

CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY

JUNE, 2025

Carver School News

Academic Excellence. Christian Leadership. Social Equity for all.

Celebrating Academic Excellence & Leadership in Social Work

Congratulations are in order for our BSW Field Director as she completed the DSW Program at the University of Alabama. Our Associate Professor, Dr. Kelly Joplin, also completed the DSW Program at the University of Kentucky. In May, both scholars walked across their respective stages to receive their well-earned diplomas, marking a significant milestone in their professional journeys.

Dr. Rebecca Bohner first earned her MSW from Baylor University. To complete her DSW she presented her capstone project entitled *“Establishing a Foundation of Holistic Wellness: A Feasibility of Self-Care Practices and Self-Compassion Among BSW Field Students.”* Dr. Bohner is known for her deep commitment to student growth and for integrating wellness into every facet of field education. Her research reflects a passion for empowering future social workers to thrive both professionally and personally.

Dr. Kelly Joplin earned her MSW from the University of Kentucky as well. To complete her DSW she presented her capstone project entitled *“Exploring the Role of Historical Trauma Appalachia Low Degree Attainment.”* Dr. Kelly Joplin presented her capstone project entitled *“Exploring the Role of Historical Trauma in Appalachia Low Degree Attainment.”* Dr. Joplin brings a deep understanding of the cultural and systemic barriers that impact education in underserved communities, particularly within Appalachia. Her professional expertise is rooted in academic leadership, and she is recognized for her ability to engage students with empathy, clarity, and real-world relevance. Through her research and teaching, Dr. Joplin continues to elevate critical conversations around access, equity, and trauma-informed education in the field of social work.

Please, join everyone at Carver School of Social Work in congratulating Dr. Rebecca Bohner and Dr. Kelly Joplin on achieving this amazing professional milestone!

Dr. Rebecca Bohner, DSW, LCSW, MSW
BSW Director of Field Education



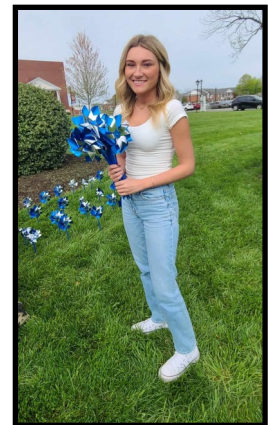
Dr. Kelly Joplin, DSW, MSW
Associate Professor



Carver School's Heart for Community Missions



In March, Dr. VanCleave led a group of dedicated social work students to volunteer at Campbellsville Baptist Church in partnership with Hometown Connect, a local community agency focused on addressing food insecurity. The students played a vital role in the event by assembling meal packages, coordinating delivery routes, and distributing food to families throughout the county. Working in small teams, they hand-delivered meals to homes, offering a friendly face and a moment of connection to those they served. Others remained at the church, helping organize supplies and engaging in meaningful conversations with individuals who came to the fellowship hall for support. This hands-on service opportunity allowed the students to apply their classroom knowledge in a real-world setting, deepening their understanding of community needs while fostering compassion, teamwork, and a spirit of service.



On April 17, 2025, Dr. Kimberly Mudd-Fegett and Dr. DeNika VanCleave led a group of social work students and staff in a meaningful awareness activity as part of national Child Abuse Prevention Month. Together, they placed blue pinwheels on Stapp Lawn at the Main Campus—each pinwheel symbolizing a child who deserves a happy, healthy, and safe childhood.

The event is part of a statewide initiative supported by Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAK), and serves as a visible reminder of the ongoing efforts needed to end child abuse and neglect. Social work students not only participated in setting up the pinwheel garden but also engaged in conversations with passersby about the importance of prevention and community involvement, connecting classroom learning to real-world advocacy and community outreach to vulnerable populations.

Spring Pinning Ceremony is a Success

Carver School of Social Work celebrated the many successes of our graduating students on Friday, May 9, 2025 during our semi-annual Pinning Ceremony. Our spring ceremony began with a word from our Dean, Dr. Michelle Tucker and a beautiful prayer that followed from MSW Graduate, Lauren Powell. During this time, faculty were pleased to announce our newest Phi Alpha Inductees and 3 special awards that were given to student/ faculty nominated graduates. Our BSW Overcomer Award went to Ms. Christy Shank who competed in a national track competition and was unable to attend. Ms. Rachel Ford was awarded the MSW Overcomer Award and Ms. Ashley Simpson was gifted the Servant Leader Award. Each of these graduates excelled in their courses and in their community involvement. Faculty were overjoyed to celebrate with these graduates as they embarked on their new journey with their social work careers. Congratulations graduates of May and August of 2025!



