



CHICAGO STATE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MSW ALUMNI NETWORK

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI CONFERENCE

25th Anniversary
CSU MSW Alumni Event

2026

July 24th, 2026 | 8:30am - 5pm
Jones Convocation Center
Chicago State University



Welcome: Dr. Sonja Feist-Price



Dr. Sonja Feist-Price

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic
and Student Affairs

Welcome to Chicago State University's 25th Anniversary Master of Social Work Alumni Conference. It is a pleasure to celebrate this important milestone with our alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community partners who have helped shape the legacy of our MSW program.

This year's theme, Healing, reflects our shared commitment to promoting well-being, strengthening communities, and preparing social workers to address today's most pressing challenges. As we explore topics ranging from youth development to violence prevention and learn more about Healing-Centered Engagement from our keynote speaker, Dr. Shawn Ginwright, I encourage you to embrace the opportunity to learn, connect, and inspire one another.

We are proud of the nearly 600 graduates who have completed the MSW program since its first graduating class in 2001. Your dedication to advancing the profession and serving others is a testament to the impact of Chicago State University.

Thank you for joining us as we honor our past, celebrate our achievements, and look toward a future of continued leadership, service, and healing. I hope you enjoy a meaningful and memorable conference.

Conference Overview: Dr. Kimberly Mann



Dr. Kimberly Mann

Chair, Department of Social Work
Associate Professor of Social Work

Welcome to all of our distinguished alumni, colleagues, and guests! Our planning committee has worked for months to prepare this amazing day for you. The plan for the day was the vision of our President Zaldaynaka Scott who saw the opportunity to bring you to our beautiful campus to connect to you with all the amazing things happening at CSU! Today we celebrate our alumni across the years now standing at 590. We are so pleased to recognize the Class of 2001 on their 25th anniversary. Each of our alumni are precious members of the MSW community, with many serving as field instructors as they continue to nurture new MSW talent each year. They also serve as many of the presenters for the conference today. Finally, we also recognize the program's leadership since its inception.

Our theme for today is healing as the campus embarks upon the second year of implementation of Healing Centered Engagement under the leadership of our Provost Sonja Feist Price. We welcome Dr. Shawn Ginwright back to the campus and look forward to his wisdom and guidance.

Enjoy yourselves today! Renew and make new connections!
Thank you for sharing this day with us,

Dr. Kimberly Mann

Chair, Department of Social Work

ORDER OF PROGRAM

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25th Anniversary CSU MSW Alumni Event

815a: Umoja People-African Drummers/Opening Libations

Welcome by Dean Smith

Welcome by President "Z" Scott

Welcome by Dr. Mann-Chair

945a-Transition/break

10a-1130a-HCE Group meets w/Dr. Ginwright-Skybox

10a-11:15a - Morning All Group Session-Dr. Moore

*Topic: Cross-Age Peer Mentoring: A potential intervention for disproportionate
exclusionary school discipline among African American youth*

11:15a-11:45-Networking Activity

1145a VIP lunch service-JCC

12p-Lunch/Program -JCC

1230p-2p-Luncheon Program

Welcome by the Alumni Committee

Ms. Candy

Recognition of faculty and former chairs-Dr. Mann

Dr. Perry

Dr. Seyfried

Tareeq Rasheed, son of Dr. Rasheed

Alumni Fundraising/Scholarship-Jessica

Student speaker-Scholarship winner-Valerie Jarrett

Recognition of past/current committee members



Foundation-Ongoing giving- Dr. Melanie Silas
Alumni Awards
Recognition of Pioneer Class/Alumni
Presentation of Distinguished Alumni, Dr. Milka Ramirez
Activity
2p-3:15p Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker-Dr. Ginwright

315p-Cookie Break/Transitions
330p-430p-Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Session 2a- Necole Muhammad, LCSW — The Call: Expanding Our Leadership

Session 2b- Dwayne Johnson, Sr., MSW, LCSW — Healing-Centered Violence Intervention

Session 2c - Christopher “Duke” Novak, DSW, LCSW, CCTP, MBSR-T — Blankets and Boundaries

Session 2d - Cameron Frazier, DSW, LCSW w/ Brian A. Skinner MSW, LCSW — Concepts of
Frantz Fanon

4:30p-5p- Closing-JCC
Silent Auction Winners
Sound Bowls w/Tiffany Green-Mikell C/O 2019
Alumni Meet & Greet Activity





SPEAKERS

Shawn GINWRIGHT

Keynote Speaker



CHICAGO STATE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MSW ALUMNI NETWORK



Author of "The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves"

Dr. Shawn Ginwright is a highly sought-after speaker who has done Groundbreaking work on trauma, healing, and the empowerment of African American youth. His topics have ranged from civic engagement and youth activism to the transformative power of healing. Dr. Ginwright has written acclaimed books, including: "The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves" and "Hope and Healing in Urban Education: How Urban Activists and Teachers Are Reclaiming Matters of the Heart."

