSW and MSW program, and value critical learning spaces that equip social work students with the foundation to interrogate and eliminate oppression in the pursuit of social justice. My research program specifically examines the aging and mental health of older refugees and immigrants aimed at two broad areas: (1) understanding social and cultural factors that influence their mental health as they age in their homes and communities, and (2) identifying culturally responsive mental health practices in community settings. Driven by a desire to support older adults age with dignity and choice, my scholarly interests highlight the experiences of Southeast Asian (SEA) older adults.

Before I joined the faculty in the School of Social Work, I worked as a university counselor at six different institutions across the country, from small liberal arts colleges to giant universities. I loved doing therapy with students (still do), and I thoroughly enjoyed my last university counseling gig right here at Chico State. Still, I missed teaching and research. Moreover, I could see that students, staff, and faculty at all of my previous institutions were suffering from deep moral injury and burnout. There was a bigger picture problem to tackle, and I wanted to be a part of the solution.

In 2019, I left my position as the clinical director of the Counseling and Wellness Center (now, The WellCat Counseling Center) at Chico State to start a private practice and consulting business. By giving myself this gift of time, I was able to map out a new direction for my career. I'm now focused on understanding the role emotional literacy plays in effectively implementing anti-racist, trauma-informed, and healing-centered practices. My hunch is that emotionally literate helpers will become the healing-centered leaders our future needs.

My first year as a faculty in the School of Social Work has been a TRIP! I feel like I've traveled back in time to my graduate school days, reading voraciously, having mind-bending conversations with diverse groups of students, teaching like my hair is on fire, and connecting big ideas to my daily practice as a therapist. It's EXACTLY why I returned to campus. I can't wait to see what year two has in store!





Faculty Focus

Vincent Ornelas & Patrick Borel co-authored an article with other campus colleagues on the results of a campus-wide survey examining a holistic vision of wellness for campus community members. The article is in the process of review at present.

Faculty and alumni have collaborated on social justice and anti-racist research. Their article **Student Experiences of Racism in Social Work Classrooms** was recently accepted for publication by the [Journal of Teaching in Social Work](#). The article was co-authored by Daisy Rios, Patrick Borel, Rebecca Morris, Michele Eggers, Molly Calhoun, and Sue Steiner.

Vincent Ornelas is serving the campus community as chair of the Chicano/Latino Council, which serves as an advisory body to the President on issues related to our status as a Hispanic Serving Institution. He is also serving as chair of the Academic Senate University Police & Public Safety Advisory Committee where he works with colleagues from the University Police Department, staff, and faculty to respond to the University Policing Task Force Report.

Molly Heck is consulting with NASW-CA with their [EmpowerED](#) program to provide continuing education and capacity-building opportunities for social workers across the country with a focus on anti-oppression and trauma informed frameworks.

Chesea Cornell and Regina Muse have been accepted into the [Equine-Assisted Mental Health Practitioner Certificate Program](#) at the University of Denver’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection. They will be exploring the development of a similar program to be offered through the Chico State School of Social Work.



Maia Illa is preparing to attend a Faculty Summer Institute organized by the National Initiative for Trauma Education and Workforce Development (NITEWD). Attending will open the door for nationwide collaboration with other graduate social work programs and allow our School of Social Work to offer “Core Components and Skills for Trauma Informed Practice” as a new course in spring of 2024 for concentration year MSW students.

Juni Banerjee-Stevens has been working with the Office of Faculty Development to offer another workshop that is part of the [Teaching Racial and Social Justice series](#). Juni’s area of expertise is trauma-informed/healing centered practice and she presented on “The Healing Centered Classroom: What Do Feelings Have to Do with it?” Juni discussed how the science is clear: trauma, including historical and intergenerational trauma, is impacting our students’ ability to stay engaged in the classroom. In addition, this workshop covered how to design course content that does not retraumatize students, but reinforces that we cannot—perhaps should not—expect to teach in a way that eliminates all distress from the classroom.

Meka Klungvet-Morano and Chelsea Cornell have been serving as part of the CalSWEC African American Disproportionality and Disparities in Child Welfare workgroup. This workgroup recently submitted a proposal and was selected to present at the 2023 CalSWEC Title IV-E Summit. This workgroup will be leading a panel presentation titled, “Calling It As It Is: Addressing African American Disproportionality.”

Michele Eggers is working on a book manuscript on reproductive justice in Chile.

