

Fall Newsletter | October, 2024

WELCOME BACK TO MESSIAH

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Micah 6:8

“act justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with
your God”

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Department





A Letter From the Chair

A STATEMENT FROM
DR. LING DINSE, DSW,
MSW, LSW

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My youngest daughter married this summer, and my husband and I are officially empty nesters with both of our daughters married. I still remember our daughters' first day of kindergarten as if it were yesterday. Time seems to fly by as I get older, and I have learned to be more purposeful about how I spend my time.

As the Social Work Department Chair, my purpose at Messiah University is to use the gifts God has given me to serve our students. A practical way to serve the social work students is to continue enhancing the program's quality by keeping up the accreditation standards and offering continuing education opportunities.

1. Accreditation Standards

The social work team strives for excellence and often exceeds the accreditation requirements ([public reporting results](#)) set out by the Council of Social Work Education. The BSW Program will be up for reaffirmation for accreditation in 2027, marking 40 years of Messiah's BSW Program accreditation. 2027 seems like a long time away, but all the necessary data and paperwork need to be submitted to CSWE by April 2026. The BSW Program is already gathering the needed data and paperwork in preparation for the reaffirmation accreditation process.

2. Continuing Education

The Social Work Department is offering several free continuing education classes that are open to social work practitioners and students. We are deeply grateful for the social work colleagues who are volunteering their time to expand our social work knowledge from their respective expertise. Please be sure to save the dates and register for the 2024-2025 Social Work Continuing Education Series. [CEU workshop registration](#). For more information, please see the [Messiah University Department of Social Work Webpage](#).

I am honored to serve our students and grateful for the support of our alumni and community partners in training the next generation of social work practitioners who share Jesus' grace and love with others.

Warmly in Jesus,
Dr. Ling Dinse



MESSIAH UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Welcome Back Fall Social Event & Student Leaders

The Department of Social Work welcomed everyone back for the start of the semester with pizza, snacks, and games! Dr. Dinse and Professor George greeted new students joining the department and introduced the Phi Alpha Honor Society and the Social Work Club. The club leadership discussed some of the upcoming events and encourage students' participation.



Phi Alpha Honor Society:

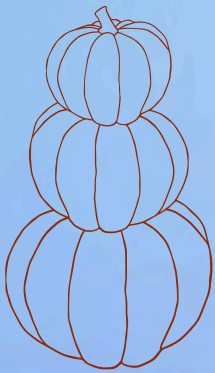
- Emily Caufield - President
- Selah Stoltzfus - Vice President
- Sarah Dills - Secretary/Historian
- Madeline Pendleton - Treasurer

Student Workers

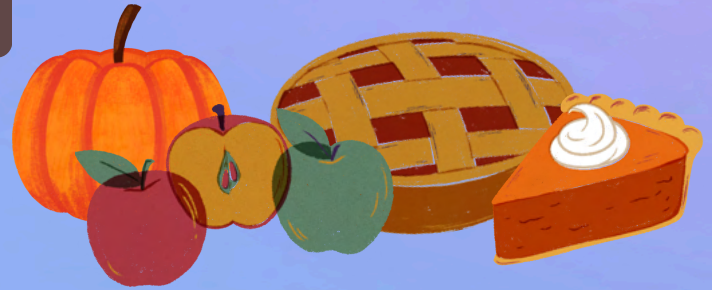
- Abby Davis
- Ella Newell

Social Work Club:

- Olivia Winton - President
- Emily Caufield - Vice President
- Rylee Eastridge – Peer Mentor Coordinator
- Emma Starr – Peer Mentor Coordinator
- Mariah Fortney – Prayer Chaplain
- Cade Smucker – Cultural Diversity Officer
- Abby Davis – Cultural Diversity Officer



CWEB Scholarship and Enhancement Fund



One of the biggest challenges faced by our students is the high cost of higher education. Many of our students work long hours to make ends meet while balancing their academic demands. The Program now has two scholarship opportunities specifically for our BSW students.

