

# CWTAP Quarterly

Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program  
Eastern Washington University

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## Director's Letter

Dear CWTAP Community,

Welcome to spring quarter! Spring quarter tends to be our busiest time of the year as we work with students finishing their requirements and help prepare them for graduation, while at the same time we are interviewing and admitting new students. This June our Cheney full-time and Vancouver part-time program students graduate. Please see below for more information about our CWTAP spring graduates seeking work at DCYF.

As our Vancouver students graduate in June the School of Social Work has made the decision to "pause" the program for the time being rather than starting a new cohort. Students from the Vancouver area interested in an MSW at Eastern are encouraged to apply to the Spokane MSW Part Time program (new cohort starting this summer) or the Everett MSW Part Time program (new cohort starts summer, 2022). The hybrid format of our two part-time programs are designed for working adults and are largely remote making them accessible to students outside the immediate area.

Please see below and inside for more about Eastern's CWTAP. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Diana

## CWTAP 2021 Graduates Seek Employment

This spring our Cheney full-time and Vancouver part-time program students graduate. The graduates seeking employment are listed below with their preferences noted (all students are required to search state-wide once they graduate).

Vancouver non-employee graduates:

Jean W., Vancouver/Clark County, prefers CFWS

Cheney non-employee graduates:

Jasmine M., Spokane or Richland

Meseret F., Spokane Central or Spokane North, prefers CFWS

Sophie L., Spokane Central or North, prefers CPS

Justyna D., any Spokane office, prefers CPS

Deandra C., Spokane County

Cheney non-employee graduates continued:

Cori D., Spokane County

Brooklyn J., Spokane County

Justean L., Snohomish County

Darea W., Puyallup

Kenzie Z., Spokane County



# 2021 Graduates

Following are our 2021 Eastern Washington University, Master of Social Work, CWTAP graduates. Please join us in acknowledging their hard work and dedication to get to this point--all while navigating a global pandemic that posed numerous challenges. All have worked hard to reach the finish line. If you know them, or have the privilege of hiring them, please be sure to give them the congratulations they deserve.

## Cheney Full-time Program

Victor B.

Deandra C.

Justyna D.

Cori D.

Meseret F.

Brooklyn J.

Sophonie L.

Justyna L.

Jasmine M.

Darea W.

Mai Der Y.

Kenzie Z.

## Vancouver Part-time Program

Jessica B.

Natasha E.

Rachel H.

Kellina H.

Suzanna J.

Jay R.

Hailee R.

James V.

Nikolas W.

Jean W.

## Alumni Spotlight

*Amanda Malsom, MSW – Family Assessment Response, Spokane Valley*  
*By Gerry Charvat*

Amanda Malsom is a Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program alumni who graduated from Eastern Washington University's MSW program in 2017. She was born and raised in Spokane and obtained a bachelor of science in nursing from Seattle University in 2007. Amanda changed paths and decided to pursue a career in public child welfare when her cousin became a foster parent. Watching her cousin work with the foster care system and ultimately adopting two children had a huge impact on Amanda. She saw the importance of providing children with permanency in loving homes and wanted to be part of that. Joining CWTAP reinforced her value of permanency for all children but also opened her eyes to the importance of keeping families together.

After graduation, Amanda accepted a position as a Family Assessment Response (FAR) worker in the Spokane Valley DCYF office. She continues to love the work she does and is very proud she has not had to remove many children from their homes in the last 4 years. There are times when the only option to keep children safe is by removal but in the vast majority of cases she is able to create safety plans and offer services to support the children's safety in the home. She attributes this to a strong understanding of safety, good team work, and supportive supervision. She also believes she is much more prepared for the work because of CWTAP. Her agency field instructor (AFI) gave her the support and freedom to learn the work and take the lead on many aspects of case management. Her CWTAP experience also taught her the importance of engaging clients through a safety lens and utilizing the supports the family has to promote the children's safety. Amanda stays connected to CWTAP by presenting as a guest speaker to students in CWTAP booster sessions and hopes to serve as an agency field instructor (AFI) in the future.



Amanda married in September and has 3 children of whom she is very proud. She enjoys spending time with her family and is strongly connected to her church. She finds great fulfilment at DCYF and is able to maintain her commitment to the work by focusing on what she is in control of: *doing her very best work*.

## Student Spotlight

*Jasmine Marquez – Cheney Full - time  
By Angie Keith*




Meet Jasmine Marquez, an advanced standing CWTAP student who started in September 2020. Jasmine is one of twelve students that will graduate in June 2021. Jasmine, like her peers, has shown amazing perseverance and overcome obstacles that have presented themselves during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Although the majority of Jasmine's graduate education has been online, her vivacious personality and sense of humor are an added bonus to any zoom class she attends.

Jasmine grew up in Burbank, WA and graduated from Columbia High School in June 2017. Jasmine moved to Cheney after she fell in love with EWU's campus during a tour she took while attending high school. She recalls being drawn to the opportunities that Eastern had to offer, specifically the opportunity to obtain a social work degree. Jasmine has always been passionate about helping others and social work was an option that allowed her to work alongside individuals to help them address their struggles while also empowering them to succeed. In June 2020, Jasmine graduated from Eastern Washington University with a bachelor's degree in social work, a minor in psychology, and an addiction studies foundation certificate. In June 2020, after serving as a BASW practicum student at the YWCA of Spokane, Jasmine was hired as a relief advocate at the YWCA's confidential shelter where she is currently employed. YWCA of Spokane has served as a source of strength for women and children in the Spokane community. As a relief advocate, Jasmine is able to provide crisis intervention, advocacy and support services to victims and children of domestic violence in a confidential, residential setting. She also assists with the shelter's crisis line. Jasmine states she always knew she wanted to pursue her graduate degree and CWTAP was a perfect fit. She states she has always been drawn to child welfare, specifically because she wanted to work with children. Jasmine feels children are a vulnerable population who deserve to be safe and loved. Child welfare gives her the opportunity to ensure children are safe while also working with families to create a safe environment where children can thrive.

When asked what has made her learning experience successful, she states, "Being involved and taking every learning opportunity given to me, maintaining good communication with my contacts at DCYF, and not being afraid to ask lots of questions." In addition, Jasmine prioritizes self-care that includes listening to her body and its need to rest and reset. Even during a pandemic, Jasmine has only great things to say about her educational experience and states her favorite thing about CWTAP is having the opportunity to shadow and work with several different social workers to observe their different styles while she develops her own. Jasmine is hopeful she will get hired in Spokane but is open to all child welfare career opportunities with DCYF.

## Contact Information

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	<p>Please submit suggestions to: <a href="mailto:dpatterson@ewu.edu">dpatterson@ewu.edu</a></p>	<p>Contributors to this issue: Gerry Charvat, Angie Keith, Diana Patterson LeBlanc, Erinn Havig and Nancy Fagan.</p>

## Helpful Links

[Children's Bureau COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

Includes information for frontline workers, children involved in child welfare, foster care providers, and other general workforce resources

[National Indian Child Welfare Association COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

Includes information for frontline workers, children, caregivers, and other general workforce resources

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence: [www.allianceforchildwelfare.org](http://www.allianceforchildwelfare.org)

National Association of Social Workers – Washington Chapter: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

Child Welfare League of America: [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

Children's Defense Fund: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Child Welfare Information Gateway: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

Casey Family Programs: [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)