

## **NCSSWA Spring Conference 2024 Session Speakers**



### **Lisa Von Dolen**

Program Coordinator for the Education of Children and Youth in Foster Care  
NC Department of Public Instruction

#### **The School Social Worker's Role in Providing Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care**

This session will provide an introduction to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) with a specific emphasis on the components of the law that address the education of students in foster care. The role of school social workers will be discussed with a focus on utilizing our training and ethical responsibilities with regard to collaboration and advocacy. Participants will gain an understanding of the federal law, the impact of foster care on a child's education, and how protections provided through ESSA seek to level the educational playing field for this vulnerable yet resilient student population. A review of the most recent data available for students placed in foster care will be provided.

### **Maria Rosa Rangel**

Director of the WCPSS  
Wake County Public School System

Dr. Rangel's work within the Latino community is to be noted in October 2013, she was honored with the Latino Diamante Award in the education category. In addition to the Latino Diamante honor, she received the "Orgullo de Nuestra Comunidad" (the Pride of Our Community) award given by Univision 40 to recognize the outstanding Hispanic leaders in the community. On December 2017, she was recognized as the Latino Leader for the Week by WARL- HOLA NC – FOX 50. Her biggest recognition was issued on September 7, 2018, where she was awarded the Ohtli Award by the Consul General of Mexico Remedios Gómez Arnu for her longstanding contribution to the NC Latino families. In July 2022, Dr. Rangel received the LIFT Innovator Award for Equity and Inclusion and during the month of October 2022, she was highlighted during Hispanic Heritage Month on ABC11 for her outstanding work with NC families. Currently in March she has been nominated to become a National PTA Healthy Mind Ambassador.

#### **How to Equitably and Culturally Engage Latino Families Within their Children's Education**

In North Carolina, the number of Latinx students and families is on the rise. To ensure that all students and families have access to quality education, it is important to provide culturally responsive and equitable engagement opportunities. This requires adopting engagement strategies that are culturally sensitive and equitable. Additionally, creating an environment that recognizes and celebrates diversity is vital in fostering a sense of belonging for Latinx students and families.

At our workshop, we provide participants with cultural awareness of the Latinx population, including their cultural norms and values. We also explore strategies that increase engagement and promote inclusivity. This includes addressing language barriers and providing resources and support for families to help them better understand their children's education.

Our workshop is designed to equip educators and school leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to engage with Latinx students and families. By implementing culturally responsive and equitable engagement strategies, schools can create an environment where all students and families feel valued and supported.

## **Pachovia Lovett**

School Social Work Consultant

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

### **School Social Work & Data Collection. Ethical Record Keeping**

In this session participants will explore the purposes of documentation, learn the 7 main ideas around record keeping, and reacquaint themselves with FERPA. Participants will also discuss privacy, accuracy, confidentiality, access, communication, documentation, and destruction as it pertains to ethical record keeping. This session will also introduce the new data collection protocol for school social workers in the state student information system.

## **Kahlil Shakeel**

School Social Worker

Seventy First High School, Fayetteville North Carolina

Mr. Shakeel has been employed with Cumberland County Schools for about 20 years. He has been nominated for School Social Worker of the year two times and has impacted the lives of his students and **their** families alike. He has been recognized for going the extra mile in his school system and will bring that zeal and passion to the presentation.

### **C.O.O.L. vs C.O.I.L. (Conscious Of Outer Layer vs Conscious Of Inner Layer)**

In this session we will discuss the ramifications for adolescent males when not focusing on the productive side of their C.O.O.L. to the point of disregarding their C.O.I.L. and how this can cause some to struggle in school.

We will examine a plan of action that allows adolescent males to keep their C.O.O.L. while developing and focusing on their C.O.I.L., the layers that will help them be successful in school and life.

## **Steve Bollar**

### Standing Tall Steve Session

Make meaningful connections with students that lead to respect from the students and teachers. Direct and not ask within the daily lessons and activities within the classroom (which improves the teacher's confidence). Properly follow up on negative behaviors and properly recognize positive behaviors to create a sensible balance within the classroom. Steve will break out into a more intimate setting to share with our School Social Workers. He will share more of his expertise and be able to answer questions.

## **Terrance Ruth**

Assistant Professor of School of Social Work

NC State University

Dr. Terrance Ruth is an Education Consultant who has extensive classroom and research experience in public education. He is a former teacher and administrator with the Wake County Public School System and previously worked with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at NC State University.

### **Advocacy & Policy**

The session is designed to promote productive advocacy in our profession to produce policy that will positively impact school social worker in our public schools, ultimately impacting our students, families, and schools.

## **Dr. Kimberly Hardy**

Dr. Kimberly Hardy was elected Second Vice-Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party in 2023. She served as the 2nd Vice-President for Democratic Women of North Carolina and President of the Democratic Women of Cumberland County. Dr. Hardy is also a former candidate for the North Carolina House of Representatives for District 43. In addition to her work with the NCDP, Dr. Hardy is a former school social worker who now serves as an Associate Professor at Fayetteville State University's School of Social Work where she teaches and focuses her research on the intersection of social work, public health, religion/spirituality, and politics. Dr. Hardy earned her PhD & BSW from Morgan State University and her MSW from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Hardy is the former Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Social Work in Public Health* and is the current President of the Society for Spirituality and Social Work. In the early days of the COVID pandemic, Dr. Hardy used her journal as a means for disseminating information about the illness, the consequences, and the emerging understanding of people's reactions to the lockdown by publishing the first special issue of a social work journal focusing solely on COVID.

## **Ethics**

Designed to teach people how to make decisions in situations where there is an ethical component: situations in which some decisions, behaviors, or outcomes could be evaluated as right or wrong, or good or bad.