In collaboration with the Advancement Office, we now have a Social Work Education Enhancement Fund. This fund offers financial support for social work students to cover any field placement-related costs, such as transportation or field education management platform (Exxat). Please consider contributing to the Social Work Education Enhancement Fund [here](#). 100% of the contributions go directly to the students to offset their field costs.

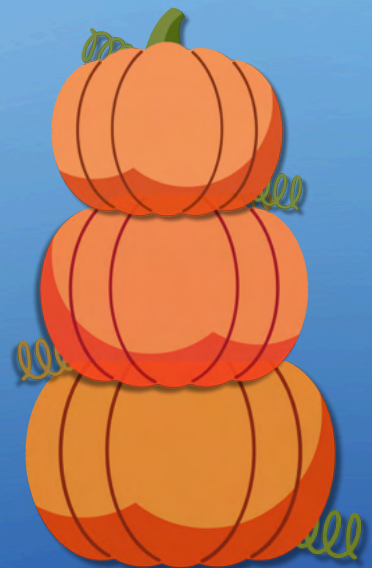
This August, Messiah's BSW Program signed a partnership agreement with the University of Pittsburg's Child Welfare Baccalaureates Program ([CWEB scholarship](#)). The CWEB scholarship offers full tuition reimbursement and 8-month stipends in exchange for a year of employment in a state children and youth agency for senior social work students. We are excited to announce that our senior student, Hannah Caruso, is the first recipient of the CWEB scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year.



The Social Work Department now offers dual enrollment classes for high school students exploring the social work field. Available courses in the dual enrollment program include SOWK 099, SOWK 120, and SOWK 221.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Dual Enrollment Opportunities



FREE CEU Offerings



Save the Dates!

October 16, 2024 - Noon to 1:00 - Virtual Event
Michelle George, MSW, LCSW, BCD

Topic: Preparing Students for Inter-Professional Education (IPE)
- 1 CEU

November 6, 2024

Tara Piechowicz, MSW

Topic: PA policy Engagement for Practicioners - 1 CEU

February 5, 2025

Stacey Barker, PhD

Topic: Fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Social
Work Profession through Social Work Educational Policies and
Practice - 1 CEU

March 19, 2025

Chris Rich, LCSW

Topic: Social Work Ethics - 3 CEU

April 2, 2025

Karen Mumma, MSW, LCSW

Topic: Compassion Fatigue - 1 CEU



Michelle George will host the first session on
October 16, 2024 - Noon to 1:00 - Virtual Event
Topic: Preparing Students for Inter-Professional
Education (IPE) - 1 CEU



Registration link

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

MSW Programs and Open Houses



Dr. Zenya Richardson
Field Education Director,
Master of Social Work
Program

DR. STACEY L BARKER
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR,
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
PROGRAM



I joined the Messiah community in August 2023 as the inaugural Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Director, having previously served for more than 20 years in two other faith-based colleges as a social work educator and administrator. I am excited to be at the forefront of building a new program where I can combine my past experiences with the nuances of Messiah University to create an attractive professional social work program. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to Messiah University as a fully remote faculty member. My hobbies include reading (I enjoy historical fiction and mysteries), traveling, and musical theater. I am married to Jeff, who is an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene, and we have two adult daughters: Emily, who is married to Miguel, and Abigail, who is married to Douglas.

The MSW program has earned pre-candidacy accreditation status with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and we are preparing for our first Candidacy site visit (virtual) which will happen in mid-November. Dr. Zenya Richardson has joined us full-time as Assistant Professor and MSW Field Director. We are actively recruiting both traditional and advanced standing students to join us for either a January 2025 or August 2025 start—please spread the word. You can find out more about the program by visiting the MSW website and more about how to apply by visiting the Graduate Admissions website. Students who join us now can take advantage of a significant tuition discount. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!

