Earlier this year, the Wayne State University School of Social Work announced a 10-year initiative to advance the Grand Challenges for Social Work — an ambitious social agenda promoting individual and family well-being, a stronger social fabric, and a more just society. Led by the American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare with support from the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education, the Grand Challenges represent a call to action to address 12 urgent social problems by harnessing social work’s science and knowledge base and by collaborating with individuals, community-based organizations, and professionals from all fields and disciplines.

In collaboration and in concert with social work researchers and practitioners across the nation and beyond, our school over the next 10 years will deploy faculty, staff, funding and other resources to:

- Ensure healthy development for all youth
- Close the health gap
- Stop family violence
- Advance long and productive lives
- Eradicate social isolation
- End homelessness
- Create social responses to a changing environment
- Harness technology for social good
- Promote smart decarceration
- Reduce extreme economic inequality
- Build financial capability for all
- Achieve equal opportunity and justice

The School of Social Work has led critical advances in the 12 Grand Challenges areas through its work in five core areas of research:

- aging
- children and families
- health/behavioral health
- interpersonal violence
- community, policy and program development

Using these five priorities as a guide, Rising to the Challenge explores the many innovative ways that our faculty, staff and students are conceptualizing the Grand Challenges within the context of our home in, and service to, Greater Detroit.

For us, advancing long and productive lives means helping aging Detroit residents receive long-distance care from adult children who have moved away. Building financial capability for all means keeping youth who are aging out of the foster care system enrolled and thriving at Wayne State. Achieving justice means working to stop water shutoffs that disproportionately affect Detroit’s poorest residents. For us, each of the Grand Challenges has a uniquely urban, uniquely “Detroit” face — but the exciting solutions we are producing can be adapted and adopted for use in all communities.

We are excited to embark upon this 10-year endeavor. For more than 80 years, the School of Social Work has responded to emerging challenges in Detroit through research collaborations, practice initiatives and community partnerships. As we rise to the Grand Challenges, we are proud to continue this tradition and to promote lasting, transformative social change for the benefit of all people, everywhere.

Sincerely,

Cheryl E. Waites
Dean and Professor
Older age should be an exciting, secure, and healthy time for all Americans. Gerontologists at the School of Social Work are studying ways to make the transition to the golden years one of economic, social, physical and mental well-being.
Helping Aging African Americans Thrive

African American older adults are disproportionately victimized by systems, which relegates them to disparities in health, education, socio-economics and the environment. As a result, avenues for continuing education and advanced literacy, self-empowerment, and social-community connections are critical as they prepare for retirement or post-work years.

Helping African Americans live and age “with gusto” is a key research priority of Dean Cheryl Waites. Working with Daphne Ntiri, professor in the Department of African American Studies at Wayne State, Waites is developing a framework and program to foster successful aging among African American older adults. Using an ecological systems perspective and health literacy research, Waites and Ntiri draw on Paulo Freire’s emancipatory literacy pedagogy for knowledge and successful living and apply the Wellness Initiative created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to raise awareness and promote successful aging. This research and program is an innovative approach to addressing disparities in health, education and literacy, socio-economics and the environment by promoting successful aging literacy for African American older adults.

“Our hope,” said Waites, “is that this research, and resulting program model, will be used to promote healthy aging for African American older adults by empowering them with knowledge and resources regarding successful aging literacy.”

Responding to Elder Self-neglect

Elder self-neglect has been described as a hidden problem in most communities, constituting by far the most common type of problem that Adult Protective Services (APS) encounters. Self-neglect occurs when physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity renders adults unable to perform essential self-care, leading to a range of adverse consequences that can include poor medication management, dehydration and malnutrition, unsanitary living conditions, and unpaid bills and utility shut-offs.

But while APS is the most widely used intervention to address the needs of vulnerable older adults experiencing abuse and neglect, very little research evaluates its practices. With colleagues from the National Committee for the...
Prevention of Elder Abuse and the National Adult Protective Services Association, Joy Swanson Ernst, associate dean for academic affairs, is working on a project to significantly enhance existing knowledge regarding responses of APS and other programs to self-neglect.

Funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, “Self-Neglect Knowledge, Policy, Practice & Research: Realities & Needs” entails a systematic review of the self-neglect literature published in the United States over the past 20 years to analyze research addressing policy and practice issues, including tools and scales used by APS to assess and address self-neglect.

“Because most self-neglecting older adults are socially isolated, enhancing the knowledge base on self-neglect to inform future research, policy, and practice going forward fits with the Social Work Grand Challenge to eradicate social isolation,” Ernst said.

Understanding the Role of Caregiver Death in Homelessness

Homelessness results from a host of highly studied circumstances — addiction, unemployment, poor physical or mental health, domestic violence — but one cause of homelessness has yet to be well explained: the death of a parent. Researchers attempting to identify and study the population made homeless by the death of a parent are stymied by extremely limited data, largely because the federal database used by homeless services providers nationwide does not capture caregiver death as a reason for homelessness. But a group of older homeless men at Detroit’s Neighborhood Service Organization has helped Assistant Professor Tam Perry shed more light on this phenomenon.

With Justin Petrusak (B.S.W. ’07, M.S.W. ’08), a graduate student in social work research and evaluation, and Luke Hassevoort (M.S.W. ’15), now assistant program manager of Common Ground’s Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, Perry has interviewed men in their fifties who seek assistance from NSO’s Homeless Recovery Services (HRS) after losing the parent or parental figure with whom they resided. Petrusak proposed the study, which was funded by The Humanities Center at Wayne State, after observing that older men facing homelessness after a parent’s death are unique from other homeless individuals in key respects. First, they tend to suffer from chronic rather than short-term homelessness, which is unusual for those experiencing homelessness for the first time. Second, they tend not to draw upon government sources of financial or social assistance.

Perry and Petrusak have gained insights about why these individuals are unable to draw upon the resources and social ties that keep others in their situation off the street. One paper from their study analyzes how time and space are perceived by people experiencing chronic homelessness.

The team also examined how the homeless situations of this group of men could have been ameliorated through an exploration of their caregiver support networks. Some had default caregivers and, while some did not have apparent caregivers to seek support from, caregivers were reported even in cases of most dire isolation. Scholars have often systemically overlooked the presence of such supports in the lives of those experiencing homelessness, with most research continuing to focus on the presumed lack of social support. Perry’s study illustrates the complex ways care networks are part of these men’s lives as well as what “care” has meant for them.

Global Warming and Older Adults

The Earth has become warmer at an unprecedented rate over the past century, and climate scientists are nearly unanimous in attributing this trend to human activities. Global warming threatens significant harm to society in the form of diminished human health and well-being and destabilized assets, coping capacities, and response structures. Experts expect an increase in the number of socially, economically, and psychologically vulnerable individuals and communities, with older adults among the most at risk.