School of Social Work Grants



Field Education Director Patrick Borel is part of the Mentorship Internship Program (MIP) grant where agencies have received funding to support students in behavioral health internships. This partnership has been successfully implemented with students at Glenn County Behavioral Health, Hill Country Community Clinic, Victor Community Support Services, and Shasta Community Health Center. Patrick continues to work with these agencies to identify, support, and provide interns that participate in the MIP grant internship activities. These activities include mentorship, an online learning collaborative, intern recruitment and connection, plus responding to the needs of staff, students, and administration of these agencies. One of the overarching goals of the grant is to promote regional growth in the behavioral health work force.



Social Work Education Capacity Expansion Grant Program

The California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) administers the Social Work Education Capacity Expansion (SWECE) Grant Program. This workforce grant program promotes the expansion of postsecondary education and training to meet behavioral health workforce needs. This grant opportunity supports funding to educational institutions to develop new or expand Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) and/or Master of Social Work (MSW) programs as well as to expand MSW programs that educate and prepare additional MSW students, including those that serve children and youth. The HCAI grant will result in funding organizations to train MSW and BASW students to work in underserved communities, multidisciplinary teams, and increase training focused on delivering services to children and youth through the age of 25.

In February 2023, the School of Social Work was awarded approx. \$2 million across the next four academic years for the SWECE grant through HCAI. The new behavioral health expansion program will allow us to expand our one and two-year MSW programs with a particular focus on meeting the behavioral health needs of the North State community. Annually, twelve new MSW students will be provided a financial stipend, peer

mentorship, access to culturally responsive trainings, and post-graduation incentives for providing behavioral health clinical services in the North State. The program will place high priority on recruiting new students, faculty, and staff who represent historically underserved communities and socio-demographic and linguistic diversity. The new program will be led by Dr. Judy Vang, Program Coordinator, Gail Garcia, Field Coordinator, and Dr. Molly Calhoun, Principal.

Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Grant

Patrick Borel also received the RSCA grant. This grant supported a series of 4 trainings on anti-racism and discrimination. The trainings were conducted in September and November 2022 and February and April 2023. Senta Burton, MSW alumni presented to faculty, students, and community partners. Each training earned CEUs for the participants.

Research *Corner*

Faculty Member Interested in Ethnic Studies and Effective Pedagogies for More Equitable Graduation Rates



molly heck (alumni and lecturer)

As a social worker invested in social justice as a personal and professional value, molly heck, MSW, lecturer in the School of Social Work and Multicultural and Gender Studies, is interested in the ways that our university systems can do better to more equitably serve students of color through expanded ethnic studies course offerings and the use of inclusive teaching pedagogies. In her current research as part of her doctoral studies at the University of California, Davis, she is exploring the relationship between ethnic studies courses as validating spaces and the rates of degree attainment for undergraduate students.

In 2020, the California legislature passed AB 1460, recognizing the significance of ethnic studies curriculum in higher education by requiring that all students in the CSU take at least one ethnic studies course as part of general education. The new requirement advances the importance of uplifting communities of color in the university setting, including their histories and perspectives, contributions to society, and continued activism to resist systemic oppressions.

Higher education systems have perpetuated and maintained Eurocentric systems, including curriculum that centers white mainstream histories and identities, which can negatively impact students. Chico State is not unlike many other institutions, with a gap in the rates of graduation among white students and students of color. On our campus between 2012—2016, students of color graduated at rates

8—15.3% less than white students (California State University Student Success Dashboard, 2022). molly's research asks whether taking an ethnic studies course may act as a system-level intervention for students of color in an otherwise white-centered curriculum at the university setting and thus supporting systems that create equitable access to graduation.

The social work profession codifies our responsibilities to work to expand "choice and opportunity for all people, with special regard for vulnerable, disadvantaged, oppressed, and exploited people and groups" (Code of Ethics, NASW, n.d.). Deeper understanding of the impact of ethnic studies course-taking and inclusive teaching approaches that validate students' lived experiences can support the mission of the School of Social Work in advancing access and opportunity for historically marginalized communities.

Assistant Professor Cindy Vang is conducting two research projects focused on Asian and Asian American older adults. The first project explores the challenges and discrimination experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The second project investigates discrimination, resilience, and health across the lifespan.

Assistant Professor Molly Calhoun is working with CSU colleagues across the state on the Evaluation of College-Focused Rapid Rehousing Program.

Molly continues as a research team member on the Impacts of Neoliberalism on Minnesota Social Workers Project.

