

# YOU ARE A LIGHT: BUILDING BEACONS FOR CHANGE



## 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POWER CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL EVENT

MARCH 4, 2022

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES  
*School of Social Work*

# WELCOME

## MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIRS

Welcome to the 19th annual POWER Conference at Wichita State University! We are excited to invite social workers, community members, and other helping professionals to this hallmark event for your community. As always, we are proud to continue the legacy of excellent continuing education that POWER has been able to provide for nearly two decades.

The theme for the 2022 conference is inspired by the life and words of civil rights advocate and social justice hero, John Lewis, as shared below. The challenge for us in 2022 - how do we keep our own lanterns glowing brightly in a windy world that too often blow them out? How can we keep strong as the beacons in those storms, staying true to our core ethical principals for service, social justice, competence, and integrity? How can we be most effective in creating and supporting change in our own practice settings and within our communities?

*"You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone—any person or any force—dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth and follow its dictates. [...] Release the need to hate, to harbor division and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up and speak out against injustice. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself."*

— John Lewis, *Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America*

This year, attendees have the opportunity to provide you with 7 CEUs. Our sessions this year tackle big issues, but bring them close into our day-to-day practice by bridging micro and macro practice, antiracism, trauma, and more. We cannot wait to hear from our incredible speakers.

An exciting new element this year is our first ever **POWER Job Recruitment Exhibition!** Throughout the past two years, we have heard over and over again the difficulties our partners experience in recruiting and retaining talent in the field of social work, as well as from job seekers looking for a quality workplace to put their education into action. POWER seeks to build bridges between qualified candidates and organizations who are eager to hire them. Whether you are a job seeker looking to obtain a new position, or an employer searching for just the right candidate, this year's conference can offer you the opportunity to connect with the right people.

Every conference, we look out at the faces in the POWER crowd, and are warmed and reenergized by the passion of our helping professionals. This year, our faces are again on a screen, but we know you are no less present and powerful in the work you do. Thank you for your dedication to the people we serve, and thank you for helping to grow our profession forward with your creativity, compassion, and heart. You ARE social work, you ARE the power, and you are the light!



**Shaunna Millar**  
Conference Co-Chair



**Rheanna Pierce**  
Conference Co-Chair

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 8:00 A.M.**    **POWER Job Recruitment Exhibition**  
More information on page 7.
- 8:30 A.M.**    **Welcome Remarks**  
Shaunna Millar & Rheanna Pierce, *Conference Chairs*
- 8:40 A.M.**    **Session 1: *Micro Practice Tools for a Macro World: Social Justice through Direct Practice***  
Amy M. Alberton, *PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Wichita State University*
- 10:30 A.M.**    **Break**
- 10:40 A.M.**    **Session 2: *See My Color, Acknowledge My Trauma, Change the Outcome***  
Crystal Rozelle-Bennett, *LMSW, CEO, THRYVE, LLC*
- 12:30 P.M.**    **Lunch Break and Sponsor Showcase with Job Recruitment Exhibition**  
Please visit our generous sponsors to thank them for their support.
- 1:00 P.M.**    **Session 3: *City of Wichita Housing and Police: Working Together for a Better Tomorrow***  
Brandy Niblett, *LMSW, Senior Housing Specialist, Housing & Community Services Department, City of Wichita*  
David W. Nienstedt, *Sergeant, Patrol South Community Policing/Homeless Outreach Team, Wichita Police Department*
- 2:30 P.M.**    **Break**
- 2:40 P.M.**    **Session 4: *Migration: What Does it Take to Reach the American Dream?***  
Yeni Telles, *LMSW, Community Organizer, Sunflower Community Action*
- 4:10 P.M.**    **Closing Remarks**  
Conference Planning Committee Members
- 4:30 P.M.**    **POWER Job Recruitment Exhibition**
- 5:00 P.M.**    **Conference Adjourns**

# FEATURED SPEAKERS



## SESSION 1

### ***Micro Practice Tools for a Macro World: Social Justice through Direct Practice***

Amy M. Alberton, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Wichita State University

#### **Session Description**

Both domestically and internationally, social workers have an ethical obligation to challenge social injustice. However, incorporating social justice work into direct practice can seem overwhelming even at the best of times. This presentation will provide an overview of social justice and hands-on tools for integrating social justice work into already hectic schedules. As well, it will provide opportunities to reflect on and share how social workers in this community are already incorporating social justice work into frontline practice.