Assistant Professor Tam Perry is raising awareness of the unique challenges facing older adults as a result of global warming. During a presentation of the multilevel impacts of changing environments on older adults as part of a panel that shared the Grand Challenges initiative with the gerontological community at the Gerontological Society of America’s 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, Perry and Ted Chaperon, a Gerontology Certificate student, described the physiological susceptibility and social vulnerability that result from rising temperatures.
Higher rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and chronic respiratory disease make seniors more vulnerable to ozone air pollution, and heat stress is particularly dangerous for seniors with reduced thermoregulatory capacity or who cannot afford or have access to air conditioning. Severe weather events, flooding or wildfires can displace seniors from their homes, causing physical injury or exacerbating mental illness, and lead to food and water shortages impacting cost of living and nutrition. Finally, seniors are particularly susceptible to climate change-related allergies and illnesses from insects and pathogens.

Perry and Chaperon recommend promoting older adults’ health through proper eating and exercise in order to maintain health and mobility in case of emergencies, but also suggest the public health community conduct cognitive and affective risk assessments and adopt early warning systems addressing the particular vulnerabilities of older adults.

Innovative Care for Advanced Illness

Advanced illness involves any serious illness that is incurable, such as progressive neurological disorders, end-state organ failure, and metastatic cancer. The physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial implications of advanced illness can be overwhelming for patients and their caregivers, particularly when the high costs associated with chronic disease — it accounts for 75% of all health care spending — restrict treatment options. As a result, social workers and other public health professionals are calling on health care providers and policy makers to promote ethical, affordable and flexible approaches to end-of-life care that honor the right to self-determination.

To help guide this policy and practice, Associate Professor Faith Hopp is studying emerging, innovative and culturally relevant interventions for people with advanced illness. Specifically, Hopp is examining alternatives to the traditional health care paradigm that requires seriously ill patients to choose between aggressive, life-sustaining treatment and comfort-oriented hospice care. With funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, Hopp has collaborated on studies of @HOME Support, an innovative palliative care program that does not require hospice election, limited life expectancy, or limitations on the use of curative treatments. Hopp and her colleagues found that the program, which combined traditional hospice services with health care services, resulted in cost savings from decreased emergency room visits and hospitalizations and shorter hospital stays. They also identified the program components of most value to patients, including medical and emotional support, practical assistance, monitoring, and connection to social services.

Hopp is also addressing disparities in care for chronic illness among Detroit’s African American residents, many of whom have two or more advanced diseases and lack adequate access to medical and social care. Hopp is studying the benefits of embedding support services, resources, and training programs into African American churches. These churches frequently serve as community conveners for social, spiritual and medical care, to enhance support for families, religious leaders and congregations who care for members with these conditions. Specifically, Hopp is collaborating with the Southeast Michigan Association to Transform Advanced Illness Care to develop an evidence-based advanced illness navigator program within Detroit-area churches to help these faith communities identify and promote resources and support.
Healthy youth and development influence the entire life course. Through practice, research and policy development, our child welfare experts are helping kids thrive through strong caregiver attachments, stable families, positive peer relationships, access to education and financial capability, and behavioral health interventions.

Protecting Youth from Substance Misuse

Preventing and reducing binge drinking and prescription drug misuse among youth and young adults has become a public health priority given the severity of associated consequences. Frequently defined as drinking four to five drinks (or more) in two hours, binge drinking during adolescence is linked to significantly elevated risks for tobacco and drug use, physical violence, and unsafe sexual behaviors, as well as continued binge drinking and alcohol use disorders in adulthood. Prescription drug misuse among youth, attributed in part to relative ease of access and a misperception that prescription drugs are not dangerous, is resulting in increasingly high rates of overdose, death and risk for infections such as hepatitis C and HIV.
Elizabeth Agius, manager of community partnerships, is helping state and federal efforts by conducting program evaluation and research related to adolescent substance abuse prevention and treatment. Currently, she provides evaluation, technical assistance and data collection assistance to The Partnership for Success, a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant through which high-need counties are targeted for prevention coalition development and evidence-based practices to reduce underage drinking and prescription drug use. She is also engaged in revisions to Michigan’s youth treatment policy and development of the state workforce related to prevention and treatment through another SAMHSA grant. Here, a state-level interagency council is generating new solutions and policies to improve substance abuse treatment for young adults ages 16 to 21.

According to Agius, years of work on youth development programs has generated lessons for the field that can help to promote health development.

“We are seeing that coalitions are effective at organizing local action around the problem and that prevention strategies must expand beyond schools and individual-level approaches to include family-based interventions,” Agius said. “Of particular significance to social workers, we are seeing that substance abuse counselors with quality training in integrated mental and behavioral health will continue to be in demand.”

Partnership for Success receives additional assistance from School of Social Work faculty Stella Resko, assistant professor and director of the Certificate in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies, and Assistant Professor Suzanne Brown, who provides content expertise and consult on methods and measures. Students assist with project management, data, and literature searches.

Helping Older Foster Youth Achieve Permanency

Due to prolonged trauma, older youth in foster care may experience behavioral health challenges that can include high-risk behaviors, poor academic performance, and peer conflicts. Unfortunately, permanency can be hard to achieve for these youth because foster, adoptive and kinship care providers — known as “resource parents” — are not adequately prepared to respond to these behavioral difficulties. Support and training is needed to help resource parents overcome these challenges so they do not terminate placements, which can further compound the emotional issues these youth are experiencing.

With funding from Southfield, Michigan-based Spaulding for Children, Assistant Professor Angelique Day, Associate Professor Debra Patterson and Associate Professor Stella Resko are collaborating on a state-of-the-art training program for these parents with ChildTrauma Academy, The Center for Adoption Support and Education, and the North American Council on Adoptable Children. Day, Patterson and Resko have been asked to identify the knowledge, skills and attitudes that resource parents need when caring for adolescents with severe behavioral health challenges. These competencies will be used to develop the curriculum for the training, the goal of which is to reduce foster parent turnover and increase the number of adoptive homes that are prepared to receive and provide permanency and stability to older foster youth.

“The most resilient foster youth I have worked with over the last several years tell me that access to a permanent, reliable, and caring adult was the single most important factor in their successful transition to adulthood,” said Day. “Too many foster youth age out of the foster care system without permanent connections to a caring adult. The goal of this project is to reverse this trend through the provision of increased targeted training, supports, and incentives for new and continuing resource parents who are interested in parenting teens.”