Programs

BSW

In the BSW program, we have had a change in leadership. Much gratitude to Vincent Ornelas for his service to the School of Social Work as the BSW Program Director for the past 12 years! Michele Eggers has recently taken on this role since the beginning of the fall 2022 semester.

A big change in the BSW program is that we are no longer impacted as of the fall 2023 semester. We are currently reviewing our admissions process and program requirements. We will continue to update information in the University catalog and our website. Stay tuned!

Congratulations and welcome to the incoming juniors who began the professional sequence courses this spring! And congratulations to the seniors who will be graduating in May! We are excited to see you continue to grow and evolve in your social work practice!

Congratulations to Julie Xiong who was nominated for the 2023 Glenn Kendall Public Service Award and earned an honorable mention in appreciation of her service to Chico State University!

Congratulations to Jada Dotson and Allison Rivers Samson for receiving the Outstanding BSW Student Award!

National Association of Social Workers Lobby Days:

This year 56 undergraduate and graduate social work students and three social work faculty from Chico State will head to Sacramento to learn about lobbying for policy change and meet with representatives to advocate for just policies. Great work!

MSW

The Master in Social Work Program (MSW) at Chico State is excited for our upcoming graduating students, our continuing students, and our newly admitted cohorts! This is an exciting time of year.

Meka and Chelsea will continue as the MSW directors through the 2023—2024 academic year.

We have new support with Nevada Earp joining our team as the administrative support coordinator.

In May we will have 44 MSW students graduating, 20 moving from their first year to their second year of the MSW program, and 24 new advanced standing students joining them. In addition, we have 28 new MSW students starting their 2-year MSW program.

We also have a new and continuing Distributed Learning (DL) MSW students highlighted in the DL section of the newsletter.

We are immensely appreciative of all the students, faculty, staff, and community partners that continue to make this program possible.

Mission Statement

The California State University, Chico School of Social Work acknowledges the Mechoopda lands on which it resides, our commitment as a Hispanic Serving Institution, and our surrounding rural and extended communities. Our priorities align with the University's mission by providing a rich experiential learning environment through our signature pedagogy, field education. We are committed to providing accessible and high-quality education to diverse students within rapidly changing social, political, and physical environments. We strive to center the student experience through anti-oppressive approaches as students develop into ethical social work practitioners in pursuit of social, economic, racial, and environmental healing and justice in service to others.

Programs

Title IV-E

The Title IV-E program at Chico State will be celebrating the graduation of 16 students who have committed to serving as child welfare social workers.

We will be finishing the next academic year admissions process in late April and are aiming to support a total of 50 new and continuing students.

Meka and Chelsea will continue as the Title IV-E project coordinators and are thrilled to welcome a new project coordinator, Heather Krystek-Dueñas (see article under new faculty).

We have also been honored to work with Vania Buck who has provided unique support to our Spanish-speaking IV-E students (see article under alumni).

We continue to be grateful for the amazing support we have with Jené Rabo and Nica Digmon.

We want to also thank our Title IV-E community partners who provide on-going support to our students and who make our program possible.

Distributed Learning

The Distributed Learning program is rapidly growing! We have new leadership in the 2022—2023 academic year with Caroline Oster as the new DL advisor and Molly Calhoun as the new DL coordinator.

In January, we welcomed 39 BSW DL juniors into our program and we look forward to celebrating the graduation of 25 BSW DL seniors in May.

This summer, our 42 MSW DL three-year students will be joined by a new cohort of 24 one-year students, making our MSW DL class one of the largest graduating classes in the history of the School of Social Work.

We continue to be grateful for our DL instructors who come from around the North State to ensure quality access to the School of Social Work's educational programs.

Field Education

The Field Education Program kicked off the placement process for the 2023—2024 academic year with our annual Field Fair on February 13. The event was held via zoom with 70 different agencies/programs in attendance!

The Field Team is currently meeting with multiple BSW/MSW cohorts for practicum placement. We continue to support our existing community partner agencies who graciously host our students and are busy establishing new placement sites for the next academic year.

We are grateful to our community partners who support our students in their placements by providing valuable learning opportunities and dedicated time for quality supervision. We truly could not do this without all of you and acknowledge the amount of time you are taking out of your busy days to mentor and educate our students.

Pupil Personnel Services Credential

The School of Social Work submitted an application to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) requesting approval to start a Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) program.

