

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Center for Human Rights  
and Social Justice

Barry University  
School of Social Work





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# Welcome

Each year I relish the opportunity to reflect back on the contributions of the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice (CHRSJ). Doing so for 2018-2019 was particularly meaningful because it marks the first year of our student Community Advocate Program. Through their passion, creativity, and deep commitment to creating a better society for all, our Community Advocates extended the work of the CHRSJ across the campus and South Florida by bridging differences, lifting the spirits and voices of at-risk teens, and challenging the forces that contribute to human trafficking of vulnerable populations. I am not surprised by the commitment of our student Community Advocates as they had the guidance of the CHRSJ's Program Director, Carolina Rios, whose innovative ideas for collaboration and social justice-oriented change are matched only by her dogged determination to bring these ideas to fruition. Moreover, the impact of the CHRSJ is rooted in the efforts and successes of its dedicated and collaborative team of social work faculty who utilize their expertise to promote powerful social change. During the last year CHRSJ faculty affiliates partnered with students and community members to create a more trauma-informed service delivery system, advance knowledge and practices that create safe and affirming communities for LGBT individuals at a time when their human rights continue to be threatened both in this nation and abroad, and prevent violence through human rights-oriented approaches. Finally, the CHRSJ has been incredibly fortunate to partner with leaders across many South Florida organizations who have dedicated their energy, intellects, and resources to serving vulnerable children, teens and adults. It is because of our community partners that we in the CHRSJ are able to make an impact. Despite the challenges that lie ahead for those who are the most marginalized in our society, and those who advocate on their behalf, I am able to look forward with a strong sense of hope. I extend my gratitude to each and every one who touched our CHRSJ and I welcome you to join our continued efforts to create a hopeful future!

Ashley Austin, PhD, LCSW  
Professor, School of Social Work  
Distinguished Professor, CHRSJ



## Our Mission

*To foster social and intellectual transformation from oppression through leadership, research, teaching, and informed action that advances fundamental freedoms, justice and the belief in the resilience of the human spirit.*

## Our Initiatives

- Creating Inclusive Communities for Individuals with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities
- Promoting Wellness in Marginalized Communities
- Combatting Human Trafficking
- Preventing Sexual Victimization
- Advancing Trauma-Informed Research, Education and Practice



## Our Approach

- 1 Partnerships
- 2 Education & Capacity Building
- 3 Research & Scholarship
- 4 Student Engagement





# Community Advocates Leadership Program

This year, the CHRSJ rolled out the inaugural cohort of Community Advocate Student Leaders. As part of the Barry Service Corps—under the Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI)—this federal work study program fosters civic leadership and commitment to service by providing meaningful opportunities for students to support local agencies and institutions working to address social concerns.

Through the Community Advocate Leadership Program, student leaders are offered transformative professional development trainings and leadership development opportunities that expand their college experience. This past year, these students excelled in leadership positions within the University, and coordinated and implemented events and programs aligned with our vision to strive for social justice and human rights by creating inclusive communities and partnerships.




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*"Barry University CHRSJ has opened its doors to me as an out, Hispanic, transgender woman. The university has been a home for me to thrive in and expand who I am as an individual and as a student. How awesome to be represented, respected, and embraced in a Catholic University"- Aiyana Angeni Gonzalez, BSW Student*

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**AQUA**  
BY AND FOR LGBTQ WOMEN

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# Creating Inclusive Communities for Individuals with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities

BY AND FOR LGBTQ WOMEN

**AQUA**  
BY AND FOR LGBTQ WOMEN

## **Trans Perspectives Project**

The Expanding Knowledge about Gender Dysphoria study is the first project under the umbrella of the **Trans Perspectives Project**. It is a two-phase photo elicitation study seeking to expand the knowledge base of the experiences and implications of Gender Dysphoria across the lifespan. The study, which centers on the voices and experiences of trans people, focuses on adults over the age of 18 that identify as transgender or gender diverse. We hope data will provide a more complete understanding of gender dysphoria to inform the continuum of transgender affirmative services.

## **INQYR**

The International Partnership on Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR) is a multi-year international research collaboration formed by Dr. Shelley Craig (PI) from the University of Toronto, which is designed to elucidate resilience among those identifying as LGBTQ+ who are aged 14-29. INQYR consists of 4 teams: a team in Canada, a team in the U.K., a team in Mexico, and a team in the United States. The CHRSJ serves as the hub for the US regional network. Dr. Ashley Austin is the co-chair of U.S. Regional Network, along with Dr. Michael Dentato from Loyola University Chicago. Joshua Holzworth, a BSW Student, serves as a Research Assistant on the U.S. regional network and part of the inaugural cohort of the the International Student Training Network (ISTN). The ISTN brings together students from various disciplines across the world to train the next generation of Gender and Sexual Minority Youth (GSMY) researchers.