Peer Victimization and Sexual Risk-taking

Although limited, research suggests that peer victimization is significantly correlated with sexual risks. It is conceivable that peer-victimized adolescents are more likely to experience various psychosocial problems such as depression, exposure to negative peer norms, and substance use that can increase their likelihood of sexual risk-taking.

In light of this, Assistant Professor Jun Sung Hong is exploring direct and indirect effects of peer victimization on sexual risks among urban African American adolescents.
Collaborating with colleagues at the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Florida and Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, South Korea, Hong is conducting a quantitative pilot study of more than 600 African American adolescents, ages 12 through 22, from three high schools, one youth church group, two community youth programs, and four public venues frequented by youth in Chicago’s Southside.

The goal of the study is to see if peer-victimized students report higher rates of depression, negative peer norms, and substance use and whether this mediates the association between peer victimization and sexual risks. According to Hong, findings from the pilot may inform a broader study that can inform culturally relevant social work practices and add to the literature on bullying and sexual risk.

Although these issues often continue into adulthood, mental and physical health service use decreases dramatically after leaving care, and less than a third of youth with a history of foster care go on to enroll in post-secondary education. Transitions to independent living and to adulthood can be especially difficult for youth in foster care who often have less social, emotional, and financial support — yet there are also examples of positive outcomes and stories of resilience to inform practice and policy. Assistant Professor Megan Hayes Piel is working to advance research and best practices with foster youth transitioning to adulthood to ensure healthy development and to help them enjoy long and productive lives.

In the first of three current projects, Piel is interviewing former foster youth about their experiences with health care, including their use and knowledge of campus-based and community healthcare resources. For the second, funded by the Wayne State University Office of the Provost University Research Grant, Piel is surveying former foster youth regarding their experiences navigating their mental health needs and services as they age out of the child welfare system. Findings from this research provide much needed insight to child welfare and behavioral health professionals to adequately assess and support the mental health needs of transition-age foster youth.

Piel is also collaborating with the Wayne County Community College District on a three-year grant, funded by the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, to develop and evaluate a wraparound support program for foster youth transitioning to higher education with the goal of increasing access, retention, and graduation
rates. Creating a pipeline of educational support from high schools to community colleges to four-year universities improves not only graduation rates but also contributes to healthy development in areas such as physical and mental health, life skills, supportive relationships and community connections, and cultural and personal identity formation.

### A Strong Child Welfare Workforce

The School of Social Work is helping to promote a strong child welfare workforce in Michigan through Wayne Together – Child Welfare Learning and Leadership Collaborative in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Aimed at increasing recruitment and retention in this vital workforce area, the federally funded initiative trains select M.S.W. students for child welfare positions with an expanded curriculum and a rotational field education placement in child protection, foster care, and adoption. It also provides coaching, workshops, and continuing education to publicly and privately employed child welfare staff in Wayne County.

Now completing its third year, the collaborative receives support from partners that include the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services, Vista Maria, Judson Center, The Children’s Center, Christ Child House and Forever Families. In addition to coursework and field training, the program offers lunch-and-learn sessions, career development workshops, and self-care activities as a means of coping with the stress of child welfare work. Students selected to join the program earn $6,400 to assist with tuition and other educational expenses.

According to **Anwar Najor-Durack**, director of field education for the School of Social Work, who leads the program with Associate Dean for Research **Joanne Sobeck**, students in the program gain “an understanding of the depth and breadth of child welfare services available and an opportunity for strong integration between child welfare field work and relevant coursework. They also gain from county, state, and national networking opportunities with child welfare professionals, which is a tremendous benefit when entering the job market.”

### Financial Empowerment for Foster Youth

Education is among the greatest predictors of financial security, with studies correlating higher levels of education with higher rates of employment and lower rates of poverty. Foster youth face myriad obstacles to health and well-being as a result of trauma, lack of permanency, and limited access to health and behavioral health services, and the disruption these factors cause to their education and lifelong financial stability is among the most damaging.

The School of Social Work is helping to provide critical financial, social and academic support for Wayne State students aging out of foster care through the university’s Transition to Independence Program (TIP), a comprehensive assistance program that provides both tuition scholarships and wraparound support. Now in its fifth year, the program is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and has succeeded in raising the retention rate of foster youth in the program from 45% to 75% — a rate similar to that of the general student body.

According to TIP Director **Judith Wineman**, the program is focused on service delivery and enhancements in strategic areas that include direct services to foster care youth and outreach and recruitment to increase the visibility and utilization of the program. TIP is also working to strengthen and expand collaboration and coordination of services with university academic and student success networks and to further develop community partnerships with private human service agencies, schools, government and corporations.

TIP was founded and formerly led by Assistant Professor **Angelique Day**, an expert in foster youth research, practice and policy development who has worked at the local, state and national level to help foster youth attain higher education. Day’s research and testimony have had a significant impact on legislation in Michigan, contributing in 2016 to the passage of laws that ensure foster youth’s right to sibling visitation and require credit checks to protect them from identity theft. She has also collaborated on innovative, statewide data analysis of foster youth case files and Medicaid data to evaluate the adequacy of foster youth receipt of preventive, dental and prenatal health care services. Day has accepted a position at the University of Washington beginning fall 2017.
Physical, mental and emotional well-being lay the foundation for individuals, families and communities to thrive. Promoting equitable access to services and addressing the discrimination, poverty, and dangerous environments that accelerate higher rates of illness are a major focus of the School of Social Work’s education and research.

Technology-based Treatments for Alcohol Use Disorders

Alcohol-related causes are the third-major cause of preventable deaths in the United States, resulting in nearly 88,000 deaths per year from causes such as traffic fatalities and accidental injuries. Meanwhile, alcohol misuse contributes to a host of serious societal problems including sexual assault, domestic violence, child neglect and family dysfunction. Unfortunately, less than 10% of the millions of Americans with a diagnosable alcohol use disorder (AUD) receive any specialty AUD treatment.

Associate Professor Stella Resko and Assistant Professors Suzanne Brown and Jamey Lister are part of a team studying the considerable opportunities for leveraging technology in the delivery of evidence-based intervention and prevention services to address alcohol misuse. With colleagues from Wayne State’s Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development and the University of Michigan, they are promoting information and communication technologies that include web-based tools, interventions on mobile devices, online counseling and
support groups, gaming, and text messaging support, as well as computerized feedback on alcohol use during therapist-delivered interventions.

Their work was presented in a special issue of the Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions focused on the alcohol misuse Grand Challenge. Resko, who served as lead author on the paper, says technology-based AUD services are appealing due to their widespread reach and cost-effectiveness.

“Despite the recent advances in substance use treatment, many individuals with alcohol use disorders, and particularly young people, do not receive treatment,” said Resko, who serves as coordinator of the School of Social Work’s interdisciplinary Certificate in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies. “Technology-based interventions that are easy to use and affordable have considerable potential to increase access to treatment.”