The hope is to provide a PPSC program that will be available to current MSW students as well as post-MSW applicants. This is the credential needed for social workers to work in public education settings.

The PPSC work has been primarily completed by faculty Lena Correa, Maia Illa, and Meka Klungtvvet-Morano, and Sheri Hanni as a community partner.

The application has been reviewed by the CTC and the PPSC team is working on providing updates.

Curriculum Updates

First Cohort (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022)



In fall 2021, the Title IV-E Program launched a pilot course titled “Bilingual Social Work in Child Welfare” to support students who are bilingual in English and Spanish. This course was designed to develop students’ existing skills, give them a space to build confidence, and prepare them to enter the child welfare workforce as a bilingual social worker. Students are exposed to learning opportunities in four different areas including:

1. **Training and Workshops**
2. **Practice Space**
3. **Resource Development**
4. **Bilingual Certification Preparation**

Enrolled students not only benefit from developing their skills, but they also engage in conversations about cultural differences, systemic barriers, equity issues, and diversity, to promote critical thinking in their courses, practicum, and employment as bilingual/bicultural social workers.

Second Cohort (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)



Events

College of Behavioral & Social Sciences Symposium

April 25, 5:30—7:00 p.m. in the Bell Memorial Union

This event recognizes outstanding student scholarship in our college and showcases select undergraduate and graduate student research. There will be several School of Social Work students presenting at this year's symposium. Please join us!

Perinatal Support Services



Gail Garcia is expanding her solo practice and opening a therapeutic mental health center called Perinatal Healing—Mind & Body Therapeutic Services. The population of focus is pregnant and postpartum birthing individuals and their partners who are experiencing perinatal mood and anxiety symptoms and/or those needing and wanting extra support during this transitional time. Gail will move into a new building this month and plans to open the doors for more services in May.

Additionally, Gail is working with Mothers Strong, a community-wide collaborative that works towards increasing education and resources to Butte County with an emphasis on maternal mental health and, more specifically, a focus on perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs). Gail has collaborated with Butte County First 5 to bring specialized trainers from Maternal Mental Health Now to provide a 2-day FREE in-person training to Butte County. It will be located at Feather River Tribal Health in Oroville. [Learn more](#) about this informative training scheduled for this summer, June 1–2.

6th Annual Multicultural and International Community Festival

After a 9-year hiatus (2014—2022), the Multicultural and International Community Festival was held on April 20. The theme was “Sharing is Caring: Come Feed Your Mind, Body & Soul.” The festival gives multicultural organizations throughout Northern California a venue to share their culture through discussion, food, and on-stage performances while also voicing issues about the challenges they face as an underrepresented group. Organized and produced by Chico State professors KuiHee Song, Cindy Vang, and other members of the festival planning and organizing committee, this free, family-friendly event was open to the community and served to enhance minority partnerships while also raising awareness about important cultural topics. It was so wonderful that the festival could return to being an in-person celebration! The events provided everyone within our campus community and beyond a celebratory way to learn more about other cultures so we can continue to build interconnectivity among ethnic communities while having fun along the way. Local groups that participated include the Hispanic Resource Council of Northern California, Northern Valley Indian Health, the Hmong Cultural Center, Chico Aloha Dancers, and more. They were joined by Chico State organizations such as the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center and the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and several student affinity groups.



Stay Plugged In

A message from our student associations

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

MSW CLUB



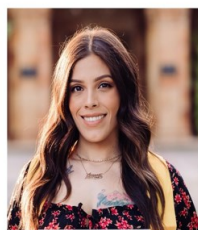
Amber Jones
President



Stephanie Gaito
Vice President



Rosario Zepeda
Secretary



Nikki Aguila
Events Coordinator

The MSW Student Association (also known as the MSW Club) is an official campus organization for Chico State MSW students. Participation in the club is a great way to get involved on campus, as well as to practice and strengthen social work skills and knowledge learned throughout the program.

This year, the club has been working on several campus and community projects including fundraising, club merchandise, National Association of Social Workers Lobby Days, and the culminating event for 2023 graduates. Currently, the MSW Club is hosting a Basic Needs Drive benefitting 6th Street for Youth, Catalyst, and the Torres Shelter. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Butte Hall, Room 543. For more information, please see our recent *Instagram* post @chicostatems_w_s.a.