Amzie MOORE

Special Guest Speaker

Dr. Amzie Moore is an Assistant Professor at Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work. He studies school-based interventions and its impact on urban youth; specifically cross-age peer mentoring programs, examining the impact these programs have on components of resilience among youth living in stressful environments. Dr. Moore's research interests also include indigenous research methodologies and indigenous conceptual frameworks, theory development, and philosophy of science



Topic: Cross-Age Peer Mentoring: A potential intervention for disproportionate exclusionary school discipline among African American youth

"The existing literature and evidence illustrate that exclusionary discipline in schools disproportionately effect black youth in U.S. Public Schools. This is a social issue that has wide ranging negative implications for youth. Cross-age peer mentoring programs could possibly mitigate this issue."

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS

Cameron **FRAZIER**



Brian A. Skinner



Session 2d

Dr. Cameron D. Frazier, is a father, educator, clinician, curriculum developer, trainer, crisis interventionist, community redirection warrior, and Desert Storm combat veteran with over 30 years of experience in grassroots community engagement. Brian A. Skinner, MSW, LCSW is a doctoral candidate and licensed clinical social worker with over 12 years experience, specializing in mental health, leadership development, organizational consulting, and systems change.

Topic: Concepts of Frantz Fanon and how his ideas connect to present day traumas

"This workshop explores Fanon's theories through a contemporary social work lens, examining how the legacy of colonialism continues to influence trauma, identity development, interpersonal relationships, and institutional systems. Participants will examine concepts such as internalized oppression, double consciousness, liberation, resistance, and collective healing, and connect these ideas to current behavioral health practice and community engagement."



Necole **MUHAMMAD**

Session 2a

Necole Muhammad is a doctoral candidate, licensed clinical social worker, certified life coach, menopause coach, certified sexologist, and public health specialist with over 30 years of experience in justice and education systems, community outreach, trauma intervention, and mental health services. She is a strong advocate for women's mental health, trauma recovery, and holistic well-being.

Topic: The Call: Expanding Our Leadership in a Time That Demands More

"Social work has never been just a career; it is a calling rooted in service, justice, advocacy, and hope. We are living in a time that demands more from each of us; This session will challenge MSW alumni, LCSWs, and social work professionals to reconnect with their purpose, recognize the value of their expertise, and embrace the leadership influence they already have."

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS



Dwayne **JOHNSON**
Session 2b

Dwayne A. Johnson Sr., MSW, LCSW is a dedicated and accomplished clinical social worker and program director with over a decade of experience in trauma-informed care, behavioral health, and community outreach. He serves as the Director of the Violence Recovery Program at UChicago Medicine, where he leads the program's strategic expansion and coordinates with clinical staff to advocate for policies that support trauma recovery and resilience.

Topic: Healing-Centered Violence Intervention Ecosystem (HCVIE) A trauma-transformative, healing-centered public health initiative protecting and extending Chicago's violence reduction gains.

"HCVIE embeds trauma-transformative practice, radical healing, and workforce wellness inside Chicago's existing Community Violence Intervention (CVI) and Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) systems to protect and extend recent reductions in firearm violence...HCVIE operationalizes a multi-level public health prevention model inside the CVI and HVIP ecosystems already at work in Chicago. Primary prevention builds community healing, trauma-informed education, youth engagement, and resilience programming."



Christopher "Duke" **NOVAK**
Session 2c

Dr. Christopher "Duke" Novak, DSW, LCSW, CCTP, MBSR-T, is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Work at Aurora University, a licensed clinical social worker, and a former school social worker; His professional background spans educational, medical, and clinical settings, where he has focused on trauma-informed care, mindfulness-based interventions, relationship-centered practice, and psychodynamic approaches to growth and healing.

Topic: Blankets and Boundaries: Creating Holding Environments That Foster Growth, Resilience, and Well-Being

"..Drawing from psychodynamic theory, trauma-informed care, attachment theory, and contemporary social work practice, this presentation explores the concept of the holding environment, a relational space that provides safety, connection, structure, and accountability. Using the framework of Blankets and Boundaries, participants will examine how compassion, empathy, and emotional attunement ("blankets") must be balanced with clear expectations, healthy limits, and accountability ("boundaries") to promote resilience and positive outcomes."

