

Education:

- 2023-Present **Doctor of Philosophy**
School of Social Work
Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2016 - 2018 **Master of Social Work**
California State University San Marcos, San Marcos, CA
Concentration: Children, Youth, and Families
CalSWEC Title IV-E Public Child Welfare Stipend Program Recipient
- 2009 - 2010 **Master of Education**
Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA
Concentration: Special Education and School Administration
Graduate Assistant to Associate Professor Michael Karpinski
- 2005 - 2009 **Bachelor of Arts in Education and Teaching**
Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA
Double Major: Elementary Education, Special Education
Minor: Spanish

Research Experience:

- Current positions **Virginia Commonwealth University**
- **Study Coordinator:** Understanding the school experiences of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
 - **Qualitative Interviewer:** Marsha and Marian's Neighbors Housing Program
 - **Research Team Member:** Transgender and Nonbinary youth and young adult wellbeing
 - **Graduate VIP Research Assistant:** Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium

- 2023-2024 **Virginia Commonwealth University**
- **Study Coordinator:** Rams 2 Rams Peer Support Program
 - **Research Team Member:** Rams 2 Rams Peer Support Program
 - **Research Team Member:** Marsha and Marion’s Neighbors
 - **Research Team Member:** Evaluating the Trans Mentor Project

Research Presentations

- Summer 2024 **LGBTQ+ Research Symposium**
Reframing wellbeing for Trans and Nonbinary young adults
- Spring 2024 **VCU Graduate Research Symposium: Second Place Award**
Exploring Factors of Wellbeing for Non-Binary people
- Fall 2024 **Vertically Integrated Projects Showcase**
School Faculty and Staff Preparedness to Support Student Mental Health

Professional Experience:

- 2017-Present **Co-Founder, Community Training Director (Virtual Position)**
Youth Assistance Coalition, San Diego, CA
Leadership member of 501(c)(3) to alleviate youth homelessness
Supervise Youth Assistance Coalition Interns
Coordinate community collaboration and engagement with service providers
Develop policy and evidence-based practices to achieve desired outcomes
- 2022-2023 **Adjunct Professor: Master of Social Work Program**
Portland State University, Portland, OR
Social Work 531: SW Practice with Individuals and Families II
Social Work 541: Societal, Community and Organizational Structures
- 2021-2023 **School Social Worker**
North Clackamas School District, Portland, OR
Conduct individual and group sessions focused on mental health
Assess individual student needs and coordinate student accommodations
Collaborate with students and families to ensure access to resources

- 2018-2021 **Protective Services Worker**
Child Welfare Services, San Diego, CA
 Conduct family-centered case management and access to resources
 Utilize Evidence-Based Practice tools to assess safety and risk
 Complete court reports and case plans to facilitate reunification
 MSW Graduate Intern Task Supervisor
- 2017-2018 **MSW Intern**
East County Mental Health Clinic, San Diego, CA
 Facilitated weekly therapeutic support groups
 Completed comprehensive Behavior Health Assessments
 Conducted screening and walk-in assessments to triage clients effectively
 Met with clients routinely for individual therapy and treatment planning
- 2016-2017 **MSW Intern**
East County Case Management, San Diego, CA
 Conducted therapeutic case management to adults in San Diego County
 Developed individualized client plans to improve community functioning
 Collaborated with local organizations to increase client support network
 Assisted clients in obtaining long-term housing and medical care
- 2014-2016 **Youth Support Partner**
San Diego Youth Services, San Diego, CA
 Provided clinical case management of youth experiencing homelessness
 Conducted trauma-focused support groups
 Developed strength-based client and family treatment plans
 Created individualized interventions to improve mental and physical health
 Assisted youth in completing high school and college programs
- 2010-2014 **Special Education Teacher and Case Manager**
Mililani Middle and Mililani High School, Mililani, HI
 Co-taught High School English for inclusionary settings
 Advised students in the special education department
 Facilitated Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings
 Piloted High School Section 504 and Accommodation Programs
 Saturday School teacher for identified at-risk youth
 Volleyball assistant coach and youth athletic mentor

Completed Trainings:

San Diego Youth Services Training Academy:

- Trauma Informed Care
- HIPAA and Confidentiality
- Motivational Interviewing
- Understanding Addictions and Recovery
- Seeking Safety and Crisis Intervention
- Foundations of Cognitive Based Therapy
- Suicide Prevention

Child Welfare Services:

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Child Welfare Services Program and Policy
- Teaming with LGBTQIA+ Youth and Families
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Certification
- Fairness and Equity in Practice
- ICWA and Working with Native American Tribes
- County Counsel Training: Domestic Violence Protocol
- County Counsel Training: General and Severe Neglect Substantiation
- County Counsel Training: Engaging Incarcerated Parents

Professional Credentials:

- Pennsylvania Teaching License:
Special Education PK-12 (May 2009-May 2012)
- Hawaii Teaching License
Standard License: Special Education K-12 (July 2011-July 2016)
Standard License: Secondary English 7-12 (July 2011-July 2016)
- California Teaching License
Specialist Instruction: Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Sep. 2014-Sep. 2016)
Multiple Subject: Elementary Reading, Writing, Math (Sep. 2014-Sep. 2016)
- Associate Clinical Social Worker
Issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (May 2019)
- School Social Work License
Issued by the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (August 2020)

Other Languages:

- Spanish: basic proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing