

April 9, 2020

To whom it may concern,

It is our great pleasure to nominate the following Kent School of Social Work, MSSW students for the Graduate Dean Citation Award. Each of these students has distinguished themselves above their high GPAs in the areas of scholarship and/or service. The students are identified below; faculty descriptions of these students' individual achievements are found in the following section.

Emily Anderson NOMINATED BY ANDY FREY

Angelique E. Carlson NOMINATED BY SHARON SANDERS

Carrie L. Cole NOMINATED BY LARRY MICHALCZYK

Andrew R. Cook NOMINATED BY BECKY ANTLE

Holden Dillman NOMINATED BY BECKY ANTLE

Amanda Hall NOMINATED BY LARRY MICHALCZYK

Wendy A. Highbarger NOMINATED BY SHARON SANDERS

Clea J. Grubb NOMINATED BY ANDY FREY

Christina V. Jones NOMINATED BY ANNA FAUL

Kaylee A. Korfhage NOMINATED BY SHARON SANDERS

Payton E. Kruer NOMINATED BY LARRY MICHALCZYK

Ashley Logsdon NOMINATED BY BECKY ANTLE

Shawntasha N. Mahoney NOMINATED BY LORI PARIS

Frances Mican NOMINATED BY LARRY MICHALCZYK

Elizabeth Odom NOMINATED BY BECKY ANTLE

Tabitha R. Ramos NOMINATED BY LORI PARIS

Valerie A. Sessler NOMINATED BY LORI PARIS

Emily Anderson

[Emily] has excelled academically, is a critical thinker in the classroom, in practicum and in the community. She is one of our future SW leaders.

Emily is extremely poised and professional in all settings (class and practicum), she has natural leadership skills and holds herself to extremely high professional standards.

Angelique E. Carlson

[Angelique] excelled in the classroom. She goes above and beyond to ensure assignments are complete and display academic success that will carry on throughout her career.

[Angelique] is an outstanding student and contributes in her community or work place making the world a better place.

Great leadership skills, wonderful critical thinking, maturity, advanced understanding of leadership with both academic understanding and lived understanding.

Works and thinks through personal behavior, individual interventions, agency administration and societal issues with an ethnical framework and integrity.

Carrie L. Cole

[Carrie] has excelled academically, is a critical thinkers in the classroom, in practicum and in the community and is one of our future SW leaders.

Andrew R. Cook

[Andrew] has demonstrated excellent skills in his field placement.

Andrew is truly a wonderful student. He is always thoughtful and exemplifies compassion.

Andrew is very innovative. In the classroom, he has identified tools to assist in understanding material and always shares with his colleagues. He developed a decision tool for Psychopathology and shared with over 20 of his colleagues.

Throughout the few classes I had with Andrew, he was always looking out for his colleagues and was very supportive inside and outside the classroom.

Andrew's life experience is a valuable asset to the classroom and his work in field.

Andrew often jokes about his wealth of knowledge in so many areas prior to coming to Kent. He is very humble in his amount of experience and it is inspiring that after many years of working in other areas, he has found his passion for social work.

Holden Dillman

Holden helped create a safe classroom environment last semester as well as providing support to the efforts to address diversity outside the classroom for the Kent School as a whole.

Holden has served as an advocate for the several groups. He has worked with Kentucky Refugee Ministries and has been an advocate for LGBTQ+. Holden is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to trauma-informed care and has advocated for several organizations to be more trauma-informed.

Holden excels at evidence-based practice and seeks to integrate it into his practicum experience. He possesses a great knowledge base, as well as a natural skillset that lends himself to being a leader in the field of social work. Holden excels

in both micro and macro work, as evidenced by his successes at his practicum. He embodies a calm and professional demeanor that is truly a credit to the field of social work.

In his work at KY Refugee Ministries and the community as well as his contributions in the classroom, Holden represents a spirit of societal consciousness.

Amanda Hall

[Amanda] has excelled academically, is a critical thinker in the classroom, in practicum and in the community and is one of our future SW leaders.

Wendy A. Highbarger

Wendy is an outstanding student who is totally committed to the social work profession and exemplifies excellent leadership skills. I currently have her in class. She is an outstanding young professional. She is very deserving of this award.

An excellent student with maturity. Willing to learn and to contribute to the learning of others.

Clea J. Grubb

[Clea] is an excellent student.