#### **Speaker Bio**

Amy M. Alberton, PhD, MSW, received her undergraduate degree in Criminology (with a minor in political science) in 2010, her MSW in 2016, and her PhD in Social Work in 2021, all from the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Alberton's research agenda is focused on the pursuit of social justice through anti-oppressive practices, programs, and policies. Particularly, the foundation of her area of interest is the elimination of structural violence, including colonialism, or systemic barriers. Notably, between 2017 and 2019, Dr. Alberton served as the principal writer and researcher for the First Nations Youth Suicide Prevention Curriculum which was released online in September 2019. She has presented at more than 20 peer-reviewed and invited conferences, has had nine articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Alberton has experience teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the USA and Canada related to policy, social welfare, direct and indirect social work practice, research (both practice and program evaluation), and statistics. She serves as Managing Editor for *Critical Social Work: An Interdisciplinary Journal Dedicated to Social Justice*, as a peer reviewer for several academic journals, and as a member of several committees for Wichita State University's School of Social Work.



## SESSION 2

### ***See My Color, Acknowledge My Trauma, Change the Outcome***

Crystal Rozelle-Bennett, LMSW, CEO, THRYVE, LLC

#### **Session Description**

In the last several decades, suicide attempts among Black adolescents have increased by 73% while attempts among White youth have decreased. The rate of suicide for Black youth ages 5-12 is double that of their White counterparts.

What is behind this growing crisis? Why aren't we sounding the alarm and doing more to raise awareness and examine the root causes and systemic factors that exist?

During this workshop, participants will evaluate the necessity in acknowledging the role that race plays in the experience of systemic oppression, marginalization, internalized oppression and feelings of hopelessness and helplessness. Strategies to increase safety, break down barriers and practice humility will be presented as well as the use of racial socialization as a protective factor.

## SESSION 2, CONTINUED.

### Speaker Bio

For the past 25 years **Crystal Rozelle-Bennett** has been driven by her personal experiences of trauma to educate, advocate, and amplify the voices of individuals and communities in order to promote healing and opportunities to move from surviving to thriving. Crystal was the first in her family to attend college and earned a Bachelor's in Arts in Psychology from Wells College, located in Aurora, NY. She went on to earn her Masters in Social Work from Florida State University and currently holds her LMSW.

During her career, Crystal has demonstrated a passion in sharing her experiences in order to help individuals heal from their personal traumas and work alongside professionals to create trauma informed, culturally inclusive and person-centered spaces. Her experiences include advocacy within the child welfare system, oversight of child and youth programs, crisis hotline response, delivery of community based mental health services and implementing trauma informed strategies and programs for school districts. She has been called upon to provide training, coaching and consultation across the nation in the subject areas of Human Trafficking, Suicide Prevention, Motivational Interviewing, Child Trauma & Maltreatment and Racial Trauma. She is a fierce advocate for social justice and leads courageously to dismantle oppressive systems and create equitable and just services, policies and programs.



## SESSION 3

### **City of Wichita Housing and Police: Working Together for a Better Tomorrow**

**Brandy Niblett, LMSW, Senior Housing Specialist, Housing & Community Services Department, City of Wichita**

**David W. Nienstedt, Sergeant, Patrol South Community Policing/Homeless Outreach Team, Wichita Police Department**

### Session Description

As a beacon of change and an aide on the path of peace and social justice, The City of Wichita Housing & Community Services Department has expanded capacities to identify barriers to housing and ways to partner with community service providers as well as the Wichita Police Department to reduce violent crime, increase safety, and provide housing to the unhoused. Through a new internship offered to area MSW students, a grant to establish case management for individuals experiencing homelessness in a high-crime area of town, and continued leadership stewarding the Housing Choice Voucher Program, our community Housing Department has envisioned change, researched available resources, implemented strategies through collaboration and partnership and witnessed lives changed.

In this session you will learn about the Housing Choice Voucher Program as well as new initiatives the city has implemented in working together towards ending homelessness in our community. We will discuss housing as well as new approaches the city is moving towards with social workers and police working together.

### Speaker Bios

**Brandy Niblett** is a two-time graduate of Wichita State University School of Social Work and started her social work career at COMCARE Children's Services in 2009 as a case manager. Brandy then moved over to work as an Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) case manager at ResCare before returning to school to complete her master's degree, where she completed her master's practicum with the Wichita Child Guidance Center, providing play therapy for children. Upon graduation, Brandy began working at The Salvation Army as a therapeutic foster care worker providing in home supports to foster parents and children in their homes, followed by a position as a case manager for Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF).

Brandy worked with SSVF for four years, successfully building the Wichita office from a staff of two employees to a staff of eight. She was promoted from case manager to Service Coordinator in 2017 where she supervised the Wichita and Hays offices. During her time at SSVF she worked on programing and obtaining CARF accreditation. She worked alongside other homeless providers through the Wichita Continuum of Care (CoC) and Balance of State CoC as well as the VA in collaborating together towards ending Veteran Homelessness.



## SESSION 3, CONTINUED.

Brandy came to the City of Wichita in January 2020 as a Housing Specialist with the Housing and Community Services Department. She currently oversees homeless service programs including Emergency Housing Vouchers, Homeless Preference Program, Refugee Program, and Social Work intern program (a collaboration with the WPD Homeless Outreach Team).

When not at work Brandy enjoys spending time with her husband of 19 years and their children and grandchildren. She enjoys going camping and hanging out at the lake during warmer months and bowling with her son during the colder months.

**David Nienstedt** has been a police officer with the city of Wichita for over 26 years. He began his career with the Wichita Police Department as a reserve officer in March 1995 and was appointed as a full time officer in October 1995.

As a patrol officer David has worked on every shift and at all four patrol bureaus. He spent two years as a beat coordinator in Community Policing in both the Patrol East and South bureaus. He was assigned to the Homeless Outreach Team for three years beginning in 2014 while the unit was still a pilot project. He helped develop team procedures with the unit becoming permanent in 2015. During his career with the city David also spent three years with the Airport Police and Fire Department serving as both a police officer and aircraft rescue fire fighter.

David was promoted to the rank of detective in June 2017. He worked in person crimes in the Domestic Violence/Sex Crimes Unit and property crimes in the Financial Crimes Unit.

David was promoted to sergeant in 2018 and returned to patrol to supervise 2nd watch officers at the South Patrol Bureau. In 2019 he became the supervisor over the South Community Policing Unit and Homeless Outreach Team. During his career David has been a Field Training Officer, assistant firearms range instructor, recruit class mentor, recruiting team member, Mental Health First Aid instructor, and emergency vehicle operations course instructor at the state training academy. He is certified in basic and advanced Crisis Intervention Team training. David has been awarded the Bronze Wreath of Merit, Bronze Wreath of Valor, Civic Achievement award, 20 Year Safe Driver award, 5 year Perfect Attendance Award, Life Saving award, Certificate of Commendation, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police Silver award, and 19 letters of commendation.

David has spent 17 years working with Kansas Special Olympics, and served on the Torch Run executive council for 13 years. He spent several years coaching both Miracle League Baseball and Kickball, and he enjoys spending family time with his wife of 22 years, and their two children.



## SESSION 4

### ***Migration: What Does it Take to Reach the American Dream?***

*Yeni Telles, LMSW, Community Organizer, Sunflower Community Action*

#### ***Session Description***

Our nation is evolving and thriving because of the influence of immigrants. But what does it take for immigrants to reach the American Dream in our current times?

Many people are challenged and have the belief that immigration is a controversial topic because it's related to illegal activities when crossing the border. Migration is associated with criminals and violence. But what is the real reason immigrants come to our Nation?