Welcome from the Alumni Committee



Dr. Jennifer M Doucet, Class of 2013
Assistant Professor/
Co-Chair MSW Alumni Network



Candy Bennett, Class of 2001
Co-Chair MSW Alumni Network



Jessica Luckett, Class of 2019
Member MSW Alumni Network



Dr. Cameron Frazier, Class of 2013
Member MSW Alumni Network

Welcome to the Chicago State University Master of Social Work (MSW) Alumni Conference. This year, we are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our program's inaugural graduating class. Our central theme, "Healing," explores how social workers facilitate transformation and resilience across the diverse systems we navigate daily. We hope this professional development experience provides you with valuable insights, strategies, and tools to enhance your practice.

Over the past three years, the Alumni Committee has focused on strengthening engagement and expanding support for current MSW students and alumni. Through a close partnership with the MSW Department, we have successfully launched several key initiatives:

- MSW Alumni Speaker Series: Connecting current students & Alumni with experienced practitioners.
- Alumni Newsletter & Website: Streamlining community communication and resources for alumni.
- Dr. Mikal Rasheed Memorial Scholarship: Providing essential financial support to future social workers.
- Distinguished Alumni Award: Recognizing outstanding professional contributions of CSU MSW alumni.

With a growing network of nearly 600 MSW graduates, we invite you to deepen your involvement. We embrace the principle of Ujima (collective work and responsibility) as we continue to build a robust CSU MSW community. Please consider contributing your time and expertise to the MSW Alumni Network as a mentor, guest speaker, event sponsor, or donor.

Thank you for your continued dedication to excellence in social work. We hope this event allows you to connect with fellow alumni and community partners. Enjoy the conference!

Dr. Jennifer M Doucet, Class of 2013

Assistant Professor/Co-Chair MSW Alumni Network

Distinguished Alumni Awardee



Dr. Milka Ramírez

MSW Class of 2004

Crains Business2024 Notable Latino Leader
Current President, Institute for Clinical Social Work

A visionary leader with vast experience across educational settings, from early childhood to post-doctoral programs. Renowned for securing and managing multi-million-dollar funding, Dr. Ramirez brings a strategic, results-oriented approach to driving social justice, academic excellence, and transformative change.

Appreciation of our Pioneer Class: Class of 2001

Candy Bennett
LaValle Brooks
Rhonda Crawford
Natasha Cunningham
Dorthy Elligan

Betty Donnerson-Rembert
Australia Gray-Rogers
Betty (McCoy) Jackson
Anthoy McCall
Kelly Moore

Denise Reese
Annette Rice
Charlotte Robinson
Nubia Rodriquez
Glenn Sevier

Gaylord Sheffey
Preston Shumaker
Sarah Thomas
Evelyn Williams

Awarding of our Triumph Class: Class of 2020

Katrina Banner-Savage
Karlyn Boen
Kayla Brown
Marsha Chico
Kim Davis-Ambrose

Tasia Elligton-Morris
Edith Gonzalez
Briana Halbert
Te Ericka Kimbrough
Tanya Knight

Shavaughn Lacy
Julio Lopez
Reather Merritt
Allison Oliver
Wendy Ortiz

Debbie Powell
Julisa Rockiett
Nat Shannon-
Hutchison
Prestina Singleton

Delorth Stallworth
Patricia Taylor
Lisa Wilson

Chicago State University- Master of Social Work Program



The MSW Program is a department located within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), one of five university colleges at Chicago State University (CSU). The MSW program at Chicago State contributes to increasing the number of practicing African American Social Workers. In 2023, 92.5% of our students overall were African American and 94% of our graduates were African American.

The Master of Social Work program at Chicago State University has been fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education [CSWE] since 2001. Our current accreditation is valid through 2031. The MSW program works to maintain the essential standing among institutions of higher education given the commitment of our program and the social work profession to competency-based education.

The mission of the MSW Program at Chicago State University is to prepare graduate social work professionals, who are committed to life-long learning through a competent, culturally sensitive, evidence-based, trauma-informed, family-centered practice, and who use their leadership skills with a spirit of inquiry to serve global, especially urban communities with a commitment to social, racial, and economic justice.