Phi Alpha Inductees
May 2025



Servant Leader Award
Ashley Simpson, MSW



Opening Prayer
Lauren Powell, MSW



Overcomer Award
Rachel Ford, MSW

Internship Opportunity for TN Counties

Tennessee is recruiting a cohort of up to 70 interns for the upcoming school year through the Project RAISE initiative. Opportunities are available for Master's level interns in school psychology and school counseling, as well as Bachelor's and Master's level interns in school social work. Stipends of up to \$60,000 are available for a two-year commitment in Tennessee schools, including one year in a rural district. Relocation grants of up to \$1,200 are also available.

Deadline to Apply:

Fall Internship: July 1

Spring Internship: November 15

If you have questions or need more information, please visit our [website](http://Projectraisetn.com) (Projectraisetn.com) or contact us at projectraise@utk.edu.

Future school social workers, are you ready...

to be an intern?

Project RAISE is looking for school social worker students who will start their careers as interns in a rural Tennessee school district.

to earn competitive benefits?


Participants will earn a \$15,000 stipend for BSW and \$20,000 stipend for MSW, plus additional benefits, across the internship.

to be in a rural setting?

Working in a Project RAISE district means working closely with students, school staff, and administrators in a rural setting.

to RAISE your expectations?

Participants will increase knowledge and skills with access to school social work experts and ongoing professional development.



If you are ready to take the next step in your school social work career, go to projectraisetn.com for more details.

Project RAISE



Rural Access to Interventions in School Environments

Highlights:

- Positions available in 59 rural school districts across Tennessee.
- Internship stipend of \$15,000 for BSW and \$20,000 for MSW, plus relocation funds of \$1,200, professional development opportunities, and a state-wide network of support.
- Complete internship and commit to two-year post-graduation employment.
- Be part of the school(s) and district as a school social work intern and early career professional.
- Feel the spirit that only a rural community can provide.
- Be a change-agent as a school social worker, advocate, and leader.

Contact Us

Email: projectraise@utk.edu
Phone: (865) 974-1820
Website: projectraisetn.com



JOIN US IN BUILDING
**A BETTER
WORLD**

PAY YOUR TUITION

CW PREP provides you with four semesters of in-state tuition and a \$1,300 stipend so you can focus on what matters - earning your degree.

PREPARE YOUR FUTURE

We provide specialized training, mentorship initiatives, and early-career support. Being a part of CW PREP means you're set up for success, in school and beyond.

CHILDWELFAREPREP.COM |    @CW_PREP



SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY
& FOR MORE INFORMATION



Join us at CSSW for Learning & Community

CSSW Social Media Spotlight

Are you interested in being featured in our Newsletter or on our Social Media platforms? Carver School actively seeks current students and alumni, as well as adjuncts and faculty to share about their experience at Carver School. We also would like to hear about your Field Experience!

For additional details, email
slcruse@campbellsville.edu

Check us out online!

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/carverschool.socialwork



Instagram:

www.instagram.com/carverschoolsw



CU Website:

www.campbellsville.edu/academics/schools-and-colleges/carver-school-social-work/index.html



CSSW Faculty and Staff

2024-2025



Dr. Michelle Tucker– Dean & Professor

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey– MSW Program Director & Professor

Dr. Anne Adcock– BSW Program Director & Professor

Kalon Moody– MSW Director of Field Education & Assistant Professor

Dr. Rebecca Bohner– BSW Director of Field Education& Associate Professor

Dr. Helen Mudd– Professor

Dr. Jennifer Lanham– Professor

Dr. Renee Sartin– Professor

Dr. Kelly Joplin– Associate Professor

Dr. Kimberly Mudd-Fegett– Main Campus Site Coordinator, & Associate Professor

Dr. Neil Caldwell– Assistant Professor

Dr. Elizabeth Ann Moore– Associate Professor

Dr. DeNika VanCleave– CW Prep Coordinator & Associate Professor

Dr. Jennifer Baird– Assistant Professor

Jennifer Houk– Carver School Assessment Coordinator

Jennifer Ball– Carver School Admissions Coordinator

Savannah Cruse– Carver School Secretary