Reducing and preventing alcohol misuse and its consequences is one of two priorities under the Grand Challenge “Closing the Health Gap,” which also includes the eradication of health inequalities for future generations. Resko is one of 30 social work researchers who developed a concept paper on alcohol misuse that was selected for inclusion on the Grand Challenges website and subsequently published in the International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research.

**Heroin Abuse Recovery**

People with heroin (opioid) abuse typically experience hardships across domains, including consequences to their physical health, difficulties in family and interpersonal relationships, risk for overdose and death, and frequently are living in poverty. These factors can significantly influence an individual’s success with treatment, however more research is needed on the intersection of these psychosocial factors and their role in hindering or enhancing medication-assisted treatment outcomes.

With university funding, Assistant Professor Jamey Lister and colleagues from the Wayne State School of Medicine are surveying new patients recently admitted to methadone treatment at Wayne State’s Tolan Park Research Clinic. The study examines a variety of individual, relational, and community-level risk and protective factors that may influence treatment success. Identifying links between treatment outcomes and psychosocial factors — which could include social support, motivation to change, access to health care and transportation, and co-occurring mental health conditions or trauma histories — might lead to more targeted treatment approaches.

“What we are seeing thus far is that patients are reporting severe problems in multiple areas of their lives and that some of these factors are aggravating their likelihood of treatment success,” Lister said. “In particular, we have found that patients who report having family members and close friends with substance abuse histories, and those with more severe economic and housing problems, experience worse treatment outcomes. On the contrary, a few factors, including living closer to the methadone clinic and reporting abstinence from other substances at the start of treatment, may help patient outcomes,” said Lister.

Lister, who is also an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences Substance Abuse Research Division, also oversees student research regarding methadone treatment. He was a faculty mentor for a B.S.W. student’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program fellowship and oversaw another B.S.W. student’s successful conference abstract submission to a leading minority health research conference regarding race and ethnic differences in injection status among patients in methadone treatment.

**Legal Help for Cancer Patients**

People experiencing serious or chronic illness face a host of life stressors, many of which have legal solutions. As a result, a growing number of medical-legal partnerships are integrating legal help into health care delivery to alleviate patient stress and improve outcomes. One of these, between the Wayne State University Law School and Karmanos Cancer Center, led to the creation in 2011 of the Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic. The clinic was developed and is directed by Assistant (Clinical) Law Professor Kathryn M. Smolinski, who before earning her law degree at Wayne State was an oncology social worker for more than 20 years.
Smolinski directs the clinic and supervises Wayne Law students and one M.S.W. student, who receives field education in macro social work. Placement in the clinic, which offers help with insurance, housing, employment, life planning and public benefits, provides social work students with an opportunity to design, develop, implement and evaluate programs directly impacting cancer patients and their families. They also learn budget review and tracking, marketing, and development.

Smolinski, who has practiced as a senior oncology social worker at Johns Hopkins’ Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and served as executive director of the Association of Oncology Social Work, said social workers play a key role in integrating health care and legal services.

“Social workers are commonly the members of the health care team who identify all the non-medical stresses patients are experiencing,” Smolinksi said. “This approach is invaluable as our health is determined by so much more than our physiology. A patient’s quality of life improves when problems get solved. When social workers team up with public interest lawyers, patients can sense a seamless, team-approach to holistic care.”

Anwar Najor-Durack, director of field education for Social Work, said students placed at the clinic “have a unique opportunity to learn within a interprofessional setting supporting adult cancer patients, their families and cancer center staff while demonstrating leadership skills by helping to organize and sometimes lead programs within Wayne Law and the general university community. This is an excellent setting for students to develop skills and competency in community organizing and outreach as well as leadership.”

**Screening for Risky Substance Use**

Most of the attention given to alcohol and drug misuse is focused on addiction, however data show that “risky” users — those who are not dependent on these substances but whose use exceeds the recommended guidelines — suffer more costs and consequences at the population level than those who are dependent. Risky users face increased risk for accidents, injuries, and health conditions such as depression, high blood pressure, heart failure, organ damage, and cancer — the implications of which are significant for individuals, families, employers, and the health care system. To reduce the harm and societal costs associated with risky use, the public health community is working to make screening for these behaviors a routine part of health care delivery.

With $1 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the School of Social Work and the Wayne State College of Nursing are training social work and nursing students to assess patients in primary care settings for substance use with Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).

Similar to screenings for diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases, SBIRT helps health care providers identify risk levels for substance use and to employ early, appropriate interventions that can prevent escalation. These include education about related risks, motivation to change behaviors and — in the most serious cases — referrals to specialty care.

The first university in Michigan to receive a SAMHSA grant to train students in SBIRT, Wayne State began the three-year initiative in 2015 and has trained 151 students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Associate Nursing Professor Feleta Wilson and Anwar Najor-Durack, director of field education at the School of Social Work, developed the training curriculum with an interprofessional team of nursing and social work faculty that included Associate Social Work Professor Antonio González-Prendes and Assistant Social Work Professor Suzanne Brown. The program has also trained more than 20 health care professionals at Detroit-area hospitals and treatment centers where Wayne State students trained in the screening tool are receiving field instruction.

According to Najor-Durack, social workers and nurses are ideally suited to employ SBIRT because they spend the most time with patients in primary and community-based health care settings and because they take a holistic approach to assessing patients. Social workers and nurses “consider how physical, behavioral and environmental circumstances come together to influence health and well-being,” she said, “and provide a nonjudgmental and confidential environment where patients are encouraged to be truthful about their behaviors.”

**Empowering Medically Underserved Areas**

Across Michigan, a health care workforce shortage has made access to quality health services a persistent problem. A staggering 75 of the state’s 83 counties do not have enough primary health care providers, according to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and 45 counties do not have enough mental health care professionals. Not surprisingly, limited availability of health and mental health services in these areas has led to poorer health outcomes for residents.

To address this workforce shortage and its impacts, Wayne State University with HRSA funding established the Michigan Area Health Education Center (MI-AHEC) as part of the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, a federal initiative launched in 1972. The goal of MI-AHEC is to improve community health and strengthen Michigan’s economy by recruiting, training, and retaining a diverse work force of health professionals in the state’s medically underserved and health professional shortage areas. This is done through a network of regional centers that foster pipeline programming to support students’ interest in and preparation for health careers, support for community-based training, and targeted recruitment and retention efforts.
The School of Social Work has taken a leadership role in the statewide community engagement effort through the contributions of Joanne Smith-Darden, associate professor for research, and Joanne Sobeck, associate dean for research. Given the complexity of serving rural and urban populations, Smith-Darden and Sobeck have partnered with four of the five regional centers to assess community readiness and capacity to discuss barriers to primary health care and explore strategies for engaging in dialogues with communities to find solutions. In addition to providing technological support, methodological and analytical consultation and training, data analysis, and other key forms of assistance, they have facilitated 12 community engagement events and shared insights from their work with MI-AHEC at the 2017 Society for Social Work Research Conference in New Orleans.