## **TransCon**

For more than 4 years, the CHRSJ has collaborated with the Aqua Foundation to support the TransCon conference hosted on the Barry University campus. This free, two-day trans and non-binary-led conference offered career and employment workshops; legal name change workshops; as well as a host of educational opportunities for support, connection, and healing for transgender and non-binary members of the South Florida community.



## PRIDE Week

Pride week was a festive week for all who participated in its events. From poster making to movie night and a fund raising bake sale to marching the campus grounds in protest of the Trans-Military Ban, LGBTQ+ identifying students and their allies had fun while making noise for community advocacy in support of all LGBTQ+ rights.

## Dancing My Mother's Body Workshop

This Spring, the CHRSJ hosted artist, healer and activist, Tiffany Madera for a two-day Dancing My Mother's Body Workshop for transgender women in South Florida. This transformational and empowering experience will be included in Madera's next documentary

## Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience

The Transgender Day of Remembrance, held each year on Nov. 20, is a worldwide event that honors the lives of trans people who have suffered death as a result of transphobic hate crimes, violence, and suicide. The annual event was supported in part by Dr. Ashley Austin, and led by an amazing team of trans activists. The result was a solemn yet celebratory event that brought together more than 100 trans community members and allies to show solidarity for the transgender community. Attendees took part in an emotional name-writing ritual of all 400-plus transgender people who lost their lives this year to transphobic violence.







# Combating Human Trafficking

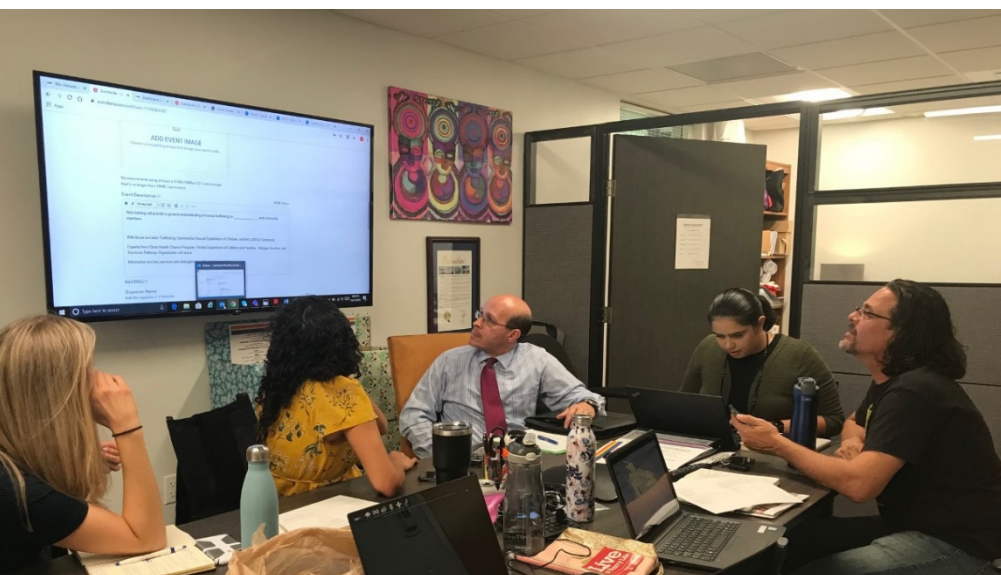


## 1 Human Trafficking Coalition Project (1HTC)

The CHR SJ is now the home to 1Human Trafficking Coalition (1HTC), a multi-county collaborative to fight human trafficking in South Florida. Since its inception, the CHR SJ has had an unwavering commitment to work with local and global community partners in combating human trafficking and supporting survivors. Building upon the solid foundation created by 1HTC's leader and collaborators over the past three years, the CHR SJ's 1HTC Project uses a collective-impact approach to social change. The primary mission is supporting anti-human trafficking efforts in the tri-county area by aligning resources and serving as a comprehensive and integrated information, education, and training center for individuals and organizations throughout South Florida.

1HTC team consists of nationally and internationally recognized experts in several areas important to effective anti-trafficking efforts. Collectively, the team has decades of experience training providers and organizations across the U.S. in social justice and human rights-oriented approaches to practice with marginalized populations who may be particularly at risk for exploitation. Over the last four years, we have partnered with 50+ organizations across multiple systems to provide education, training, and capacity-building to advance trauma-informed, resiliency-focused and culturally relevant services for at risk populations across South Florida. Staff of the Center is currently working with various committees and organizations such as the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force, implementing anti-human trafficking initiatives prior to and during the Super Bowl.