As agents of change, we are responsible to promote and engage in social justice and value the dignity and worth of a person. Social workers provide services directly to children and families and face the challenges that immigrants of our community face daily.

Immigrants bring with them a few material belongings, but they also carry a heart full of pain, uncertainty, and hope. While integration in our communities our services impact families and communities.

Come and learn about the immigrants in our community. Where are they coming from? What are some of their challenges while integrating to our community? How can they feel supported?

## SESSION 4, CONTINUED.

### Speaker Bio

**Yeni Telles** has worked with children and families for more than fifteen years, including Latino families nationally and internationally who have experienced trauma related to substance use, sexual abuse, homelessness, international migration, domestic violence, community violence and poverty. She is collaborating with innovative initiatives focused on services to refugee and immigrant families with a variety of community organizations.

Yeni served as the Director of Saint Francis International Ministries US, a non-profit, child welfare and human services organization. In this role she managed programs in the United States including leading the organization's affiliation with U.N. Global Communications. She managed Migration Ministries which provided services to refugee families in the community. assist children facing removal from their home due to abuse and neglect with legal immigration services. Yeni collaborated with a team of professionals in Central America in developing an Evidence-Based Model to mitigate violence and strengthen families and communities. She collaborates with Lutheran University in El Salvador to support the social work profession through participation in forums and presenting at webinars.

Before her director role, Yeni provided services as a case manager/therapist with the Family Preservation Program. During this time, she provided in-home therapy utilizing evidence-based models including Strengthening Families and Seeking Safety. She was able to break cultural barriers and stigma by engaging immigrant families and addressing generational trauma. Yeni's case management skills have been refined through her work as a case manager at a local hospital where she addresses service gaps and assesses safety with patients and families.

Yeni is an adjunct professor at Wichita State University in the Social Work Department teaching students Ethics, Diversity and Generalist Practices with Children and Families, and Field Practicum. Social justice is a vital social work attribute she promotes through her engagement in the organization, Sunflower Community Action where she is a community organizer. She is also part of the leadership team for the Immigration Advocacy Network (IAN). Yeni is a member of the board of directors and serves as the treasurer of Immigration Support Services Network (ISSN). She is an associate of the Congregation of Saint Joseph.

Yeni was appointed to by Governor Laura Kelly to serve for 3 years in the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in September of 2020. Born in Mexico, Yeni is the youngest of twelve siblings. She migrated to the United States at age 10 and is first-generation high school graduate who furthered her education to include a master's degree, a source of pride to herself and her entire family.

### JOIN US FOR THE FIRST-EVER POWER JOB RECRUITMENT EXHIBITION

Throughout the past two years, we have heard over and over again the difficulties our partners experience in recruiting and retaining talent in the field of social work, as well as from job seekers looking for a quality workplace to put their education into action.

POWER seeks to build bridges between qualified candidates and organizations who are eager to hire them. Attendees will have the chance to network with Leader+ level sponsors to discuss job openings and career opportunities.

Join us one half-hour before and after the conference, as well as during the lunch break, to network with potential employers. Your next career move could be just around the corner!

### CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- Examine practice issues and explore strategies related to diversity, cultural humility, equity, and inclusion.
- Review multilevel practice tools and skills that can be utilized in bridging micro and macro practice.
- Develop an inclusive knowledge base in order to be more effective for social change.
- Incorporate best practices available related to professional, ethical practice.

# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION FEES:

Social Work Professionals: \$50.00

Social Work Students: \$25.00

## REGISTRATION METHODS:

Online: Visit [www.wichita.edu/conferences/power](http://www.wichita.edu/conferences/power) and click on the attendee registration link. Online registration requires payment by credit card at the time of registration.

**Mail or Fax:** Please send registration with payment to:

Mail > Office of University Conferences  
1845 Fairmount Street, Campus Box 136  
Wichita, KS 67260-0136

Fax > 316-978-3064

## MAKE CHECKS AND PURCHASE ORDERS PAYABLE TO:

Office of University Conferences

## CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS:

There will be no refunds for the virtual event. Substitutions may be allowed by contacting the WSU Conference Office. You will receive an email confirmation within 1-2 business days of the receipt of your registration form. If you do not, please contact Teruko Mitchell, Conference Registrar, at 316-978-6493.

## QUESTIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION:

WSU Conference Office  
1845 Fairmount Street, Campus Box 136  
Wichita, KS 67260-0136  
Phone: 316-978-6493  
Fax: 316-978-3064  
E-mail: [conference.office@wichita.edu](mailto:conference.office@wichita.edu)

## CONFERENCE LOCATION & TECH DISCLAIMER:

This year's conference will be virtual and held exclusively through Zoom. Registrants will receive login information 3-5 days prior to the conference. We recommend updating your Zoom account prior to the conference and ensuring that you have a reliable Internet connection and adequate bandwidth.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Social Workers (Pending Approval)

This program is pending approval by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board for continuing education for social workers. The general session conference program is pending approval for seven (7) contact hours applicable toward re-licensure. (BSRB approval #05-001)

## Certificates

Certificates reflecting the continuing education units received will be emailed to participants after attendance at all sessions have been verified. Please allow 30 days to receive your certificate.

## Social Media Hashtag:

Use #POWERWSU on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and other social media to share your POWER Conference experience.



# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The POWER Conference Committee is committed to making programs accessible to people with disabilities. If you wish to volunteer information regarding any special assistance you may need, please contact the Office of University Conferences at (316) 978-6493.

## **RIGHT OF TERMINATION CLAUSE:**

This agreement and the University's obligations hereunder regarding this conference and the presentation of any or all associated sessions and optional entertainment events are subject to acts of God, war, terrorism, government regulations, disaster, fire, strikes, civil disorder, curtailment of transportation facilities, or other similar cause beyond the control of the parties making it inadvisable, illegal, or impossible to hold the event or provide the facility. If the conference or any associated event is canceled due to one of the aforementioned occurrences, the liability of the University shall be limited to refunding the conference registration fee or a portion thereof. The University shall not be responsible for consequential damages, including, but not limited to, any losses incurred by registrants including, but not limited to, airline cancellation charges, hotel deposits and other associated travel costs.

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:**

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age (40 years or older), ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Institutional Equity and Compliance Director, Title IX Coordinator or Equal Opportunity Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260, telephone (316) 978-3187.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**POWER  
CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 2-3, 2023**

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Cheri Koochel**, LMSW, President, Kansas School Social Workers Association, Retired School Social Worker

**Kyoung Lee**, PhD, Chair & Professor, WSU School of Social Work

**Shaunna Millar**, LMSW, MSW Program Director & Clinical Professor, WSU School of Social Work

**Colette Osio**, LMSW, Social Work Supervisor, Children First CEO Kansas

**Rheanna Pierce**, LMSW, CA Associate Director of Field Practicum & Assistant Clinical Professor, WSU School of Social Work

**Stacey Popejoy**, LMSW, Associate Clinical Professor, WSU School of Social Work

**Keith Reynolds**, Med, LBSW, PHR, SHRM-CP, USD 259 Director of Employee Relations and Title IX

**Breana Tucker**, LMSW, Program Director, Alzheimer's Association

**Ann Vice**, LBSW, Alumni Community Partner

# REGISTRATION FORM

**19th Annual POWER Conference**

**March 4, 2022**

Forego this form and register online at: [www.wichita.edu/conferences/power](http://www.wichita.edu/conferences/power)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

License Type:  LBSW  LMSW  LSCSW  Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Please any special accommodations needed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Fees:

Professional Rate	\$50.00	\$ _____
Student Rate	\$25.00	\$ _____
	TOTAL:	\$ _____

## Send registration form, student verification (if necessary) and payment to:

WSU Conference Office  
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 136  
Wichita, KS 67260-0136  
Fax: 316-978-3064

Phone: 316-978-6493  
Email: [conference.office@wichita.edu](mailto:conference.office@wichita.edu)

Make checks payable to: WSU Conference Office

\_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card, please complete the section below:

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ VS:\_\_\_ MC:\_\_\_ AMEX:\_\_\_ DSC:\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as Printed on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_