“The solutions to the workforce shortages do not rest with only schools and employers,” Sobeck noted. “We’ve used various engagement methods across the state and found that people are ready to play a more significant role in exposing youth to health careers and working to retain the health professionals in their community. As one resident from the U.P. AHEC area in Ironwood asked ‘How do we welcome people? How do we promote what is good that will attract more health professionals to our community?’”

**Reducing Suicide Among the Inuit**

Suicide among the world’s Inuit people has been described as a public health crisis, particularly with respect to youth. A report by the Canadian government found that during the five-year period from 2004 through 2008, the suicide rate among youth in the Inuit homelands was 30 times that of youth in the rest of Canada, and rates in Greenland, Alaska, and other Arctic regions are similarly alarming. Numerous factors are believed to contribute to the epidemic — which disproportionately affects Inuit males — including loss of culture and traditional family systems, lack of control over lands, insufficient housing, and limited employment. This is true for Native Americans as well, who have the highest suicide rate of any ethnic group in the United States.

To inform national and community-based suicide prevention efforts, Associate Professor Michael Kral studied stress and resilience among the Inuit to identify protective and risk factors for suicide and social isolation. With $1.4 million from the National Science Foundation, he led a community-based participatory action study of youth aged 13 to 19 in five Indigenous Arctic communities across Siberia, Alaska, Nunavut Canada, and northern Norway, concluding that resilience is social and ecological and rooted in the relationships youth have with family and peers. More recently, Kral interviewed Inuit adults about youth resilience and well-being and the future of Inuit youth. He found that Inuit spoke of youth living in a very different world from their parents and grandparents. Most do not finish high school, which limits their employment. They are living in two worlds, Inuit and White. Most of the Inuit he spoke with said that youth should learn more about their culture and be out on the land, which is healing for Inuit. Their future is uncertain, but some believed that it was positive.

Trained in medical anthropology and clinical psychology, Kral has conducted community-based participatory action research with Inuit in Arctic Canada for more than 20 years on a host of factors influencing health and well-being. He is now working with Native Americans in Detroit. Kral’s findings emphasize the need for local solutions, community engagement, and youth empowerment, and describe prevention and intervention services designed and administered by Inuit communities as highly effective.
Interpersonal Violence

The exertion of power and control through physical, sexual, economic or emotional threats or actions is a far-too-prevalent dynamic in relationships across all ages and socioeconomic classes. We are looking at ways to intervene in relationships throughout the lifespan to make life happier and healthier for individuals, families and communities.

Interpersonal Violence

Another CDC-funded study of roughly 1,200 middle- and high school students examining risk and protective factors associated with healthy dating behaviors and behaviors such as stalking and physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Because Kernsmith and Smith-Darden have found school connectedness and parental involvement to be among the protective factors associated with sexual and dating violence avoidance, they are infusing their modified YES curriculum with involve student-led, school-based group projects with adults participating as a proxy parental presence. Offered one day a week as part of the yearlong social studies curriculum, YES-HR will involve a combination of classroom activities on issues such as respectful relationships, appropriate use of technology, gender role norms, and leadership and bystander interventions that culminate in an event to showcase the student-led projects to promote non-violence and healthy relationships.

Speaking Out Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Social workers are on the front line of efforts to prevent and reduce sexual and gender-based violence, and Wayne State’s social work students are doing their part by supporting campus- and community-based initiatives to highlight the issue and provide education. This includes annual participation in Take Back the Night, a national event staged on college campuses and across communities to support victims of domestic and sexual violence. Sponsored at Wayne
State by the President’s Commission on the Status of Women each April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month), the evening event includes a rally, talks by policymakers and survivors, and vendor booths providing information on resources and services — including Wayne State social work degree programs. Members of the Wayne State’s Phi Alpha Society have also teamed up with Metro Detroit S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) to educate hotels on sex trafficking, label bars of motel soap with the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and pass out missing children posters in advance of the North American International Auto Show.

**Improving Help-Seeking Experiences**

Too often, survivors of sexual assault who seek help report feeling blamed and intimidated by the systems meant to assist them. Whether through lack of training, empathy, or cultural competence, further traumatization by criminal justice, health care and social service professionals can complicate and impede survivors’ recovery.

Led by Associate Professor Debra Patterson, the School of Social Work is working to improve survivors’ help-seeking experiences through research and evaluation at the national level. A chief focus of Patterson’s work has been the efficacy of sexual assault forensic examiner (SAFE) programs, which include specialized medical care and medical forensic exams by trained nurses and crisis intervention by skilled advocates. With a team of students, Patterson has conducted multiple studies on survivor responses to SAFE programs and concluded they are improving the emotional well-being of help-seekers and strengthening interconnections among legal, health care and socials systems — resulting in increased prosecution of sexual assault cases. Patterson has also made
key contributions to SAFE training. In 2012, Patterson, Associate Professor Stella Resko and the International Association of Forensic Nursing were awarded nearly $1.5 million by the National Institute of Justice to develop, administer and evaluate a blended online national training for SAFEIs across the United States.

Most recently, Patterson is collaborating with Turning Point of Macomb County to evaluate the effectiveness of using mobile technology to meet the acute needs of survivors and studying help-seeking needs specific to Latinas with Resko and Southwest Detroit’s LA VIDA Partnership. For this community participatory research project, which has received $350,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women, Patterson and Resko will examine the formal and informal supports and strategies Latina survivors use to cope and evaluate whether LA VIDA’s culturally specific services meet their needs.

Meanwhile, Patterson will be working over the next four years to remove systems-level barriers to help-seeking as a member of the Rutgers Violence Against Women Consortium, an interdisciplinary team of 13 core faculty and research scientists from across the nation who will identify gaps in the field of violence against women and implement research and evaluation projects to fill them. The consortium, which is supported by $5 million from the National Institute of Justice, seeks to elucidate the causes and consequences of sexual and intimate partner violence and improve the criminal justice system’s response.

Helping Violence-Exposed Parents Cope

Infants and toddlers are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than older children and at a higher risk for death when abuse and neglect occurs. Stress is a major risk factor for insensitive parenting and may include exposure to violence, which can confer dysregulating effects on a parent’s biology, psychology and behaviors and make it difficult for him or her to respond appropriately to an infant who is upset. Violence-exposed parents may have particular difficulty with emotional availability, affective attunement, and responsiveness, which can place their infants at risk for insecure attachment and a host of life-long emotional and behavioral consequences.

