



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025



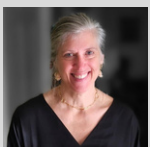
A LETTER FROM LESLIE GREGORY

We cannot believe it is November and we are heading toward the end of our fall courses. November is a time traditionally marked by gratitude and reflection. We are excited to share this latest edition of our Social Work Department newsletter, filled with updates and reflections on all that we are grateful for.

This semester has reminded us of the enduring dedication required within social work. We see profound challenges in social services in so many arenas. Yet, we also see the incredible resilience shown daily by our students, faculty, and alumni as we are each navigating these challenges.

Our Christian mission compels us to meet these realities not with despair, but with competent and compassionate action. Thank you for your commitment to this calling.

In the pages that follow, you will find highlights of the incredible work being done this fall. May you be blessed as you continue the essential work of seeking justice and serving others.



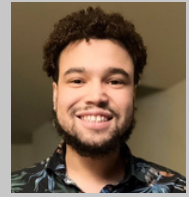
Leslie Gregory,
Social Work Department Chair

EU Homecoming



On Saturday, October 11th, members of the Social Work Department joined the campus community in celebrating Homecoming. Faculty hosted an information table, greeted alumni and prospective students, and shared updates about current initiatives within the program. The event offered a great opportunity to connect with former students, strengthen relationships across departments, and showcase the meaningful work happening in social work classrooms and community partnerships. We were grateful to be part of the day and look forward to continuing to build these connections in the year ahead.

Welcome

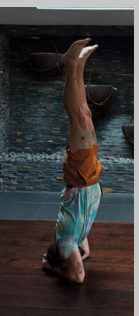
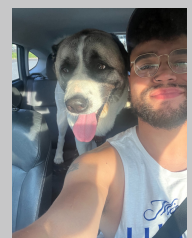


Welcome Khalil Martin

After two years of serving as an adjunct instructor, Khalil Martin, LCSW, has officially joined Eastern University's Social Work Department as a Visiting Lecturer and MSW Assistant Internship Director. Khalil brings extensive experience from healthcare settings, clinical practice, and training facilitation—expertise that will enrich both the BSW and MSW programs.

Khalil is passionate about reducing stigma surrounding substance use, mental health challenges, and homelessness. His teaching centers on recognizing power dynamics within care systems and promoting trauma-informed practices that support healing, particularly in historically marginalized communities.

Outside of his work at Eastern and his involvement in the Philadelphia nonprofit sector, Khalil prioritizes well-being through movement, staying active with CrossFit and yoga. When he's not teaching or training, he enjoys spending time with his beloved 125-pound dog, Kody Bear.



2025 PASSHE Summit Highlights



We are proud to share that Dr. Dianna Montgomery presented at the 2025 PASSHE Summit this October. On October 29, she facilitated “Inclusive Graduate Pedagogy: Drawing Attention to Overlooked Student Populations,” focusing on strategies to support and empower students whose needs often go unnoticed. On October 30, she led “Let’s Talk About Navigating ‘Difficult Differences,’” a session centered on active learning approaches to create inclusive and transformative classroom environments. Dr. Montgomery’s work continues to advance meaningful, equity-focused teaching practices across our academic community.

Our Students in Action

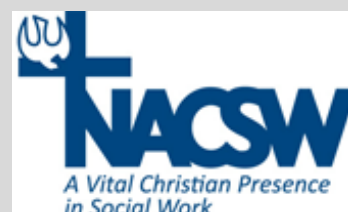


Treats, Not Tricks: Packing Women's Wellness Kits

On October 20th, SSWA hosted “Treats, Not Tricks: Packing Women's Wellness Kits,” a community service event supporting the Salvation Army New Day Drop-In Center in Philadelphia. The evening began with a presentation highlighting the organization's mission and the vital services it provides to women in the community. Participants then worked together to pack personal hygiene items and other essential products into care bags for women served by the center. The event was open to all students, and the turnout was fantastic—reflecting the campus community's commitment to service and support.



BSW students Josh Steen and Cathleen Saunders presented at the annual NACSW Convention in Norfolk, Virginia this month. Their session, titled “Students Activating Students to Take Initiative in Christian Social Work On and Off Campus,” highlighted student leadership and engagement in faith-based practice. The project was mentored by Paul Felker, with Christyn Dodla joining them as the faculty presenter at the conference.





NAMI Walks Philadelphia



On Saturday, October 18th, students from both our BSW and MSW programs showed their commitment to community advocacy by participating in the annual NAMIWalks Philly event. This movement raises awareness and funds for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), striving for "Mental Health for All." Students embodied the spirit of the social work profession by joining the walk and volunteering as Event Staff.



MSW student and event volunteer,
Courtney Hudson



**TEACH ME TO DO YOUR
WILL, FOR YOU ARE MY
GOD; MAY YOUR GOOD
SPIRIT LEAD ME ON
LEVEL GROUND**
-PSALMS 143: 10

Thanksgiving Wishes from the Social Work Department

This Thanksgiving, we're especially grateful for our students, alumni, and the extended Eastern University Social Work community. we're thankful for the compassion, commitment, and purpose you bring into the world.

Wishing you a season filled with peace, connection, and moments of gratitude. Thank you for being a part of our community—we're thankful for you today and every day.