

Monthly Report

June 2017

School of Social Work

The School of Social Work bids farewell to interim dean Ron Mancoske and to Professor Bonnie Alston, director of field education.

Dean Mancoske served the school for approximately three years as dean. He came to SUNO in 1987 and remained with us for 31 years. During that time, Dean Mancoske was awarded the



Integrated Behavioral Health Grant (IBH) from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and he is the recipient of the Millie Charles endowed professorship award. Dean Mancoske has been the PI on many government grants including other federal grants including TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families), HIV, and other grants focused on the welfare of vulnerable individuals and families. More recently Dr. Mancoske applied for the Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars grant funded by the Council on Social Work

Education (CSWE). He remains dedicated to being engagement in health care and child welfare. He plans to continue to contribute to various behavioral health and child welfare initiatives. The school wishes Dean Mancoske well as he retires from SUNO.

Professor Bonnie Alston served the School of Social Work for 28 years. She was hired as faculty and became the Director of Field in 2007. During her time as director of field, Professor Alston provided leadership for growth in the internship program. In 2007, there were about 100 students. When she retired, she provided leadership for internship education for more than 600 BSW and MSW students. She developed the first on-line course offering for an internship course at SUNO and also revised field internship outcomes that reflect behavioral competencies, which demonstrate the current Council on Social Work Education Standards. (pictured at right Bonnie Alston accepting award at farewell party)



Dr. Harry Russell reports that the MSW program admissions review is concluding for the upcoming 2017 – 18 academic year. As of June 30th, 123 students were accepted from 152 total applicants. This figure represents an 80.9% acceptance rate (nine are still in review, twelve rejected and five declined acceptance). There will be an orientation on July 25th for these students.

Work continues on updating policies and procedures, as well as the review of integrating licensing content and Title IV-E objectives into curriculum. The evaluation of the current IBH program is underway and is expected to be completed by July 14th. The HRSA Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training - Integrated Behavioral Health program (BHWET - IBH), enters into its' final year with four students identified for participation (Nakeisha Avie-Kyle, Ciera Harrell, Michael Morgan, and Ernesha Smith). These students will receive a \$10,000 stipend for participation and completion of the training program.

The DSW program start-up has been delayed. However, the plan is to move forward in an effort to have the program operational for the fall 2018-19 academic year.



Dr. Ben Robertson is the director of the Teen Camp for the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission. The participants in the camp are from 13 – 16 years old and they are learning language arts, math and pro-social behaviors. There are 56 campers for the 6-week camp. Dr. Robertson says that all participants show willingness and interest in learning academic and prosocial skills. Dr. Robertson says that the curriculum is developed by NORD and augmented by Dr. Robertson and his colleagues to create a more culturally relevant curriculum. The classroom component of the camp takes place in the school of social work. Pictures of campers and instructors below.



Dr. Gail Wise is the P.I. for the Amerigroup training grant. She is an expert in child welfare and will provide leadership for training Child Welfare workers in the state of Louisiana. She will also provide consultation. Dr. Torin Sanders and Dr. Derrick Freeman are also part of the training team for this grant. Dr. Harry Russell will conduct the evaluation.

Mrs. Linda Brooks is supervising student workers from the NOLA Youth Works Summer Employment Program, City of New Orleans. In the photo below, Mrs. Brooks gets assistance from Jasmine Joseph, a senior at Landry-Walker school. The three students placed in the school of social work provide office assistance as they learn work place skills. We welcome the students and appreciate the extra help.



Dr. Rebecca Chaisson was appointed Dean of the School of Social Work in May and the appointment was approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 18th, 2017. Dr. Chaisson will begin on on July 1. She worked with Dean Mancoske in June in order to make a smooth transition.