In addition, 1HTC's [website](#) provides extensive educational resources (including an interactive guide with more than 400 up-to-date community resources) that help equip the community with additional tools in the fight against human trafficking.





## BUSSW First-ever Trauma-Informed Clinical Practice Certification with Survivors of Sex Trafficking

This past spring, Professor Samba Zaoui pioneered the first-ever “Advanced Trauma-Informed Clinical Practice Certification with Survivors of Sex Trafficking” for social work and mental health practitioners. Among those in attendance were PhD's, LCSW, LMHC, MSW's and PsyD's. Zaoui saw a need for practitioners to be specifically trained in working with survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation from a trauma-informed interventive stance.

According to Zaoui, this is “the most innovative, cutting-edge research on complex trauma and its impact on our neurobiology, mind, emotions, and body by bridging the latest research on survivors of sexual trauma and trafficking and thoroughly integrating the voices and expertise of survivor leaders who have experienced trafficking. I developed a curriculum that guides the therapeutic community in the work that needs to be accomplished.”

As an active seasoned practitioner, trauma professional, and EMDR therapist, as well as having had the privilege of being trained and inspired by the most reputable trauma professionals of her time, such as Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, Dr. Peter Levine, and Dr. Pat Ogden, Zaoui threaded her expertise and created a curriculum that serves to equip master-level professionals with indispensable core knowledge relevant to working with this population. The response: Overwhelmingly positive!

This is what some participants had to say:

*“This should be a requirement for the entire mental-health community as long as they encounter clients with trauma (everyone).”*

*“Having a love for survivors is absolutely necessary for the healing. I was truly inspired to be a more effective clinician.”*

*“Very intense, with real-world people and scenarios. I left the workshop more confident with working with this population.”*



## Enhanced Collaborative Human Trafficking Task Force training for Palm Beach Gardens SSW Students

Drs. Sarah Lewis and Heidi Heft LaPorte have been working as faculty partners with Dr. Gena Rowlands, Barry University School of Social Work PhD graduate and grant coordinator on Palm Beach County's Enhanced Collaborative Human Trafficking Task Force, which has the primary aim of raising awareness and building capacity to address human trafficking through trauma-informed prevention and intervention. On Sept. 21, key members of the task force provided training for the Barry University Communities in Palm Beach Gardens and Miami Shores as part of the Peace Week activities. This was livestreamed from the Palm Beach School of Social Work satellite campus. Faculty, students, agency directors, and administrators were present. The presenters included Lt. Randy Foley, Palm Beach County Human Trafficking, task-force coordinator; Shaun O'Neill, FBI, supervisory special agent; Greg Schiller, United States Attorney's Office; Carol Messam-Gordon, MPA, program coordinator, Palm Beach County Victim Services; and Laura Stevenson, chief of finance and associate director of Catholic Charities Diocese. Each presenter spoke about their work and the extent to which trauma-informed training and knowledge of indicators has increased community and law enforcement awareness of the prevalence and scope of human trafficking. The task force has leveraged resources to address the problem from a victim-centered approach, while concomitantly prosecuting those who commit crimes of commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking.







# Promoting Wellness in Marginalized Communities



## Intergroup Relations Program-TRACKS

TRACKS is a social justice, dialogue-based program intended to advance the understanding among members of different groups, and reduce prejudice and discrimination. Rooted in the tenets of the intergroup relations (IGD) model from the University of Michigan, TRACKS has been in existence at Barry University since 2014 training dozens of students, Barry faculty and staff, and engaging the community in critical dialogue of complex topics.





## TRACKS: Prejudice Reduction and Violence Prevention Dialogue Series in Liberty City

The CHRSJ continued to collaborate with Miami Children's Initiative (MCI) by providing capacity-building to at-risk students from Miami Northwestern High School through the implementation of TRACKS into MCI's Promising Futures Leadership Academy.

Once a semester, students convened on the Barry University Campus for a four-day seminar facilitated by two SSW students, CHRSJ staff, and MCI's Program Coordinator, Kaleem Washington. The seminar provided a safe space and in-depth discussion on a range of issues relating to privilege, stereotype awareness, and oppression. Through interactive exercises, trained facilitators helped participants discuss their personal perspectives on race and gender, focusing on the current political climate and trending and relevant topics within our society and culture.