Acknowledgment: Planning Committee

Conference planning & active committee members:

Candy Bennett, co-chair, c/o 2001
Dr. Jennifer Doucet, co-chair, c/o 2013
Jessica Luckett, c/o 2019
Dr. Cameron Frazier, c/o 2013
Patrushka Thigpen, c/o 2009
Yolanda Harris, Faculty Liaison

Other Current Committee members:

Colt Scroggins, c/o 2024
Dorian Turner, c/o 2013

Former founding committee members:

Andria DeBerry, c/o 2021
Karlyn Boen, c/o 2020
Julio Lopez, c/o 2020

Special Thanks to:



Tiffany Green-Mikell

Tiffany Green-Mikell, LCSW, RYT-250, CIMHP, is a licensed clinical social worker, trauma-informed yoga instructor, and founder of Resilient Mental Health & Wellness Solutions, LLC. With more than 20 years of experience serving children, families, and communities, Tiffany integrates evidence-based mental health practices with somatic movement, breathwork, mindfulness, and sound meditation to support nervous system regulation and resilience.

Topic: Beyond Talk: Nervous System Nourishment Through Sound

Helping professionals spend much of their careers holding space for others, often without taking intentional moments to restore themselves. This 15-minute experiential closing session offers conference participants an opportunity to transition from learning to embodied reflection through guided mindfulness, intentional breathing, gentle awareness, and the therapeutic use of sound.



Umoja People

Umoja People the Ensemble is a Chicago-based African entertainment group known for blending African drumming, jazz, dance, spoken word, and song into a vibrant cultural performance. The ensemble's drummers are central to their sound, creating rhythmic foundations that connect audiences to African heritage while fusing with modern musical styles.

Source: Google

Master of Social Work Alumni Oath

As a Chicago State University Master of Social Work graduate, I solemnly pledge to responsibly practice the profession I solemnly pledge to responsibly practice the profession of social work and to represent the Chicago State University Master of Social Work program, with integrity, dignity, and in accordance to the NASW Code of Ethics. of social work and to represent the Chicago State University Master of Social Work program, with integrity, dignity, and in accordance to the NASW Code of Ethics. I will continue to seek out best practices I will continue to seek out best practices in order to increase my understanding. in order to increase my understanding. I will be mindful of my own values, beliefs, and biases I will be mindful of my own values, beliefs, and biases in order to prevent them from interfering with the services I will provide. in order to prevent them from interfering with the services I will provide. I will be a loyal ambassador I will be a loyal ambassador for the Chicago State University's Master of Social Work program and will seek to promote its welfare and maintain its reputation. for the Chicago State University's Master of Social Work program and will seek to promote its welfare and maintain its reputation. I will honor all who have shared their knowledge with me I will honor all who have shared their knowledge with me and will in turn share my knowledge and experience with those who enter into the social work field. and will in turn share my knowledge and experience with those who enter into the social work field. I pledge that in all my endeavors I will be a voice I pledge that in all my endeavors I will be a voice to the oppressed and the impoverished and to consciously provide them with the tools of empowerment needed to overcome intolerance. to the oppressed and the impoverished and to consciously provide them with the tools of empowerment needed to overcome intolerance. I will embrace the differences in the communities that I serve I will embrace the differences in the communities that I serve and will work to preserve, develop, and enhance strength and resilience in all people and all social systems. and will work to preserve, develop, and enhance strength and resilience in all people and all social systems. I promise to uphold the traditions, integrity, and high standards I promise to uphold the traditions, integrity, and high standards set by those alumni that came before me. set by those alumni that came before me. I promise this to myself, my family, my fellow alumni I promise this to myself, my family, my fellow alumni and the Chicago State University Master of Social Work program. and the Chicago State University Master of Social Work program. I accept this pledge freely and upon my honor.

Chicago State University Master of Social Work Program



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Dr. Shawn Ginwright Keynote Speaker

Author of acclaimed books, including, "The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves" and "Hope and Healing in Urban Education"



Dr. Amzie Moore Special Guest Speaker



Cross -Age Peer Mentoring: A potential Intervention for Disproportionate Exclusionary School Discipline Among African American Youth

Breakout Sessions



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Concepts of Frantz Fanon and how his ideas connect to present day traumas



Necole Muhammad, LCSW, Doctoral Candidate

The Call: Expanding Our Leadership in a Time That Demands More



Dwayne Johnson, Sr., MSW, LCSW

Healing-Centered Violence Intervention Ecosystem (HCVIE): A trauma-transformative, healing-centered public health initiative protecting and extending Chicago's violence reduction gains



Christopher "Duke" Novak, DSW, LCSW, CCTP, MBSR-T

Blankets and Boundaries: Creating Holding Environments That Foster Growth, Resilience, and Well-Being

Join us for this 25th Anniversary CSU Master of Social Work Alumni Event

Register at <https://conta.cc/4wUbDME>

Earn CEUs | Email: mswdept@csu.edu | Call: 773-995-2207

MSW Program Support

Support current Master of Social Work students
with a gift to one of two funds today!