Lullabies may be an easy, effective and affordable coping strategy for parents experiencing interpersonal or community violence, according to Assistant Professor Carolyn Dayton, who serves as associate director of the Infant Mental Health Program at the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development. Because holding a baby while singing establishes both a physical and emotional connection, Dayton observes, lullabies may have the power to soothe both
parent and baby while strengthening the development of the early parent-infant relationship and helping safeguard the socio-emotional development of the baby.

With $50,000 from Wayne State’s Division of Research, Dayton and Assistant Professor of Music Education Wendy Matthews have launched a two-year study called “Singing to Babies in Motown: the Detroit Lullaby Study.” For the project, Dayton and Matthews are studying dozens of mothers and fathers with histories of poverty, trauma, depression and other stress as they sing to their babies, observing the parents’ behavioral responses and measuring the physiological responses (e.g., heart rate, breathing rate, skin conductance) of the parents and their babies.

If singing proves to be an effective coping strategy for violence-exposed parents, it could be a candidate for a high-impact public service campaign, Dayton said.

“The beauty of singing is that anyone can do it anywhere for free, so it can have the broadest application possible in terms of evidence-based interventions,” she said. Billboards and posters could promote the simple message of singing lullabies when stressed, she suggested, and the practice could be promoted by social workers, counselors, community health workers, and other professionals who work in vulnerable communities.

Teen Dating Violence Prevention in Schools

A quarter of adolescents have experienced some form of physical violence within a dating relationship, and a third are estimated to have endured non-physical types of abuse such as verbal abuse. While dating violence impacts teens from all demographic groups, evidence suggests females endure higher rates of injurious violence than males, and that young women from underrepresented minority groups and sexual minority groups are at a disproportionately higher risk for victimization. Teens who endure violence during a dating relationship experience greater incidences of negative mental and physical health outcomes in adulthood.

Professor Arlene Weisz has written extensively on research and evidence-based best practices from youth dating violence and sexual assault prevention programs across North America and contributed to the development of programs for middle schools and Wayne State University students. With colleagues from Tulane University and the University of Washington, she authored a brief entitled “Preventing Teen Dating Violence” to suggest research and practice priorities under AASWSW’s “Stop Family Violence” challenge.

Weisz and her colleagues call for increased research on “upstream” risk and protective factors within macro and mezzo systems that may influence prevention, noting these have been under-investigated compared to individual-level correlates. School-based programming and policy should also be shored up, they say, noting that while many states require schools to implement anti-bullying programs, implementation of teen dating prevention curricula is usually optional. States should mandate teen dating programs while guarding against one-size-fits-all protocols, the authors say. Prevention programming must be inclusive of strategies at the school and faculty level, consider school-level idiosyncrasies and norms, and be tailored to the diverse experiential realities of adolescents.

While schools are critical sites of prevention, they are not enough. Weisz and her colleagues urge more attention to upstream determinants of health — including gender inequality, barriers to education, heteronormative and gendered social norms, and media representations of teen dating violence — that place an undo burden of risk on marginalized and underrepresented adolescents. Directing attention to the structural determinants of teen dating violence is a primary prevention strategy that will ultimately be more impactful, they say.
ACOSA Honors Students for Promoting Foster Youth Welfare

Wayne State’s Coalition of Community Social Workers (CCSW) student organization recently gained national recognition for their efforts to improve Michigan’s foster care system. The Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA) gave CCSW its 2016 Outstanding Students of the Year Award for organizing the Michigan’s Children KidSpeak, which in August brought together a listening panel of elected officials, state policymakers and influencers to hear first-hand accounts of the experiences of youth in the foster care system.

Held annually on Wayne State’s campus, KidSpeak has numerous sponsors that include the School of Social Work and the Transition to Independence Program, a university-wide program whose mission is to increase college access and improve graduation rates of foster care youth. CCSW in 2016 assumed responsibility for outreach to participants and legislators, media relations, event registration, greeting and seating, and staff support. The ACOSA award was accepted on Nov. 5 at the Council on Social Work Education’s Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta by M.S.W. advisor Tamarie Willis, B.S.W. student Caleb Claudio, and M.S.W. student Dominique Schroeder.

Empowering communities is one of the most important things that social workers do. From criminal justice programs to environmental initiatives to social justice endeavors, our faculty, staff and students are helping communities have a voice in the policy decisions that shape the way they live.
CCSW faculty advisor Judith Wineman said improving outcomes for foster youth is “consistent with the school’s decades-long commitment to child welfare and social justice and an issue that CCSW wanted to put its energy behind. It also shows the value of giving students hands-on experience and opportunities to apply their skills.”

A Student-Led Initiative Around Detroit’s Water Crisis

It’s easy to take clean tap water for granted in America, but widespread shutoffs across Detroit and lead poisoning throughout Flint have placed Michigan in the international spotlight and galvanized a multi-coalition movement around water as a human right. Opportunities for social justice education and practice prompted the School of Social Work to create Policy To Action, a community engagement project giving students real-world political action and community organizing experience around regional issues of water insecurity.

Citing delinquent residential accounts of more than $26 million, the city of Detroit in 2015 cut off water service to tens of thousands of residential customers due to nonpayment. However, human and citizens’ rights groups said the shut-offs disproportionately impacted minorities and put low-income residents — including vulnerable populations such as children and older adults — at serious risk of a public health crisis. Nearly 18,000 households remain vulnerable to shutoffs, according to city officials.

Funded by the Council on Social Work Education, Policy to Action allows students to respond to the water crisis through central components of learning, exploring, and action. With support from faculty and staff, students have taken a leadership role in identifying community partners and coordinating events that allow for learning and discussion. These have included in-class presentations by People’s Water Board and Wayne Law faculty, a documentary viewing co-hosted by the School of Social Work’s Social Justice Committee, and a trip to Lansing to lobby on the issue as part of social work’s annual Legislative Education and Advocacy Day. Students have also trained and deployed action teams to Detroit communities to educate citizens on advocacy efforts and available relief for shutoffs, helped stage a diversity-focused forum with the Association of Black Social Workers student organization, and helped organize the school’s first Social Justice Student Symposium.

According to Takisha LaShore, project lead and assistant director of field education, media attention to Detroit’s economic renewal has made it “harder to see struggling populations like the residents who have been traumatized by the water shutoffs. The Policy to Action initiative reflects the School of Social Work’s commitment to advancing social work practice and social welfare policy in urban contexts, particularly in our immediate community, and gives us a great model for student-directed involvement that we can apply to social justice issues for years to come.”