The Student Association of Social Work (SASW), also known as the BSW Club, is an undergraduate club whose purpose is to provide a space to share professional social work interests and to explore social issues impacting the populations we work with. The club aims to connect all social work students, including those interested in the social work program. One of the main goals of the club is to provide opportunities for community service, community building, and political action, such as involvement in the NASW Lobby Days in Sacramento.

Some examples of community work that the club has been able to engage in during the 2022—2023 academic year included creating holiday cards for a post-acute care home and a basic needs drive where we collected clothes and food for local agencies. Our community-building events included our spooktacular meet and greet with spooky gingerbread house decorating, and our



“Fall in love with Social Work” Valentine’s Day event where students got to mingle, decorate cookies, and watch *Charlie Brown*.

In addition, the club has attended events like Wildcat Welcome and the Social Services Fair to represent the social work major and invite new members to the club. Our next event is attending the NASW Lobby Days.

The club has actively worked to engage all students within the School of Social Work and have sought feedback to better understand the needs of students.

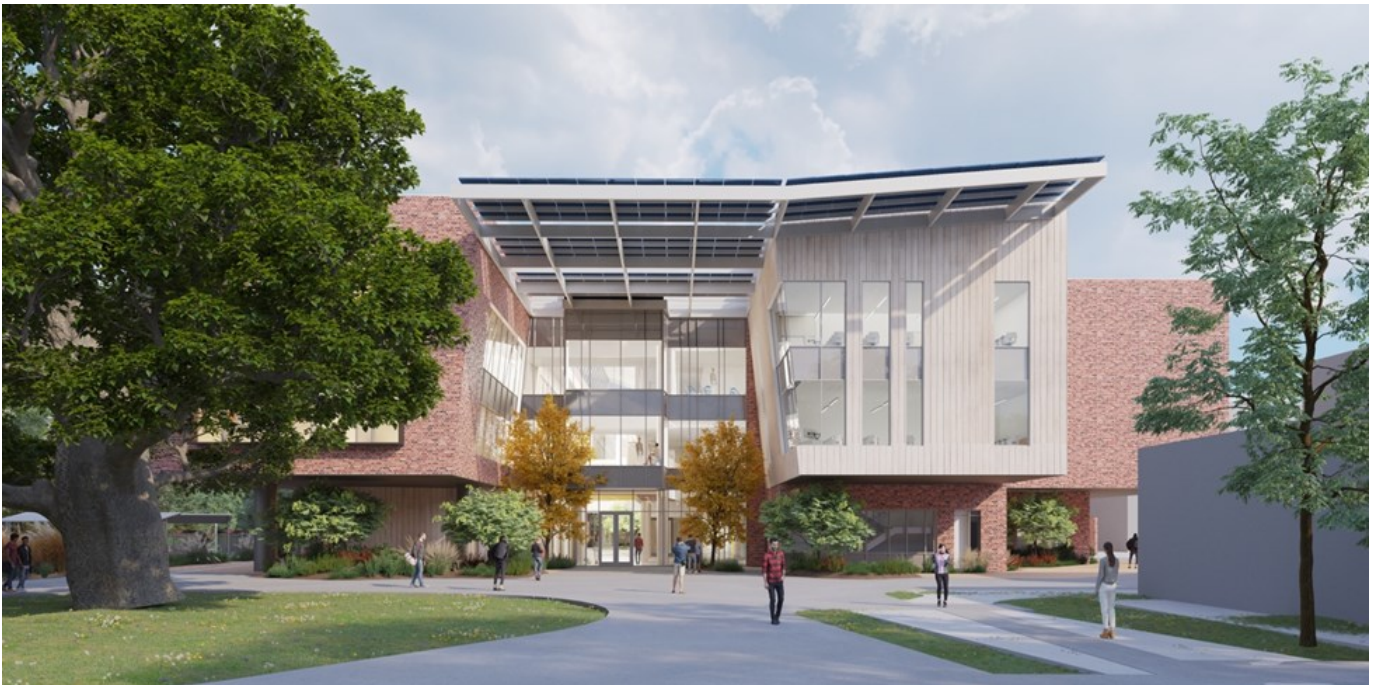
To see more from the BSW Club follow our *Instagram* @csuchicoswrkclub



Movin' on Up!

The College of BSS will have a new building and is on track to be completed in spring/summer of 2024, with occupancy beginning summer 2024.

The School of Social Work will have a new look and new offices in the building. The new building is located on the North end of the campus across Little Chico Creek from Bidwell Mansion. We look forward to an open house for all to attend.



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