



INAUGURAL DSW GRADUATES, MAY 2025

Doctor of Social Work in Human Rights Leadership



Dr. Taylor Stephens

UNPAID CAREGIVING: AN EVALUATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND STRESS-RELATED CONCERNS OF UNPAID CAREGIVERS-- ADVOCACY FOR UNPAID CAREGIVER-FOCUSED EDUCATION

Our human rights-focused DSW builds the academic and leadership skills social workers need to drive meaningful change across local, national, and global communities.

The hallmark of our DSW is the Transformative Human Rights Leadership Project. This faculty-mentored project allows students to ask big questions and develop a solution to a pressing social issue.

Pictured to the left, Dr. Taylor Stephens presents her capstone project to peers and professors.

50th ANNIVERSARY

Human Rights-Based Social Work Education



Dr. Ausirys Alviz

CONTEXTUAL INDIGENEITY IN SOCIAL WORK (CISW): HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED TOOLKIT FOR EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Presented on Indigenous justice, gender equity, and eco-social work at the 68th UN Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, NASW-NJ, and the Latino Social Work Organization Conference



Dr. Ruth Bazzano

HARMONY FOR HUMANITY—A MELODY OF RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MUSIC TO INFLUENCE SOCIAL CHANGE FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES GROUNDED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

Supervising Family Service Specialist, NJ Department of Children and Families, Creator and Owner of TheInstrumentalMind.com



Dr. Melissa Delizia

GRIEVING QUEER: ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUDING TRANSGENDER DEATH, DYING, AND GRIEF CONTENT IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Certificate of Death Companionship, Currently teaching a certificate course for death professionals through La Mort

Dr. Caelin McCallum

BANS OFF MY HUMAN RIGHTS!
INTEGRATING REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
INTO SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Assistant Professor, Georgian Court University,
Completed the United Nations University of Peace
Social Innovations Program, Secured over \$6MM in
grant funding for nonprofits to support marginalized
communities in becoming self-sufficient, Co-
authored chapter, “Integrating Reproductive Justice
in Social Work Education: Empowering Hispanic
Communities Through Holistic Practice”



Dr. Emily Martinez

EMBRACING CHANGE: SHIFTING MENTAL
HEALTH NARRATIVES IN HISPANIC
CHRISTIAN CHURCH COMMUNITIES
THROUGH LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND
HUMAN RIGHTS

Owner and Clinical Director at Conscious
Connections Psychotherapy, Supervising School
Based Clinician. Created a downloadable resource
hub for faith leaders and social workers to bridge
spiritual care with evidence-based mental health
practices.



Dr. Beatris Ortiz-Drace

CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS BECOMING
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Council Manager in the Office of Family Voice-NJ
Department of Children and Families, Delegate to the
2024-2027 Delegate Assembly of the NASW NJ.
Presented *Child Welfare Professionals Becoming
Human Rights Defenders* at the 5th Global Conference
on Children and Youth in the United Kingdom.



Dr. Susan Mazzeo

AN EXPLORATION IN THE BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATION: SOCIAL WORK'S RESPONSE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE



Dr. Rebecca Salerno

BEYOND 1 IN 5: USING NARRATIVE TRANSPORTATION THEORY TO EDUCATE ON CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS



Dr. Kelly Maldonado

SHELTER IS A HUMAN RIGHT: FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH THE LENS OF LIVED EXPERIENCES

DSW Capstone Exposition & Reception - May 2025



50th ANNIVERSARY
Human Rights-Based Social Work Education