A Voice for Flint Residents

The widespread lead seepage that poisoned Flint’s water supply beginning in 2014 did more than inflict a host of acute and long-term health consequences upon the city’s residents — it shook their faith in the leaders and systems designed to protect them from such a disaster. For the public health community, an adequate response to the Flint water crisis requires not only the provision of a safe water supply and long-term health care and monitoring, but careful attention to residents’ emotional and psychosocial responses.

Because giving residents a role in the public health response is critical to this support, School of Social Work faculty have brought community engagement expertise to The Flint Area Community Health and Environment Partnership (FACHEP), a multidisciplinary group of institutions and individuals working to identify and reduce exposure to Legionella bacteria in Flint residences and institutions. Associate Dean for Research Joanne Sobeck, Professor Poco Kernsmith, and Associate Professor for Research Joanne Smith-Darden are making sure that Flint residents who participate in FACHEP site testing feel heard and have help accessing solutions and resources to address their most pressing concerns.

With funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Sobeck, Kernsmith and Smith-Darden developed a survey to be administered at the time
of water collection to assess behavioral health needs and connect residents with needed services. Working in threeperson teams, social work-trained community specialists have used the survey to conduct nearly 200 interviews with Flint-area residents. Recruitment and data collection are assisted by M.S.W. advisor Tamarie Willis and two M.S.W. student interns, who have received guidance from Lecturer Susan Lebold in identifying ways that health inequities are exacerbated by socially unjust actions. The study will continue through December 2017, when investigators will present results to Flint residents, partners, agencies, and professional groups such as the Society for Social Work Research and the American Public Health Association.

“This study complements similar studies on youth exposure to drinking water contaminants and offers a life-course perspective on the Flint water crisis,” said Perry. “We’ve already met many seniors who have talked about the changes in their lives, such as cooking or bathing, that are a result of the ongoing water crisis.”

Effective Criminal Justice Policy

With only five percent of the world’s population and nearly 25% of its prisoners, the United States has the world’s largest criminal justice system. The effects of mass incarceration are particularly significant for vulnerable and marginalized groups — people in poverty, racial minorities, and people with behavioral health disorders — and have profound implications for the children, families, and communities of those behind bars. To redress the social injustices of mass incarceration, and to prepare for what social scientists predict will be an era of decarceration stemming from the high financial, social and political costs of the current trend, social workers are studying criminal justice policies to identify a more effective and just approach to public safety.

Assistant Professor Erin Comartin (MSW ’07, PhD ’12) is studying criminal justice interventions and policy related to two highly stigmatized populations: sex offenders and persons with severe mental illness. With funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Gov. Rick Snyder’s Mental Health Diversion Council, Comartin is working on a multi-county evaluation of interventions to divert individuals with severe mental illness from the...
criminal justice system. As part of the four-year evaluation, Comartin and a Michigan State University colleague will analyze data on the characteristics of individuals diverted from the system as well as the services, such as counseling and medication management, they receive from the diversion programs. Through the evaluation, they hope to identify best practices for helping individuals with severe mental illness avoid repeat involvement with the system.

“Without training, police officers may see a person with mental illness in a state of crisis and attribute his or her behavior to criminality or substance abuse,” Comartin said. “Recognizing that many of these individuals require care rather than corrections, counties in Michigan have developed diversion programs that train officers to identify mental health crises, furnish 24-hour crisis drop-off centers, and provide for advisory boards to update and clarify the diversion process. In some counties, diversion is occurring even before arrest and booking.”

Comartin is also contributing to the field’s understanding of sex crime perpetration and policy. Comartin is collaborating with Professor Poco Kernsmith and colleagues from Michigan State University and Oakland University on a survey comparing men and women incarcerated for a sex crime by demographics, offense and victim characteristics, childhood adversity, and adult experiences with violent victimization and perpetration. Noting that sex offender treatment programs have historically been developed for men, Comartin said the analysis should help to identify more effective treatments for women — particularly those whose offending is related to abusive relationships or past trauma — that can help to reduce recidivism after parole.

Comartin has also studied sex offender residence restrictions, registries and other post-incarceration management policies that are punitive, ineffectual in preventing recidivism, and socially isolating for offenders and their families. Specifically, Comartin has examined legislative testimony and discussion in states that have foregone the use of residency restrictions and interviewed leaders of organizations working to reduce punishments for offenders about their strategies and tactics for achieving favorable policies.

“By not acknowledging, researching and treating this population the way we do others, we are actually postponing solutions and working against the goal of keeping society safe,” Comartin said.

Achieving Sustainable Cities

“Ecocities” are human settlements modeled on natural ecosystems. They provide healthy abundance to their inhabitants, replenish the resources they consume, assimilate their own waste, and are nontoxic — to themselves and to neighboring ecosystems. Ecocity Builders is an international organization, based in Oakland, Calif., that designs educational tools and strategies to support the development of ecocities and to reverse patterns of sprawl and excessive consumption.

As a member of Ecocity Builders and a core advisor to its International Ecocity Standards project, Associate Professor Richard Smith draws on his extensive practice experience in sustainable community development and advanced training in geographic information science to develop and refine ecocity-building tools. Smith recently worked with Ecocity Builders to develop The EcoCompass, a participatory course curriculum to train community residents in the understanding of and participation in community-engaged research and ecocity planning.

The EcoCompass serves as a training manual to use Urbinsight, an online participatory mapping and resource flow visualization tool that empowers residents and community-based organizations to help determine if their city meets Ecocity Standards. In turn, Urbinsight provides a platform for training “ecocitizens,” fostering a transition towards ecocities and building cooperation between them around the globe.

This work illustrates Smith’s commitment to harnessing technology for social good. In fall 2016, Smith and a team of five graduate social work students reviewed and edited modules of the EcoCompass curriculum. In particular, the group contributed to the sections on participatory research methodology, community development, and neighborhood outreach.

“Our students appreciated the opportunity to work with an international organization, even if it was by Skype and GoogleDrive,” Smith said.

Ecocity Builders is an implementation partner of the U.S. Department of State’s Secondary Cities program. They have piloted Urbinsight in Cairo, Casablanca, Medellín, and Lima. Ecocity Builders is working with Smith to obtain funding to expand to more cities.
The School of Social Work strives for excellence as it prepares social workers for research and practice with diverse populations, particularly within urban environments. Our degree and certificate programs use an interdisciplinary approach that prepares students to solve complex societal problems and to work within interdisciplinary health care teams.

A New Joint Master of Social Work, Public Health

Beginning in Fall 2017, Wayne State University will offer a joint Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree to help meet the rising workforce demand for practitioners with competencies in both disciplines.