Clea is a member of the Kent student association and was very helpful providing input from a student's perspective through [challenging classroom issues].

Christina V. Jones

[Christina] has demonstrated excellent skills in her field placement.

Kaylee A. Korfhage

Kaylee has sought to use her Evidenced Based Practice Project to improve communication and treatment at all levels from the client, to Direct Care Staff, to Therapists, etc. It is envisioned that this will improve positive engagement in the community and community tenure for clients moving from Residential to the Community.

Payton E. Kruer

[Payton] has excelled academically, is a critical thinker in the classroom, in practicum and in the community and is one of our future SW Leaders.

Payton takes her work seriously and does not require micromanaging. She takes initiative and does not wait for tasks to be assigned- she is self-directed. Payton also works closely with her peers and is a strong leader in all groups.

Ashley Logsdon

Ashley is a graduate of our PCWCP program and now our master's program. She has been an excellent employee of the Cabinet for several years, working in a rural county and now for recruitment and certification of foster parents. Her work is well respected and effective in this domain. Her academic coursework has been impeccable. She is a leader in the

classroom and always performs at the top of her class. In her practicum this year at the Center for Family and Community Well-Being, she has run the evaluation for Family Recovery Court, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, and assisted with the Mind Matters trauma grant and the provost university student mental health grant. She has assisted with training and supervision of other graduate students and well as implementation of workshops for a number of students. She has worked with high level administrators at the University, local agencies, and the courts and Cabinet. She has also helped with writing and submission of multiple grants and papers for publication. She is ambitious, conscientious, and socially conscious. She embodies the best of the Kent School in every domain.

Shawnesha N. Mahoney

[Shawnesha] has excelled in the classroom. She goes above and beyond to ensure assignments are complete and display academic success that will carry on throughout her career.

Frances Mican

Frances is a direct, clear, and ethical student leader and advocate. She has served as the cohort representative for the CFT specialization for two years. Within and outside of that role she never hesitates to communicate with instructors and program administration to provide feedback on the program in constructive ways and advocate for student needs.

Frances has made excellent contributions to the community through service in various domains

Frances has demonstrated her commitment to social justice through her involvement in research and community projects, as well as her excellent work in the classroom and field.

Frances has provided a lot of leadership around social justice issues related to LGBTQIA+ identified individuals and women of color. She is very articulate and passionate !

Frances Mican is an intelligent, critical thinker with regard to ethics and is pursuing a joint Bio- Ethics degree. She added value in each social policy class.

Elizabeth Odom

Lizzie is a very competent and hard-working student. But more than that, she encourages her peers and offers a tremendous amount of informal social support.

Elizabeth conducts herself with the utmost professionalism within and outside the classroom. Her passion for macro practice and conscientious approach to everything she does ensure that she will be a leader in the field.

Lizzie is working in a unique practicum setting with the KY Department for Behavioral Health/Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities focusing on deaf and hard of hearing individuals and families. Lizzie plans to devote her professional social work career to improving the lives of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and families. She is currently working on a project to improve the placement experience of deaf/hard of hearing foster children. She has advocated for this incredibly marginalized population by creating educational collateral material for state workers and foster families. Her work in her practicum has also led to the addition of a notifier on the DCBS intake form alerting the case worker to the fact that the child is deaf or hard of hearing. Her work will continue to impact deaf/hard of hearing foster children beyond the end of her practicum.

Elizabeth demonstrates her commitment to ethical and principled positions in the classroom and in the advocacy work she does in her macro practicum

Elizabeth is devoted to improving the lives of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and families. She has been working very independently as a student due to the uniqueness of the population she's been serving. She demonstrates consistent professionalism and high ethical standards. She will be a leader in her field.

Tabitha R. Ramos

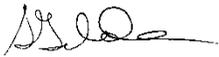
[Tabitha] has excelled in the classroom. She goes above and beyond to ensure assignments are complete and display academic success that will carry on throughout her career.

Tabitha is an amazing student in our online program that embodies a non-traditional student that is thriving.

Valerie A. Sessler

[Valerie] has excelled in the classroom. She goes above and beyond to ensure assignments are complete and display academic success that will carry on throughout her careers.

Sincerely,



Dr. Seana Golder, MSW, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs



Dr. Shawnise Miller, Ph.D., MSSW
MSSW Program Director