One of only three in Michigan, the joint M.S.W.–M.P.H. degree will educate public health social workers to provide leadership on major societal challenges and initiatives related to health. These include aging and other demographic changes, natural and manmade disasters, globalization, chronic and infectious diseases, and health disparities and inequities. Early intervention, prevention, and promotion of healthy behaviors will also be a key area of focus.

“Social work and public health share many overlapping interests and competencies, including strategies for providing services for vulnerable and underserved population groups through a community perspective lens,” said Kim Jaffee, associate social work professor and director of the joint degree program. “This program recognizes and develops that shared terrain. It combines public health’s epidemiological approach to identifying social problems that impact health status and social functioning with social work’s comprehensive, value-based ‘person-in-environment’ perspective.”

According to Jaffee, a longstanding member of the American Public Health Association who has worked with the New York and Massachusetts health departments, key strengths of the program include its transdisciplinary nature and its focus on diverse populations and issues. Students will have access to faculty with expertise in international health, maternal and child health, racial and ethnic health disparities, mental health, substance abuse, family violence, child welfare, aging, and families-at-risk. Students are involved in transdisciplinary exposure, learning and engagement, said Jaffee, which contributes to the foundation for interprofessional team-building opportunities not often available in a degree offered by a single program discipline.

“Health care disparities and a shortage of social services among vulnerable populations are major concerns among the state’s health and welfare officials,” Jaffee noted. “The state will benefit from this joint degree program by the provision of well-trained professionals who are prepared to address current and emerging health care issues.”

Kim Jaffee

GRADUATE/ POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies
- Developmental Disabilities
- Gerontology
- Social Welfare Research and Evaluation
- Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice

INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Infant Mental Health (M.S.W. and Ph.D.)
- Gerontology (Ph.D.)
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies (Graduate Certificate)
- Social Work and Anthropology (Ph.D.)
- Social Work and Public Health (M.S.W. and M.P.H.)
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FALL 2016
342 B.S.W. | 630 M.S.W. | 20 Ph.D.
15 Certificate | 20 Non-degree

10 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
- Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW)
- Coalition for Community Social Work (CCSW)
- Diabetes Education Wellness (DEW) Clinic
- International Social Work Organization (ISWO)
- Jewish Social Work Student Association (JSWSA)
- Just Speak Inc.
- Mental Health Matters Association (MHMA)
- Phi Alpha National Honor Society of Social Workers
- Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity in Social Work (SOGI-SW)
- Student Fitness & Wellness Organization (SFWO)

3 CAMPUSES
- Main Campus/Midtown
- Macomb
- Schoolcraft

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT EACH CAMPUS
935 Main
46 Macomb
46 Schoolcraft

18 STUDENT-LED ACTIVITIES
Focused upon:
- Youth
- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking
- Diabetes
- Mental Health
- Food Insecurity
- Water as a Human Right
- Sexual Assault

1 FULLY ONLINE B.S.W. PROGRAM
Where Online Works: WOW!

Social Justice Activities
- “One Drop of Love” Diversity Performance by Fanshen Cox DiGiovanni
- Social Justice Seder
- Student Social Justice Symposium (pictured above)
- Water as a Human Right movie and discussion

6 MASTER’S THESSES

2 DOCTORAL DISSERTATION DEFENSES

FIELD EDUCATION in 2016–17:
650 STUDENTS were placed in
306 AGENCIES
The School of Social Work is committed to advancing world-class scholarship and education by investing in technology for cutting-edge research, support for faculty, and scholarships and fellowships for students. Through the Pivotal Moments campaign, we are outfitting our new building for innovative training, research, and community engagement, helping students pursue professional development opportunities and complete internships, and raising money for an endowed chair that will bring our school increased national recognition.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**45** ANNUAL MERIT- AND NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS (28 OF WHICH ARE ENDOVED)

**50** STUDENTS RECEIVING PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

$284,825 TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT

$4,011 AVERAGE STUDENT AWARD

**WAYNE TOGETHER COLLABORATIVE**

(SEE PAGE 9)

12 M.S.W. FOR $76,800

**Gift from William Pickard Supports Four New Spaces**

Entrepreneur and philanthropist William F. Pickard recently donated $125,000 to help renovate the School of Social Work’s new home at 5447 Woodward Avenue. Pickard, who served on the School of Social Work’s faculty in the 1970s, made his mark in business as chairman and CEO of Global Automotive Alliance LLC and Vitec LLC and was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to be the first chairman of the African Development Foundation. His donation was given to the school by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan from the Pickard Family Fund, which it administers.

In recognition of the gift, the school has named four spaces in honor of individuals who have encouraged and inspired Pickard throughout his life and career. These renewed spaces, which will provide advanced learning and research opportunities for social work students and greater opportunities for community engagement are The William H. and Victoria Pickard Lounge, The Paul L. Hubbard Conference Room, The Maribodine Robinson Doctoral Research Room, and The Nick Scheele and Gary L. White Technology Conference Room and Research Lab.

The university recognized the gift with a June 5 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the rooms. Attendees included honorees Paul Hubbard and Gary White, family members of Nick Scheele and Maribodine Robinson, and members of the social work community. The program featured guest speakers, as well as an impromptu appearance by civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Jackson.

**Appich Gift Largest Ever**

The School of Social Work in 2016 received its largest-ever gift from an alumnus. Betty Appich, who received her Bachelor of Social Work from Wayne State in 1982 on a full scholarship, made the gift with her husband, Horst Appich. The Betty Schmalzle-Appich and Horst G. Appich Endowed Scholarship will be available to any social work student (B.S.W., M.S.W., or Ph.D.) with a 3.0 GPA or higher who demonstrates financial need.
The Center for Social Work Research

Our center supports the diverse and innovative research initiatives of our staff, faculty and students as itforges community partnerships, disseminates information related to practice and policy, and fosters student-faculty research collaborations.

- **$25** Active Grants for a combined amount of $6,771,182
- **58** Faculty Publications
- **74** Faculty Presentations
- **15** Students Involved in SMART (Student Mentor Applied Research Team Promoting Faculty-Student Research Collaborations)
- **13** Students Participating in Faculty Research
- **32** Students Who Used Peer Research Tutoring for 51 Sessions

### Community & Strategic Partners
- **5** Community & Strategic Partners
  - Department of Health and Human Services – Wayne County
  - Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority
  - Focus: HOPE
  - Oakland Family Services
  - The Children’s Center

### Contracts and Community Research Partners
- Black Family Development, Inc.
- Kidspeak/Michigan’s Children
- West Village Academy 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Clara B. Ford Academy
- Delta Manor/Presbyterian Villages of Michigan
- Valley Area Agency on Aging
- Oakland Family Services