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*"The group had great energy from the beginning all the way to the completion of the TRACKS sessions . . . there was no holding back or avoidance from any members of the group. In addition, it was ensured from day one that we would make an inclusive space, and that helped foster positive contributions from the entire group. . . . Everything was amazing! I truly enjoyed myself and could not ask for a better experience". Kaleem Washington—College & Career Mentoring Program Specialist, MCI*

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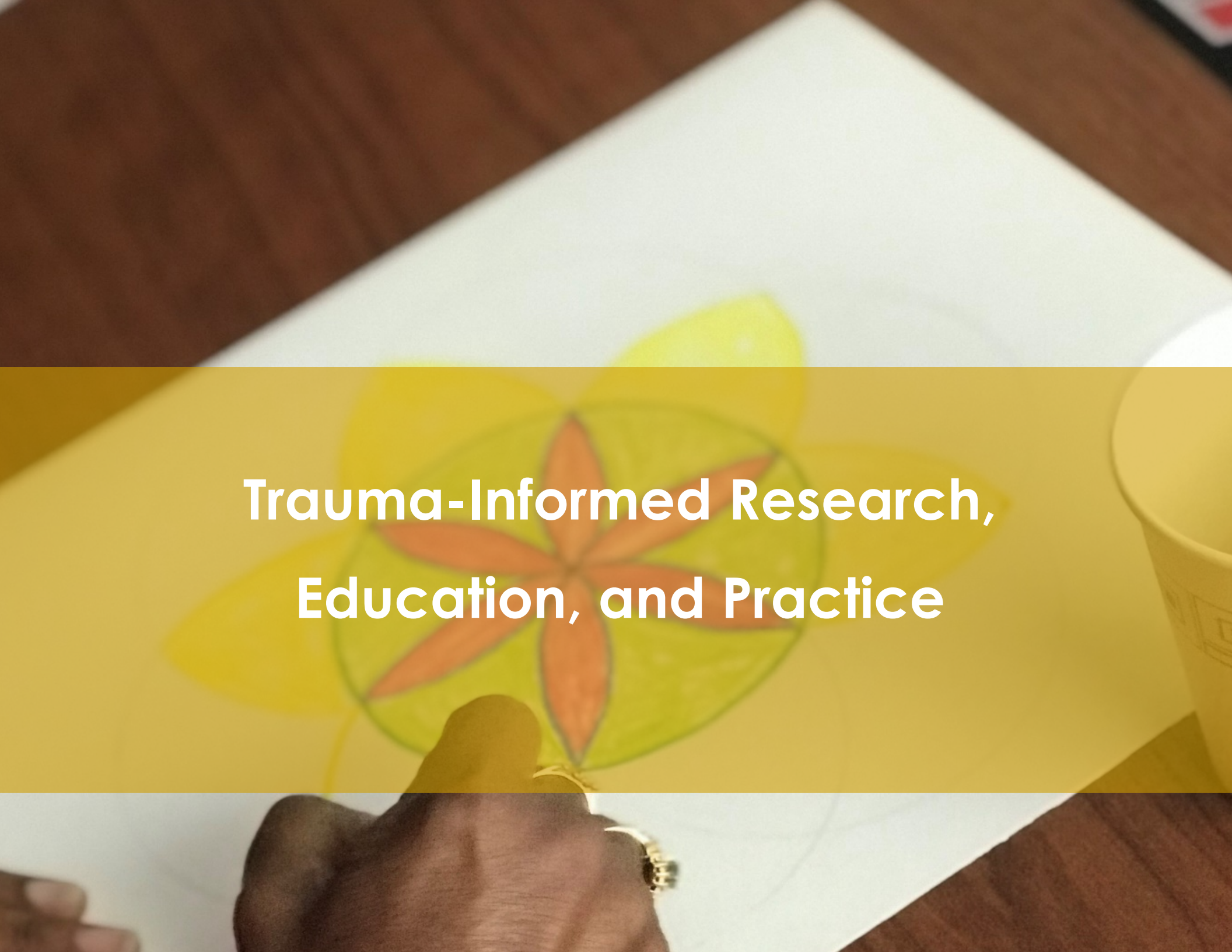
### **Prejudice Reduction and Diversity training for Barry University Resident Assistants**

The CHRSJ Program Coordinator, Carolina Rios, and Dr. Mitch Rosenwald facilitated a half-day workshop for more than 30 new and returning Resident Assistants on their orientation week. Through a series of exercises based on the tenants of the intergroup dialogue (IGD) model, students were able to engage in peaceable, focused, and organized dialogue about race and gender. The workshop was an introduction to other intergroup programs carried out through the CHRSJ, and was intended to facilitate self-identity exploration, recognize prejudices and biases, and create relationship building through open communication and dialogue.

*“As an RA, this workshop will help me talk about race without feeling that I will be attacked . . . there may or may not be issues regarding what we covered in this workshop, but I know how to deal and calm someone down in different situations by avoiding triggers.” TRACKS Participant*

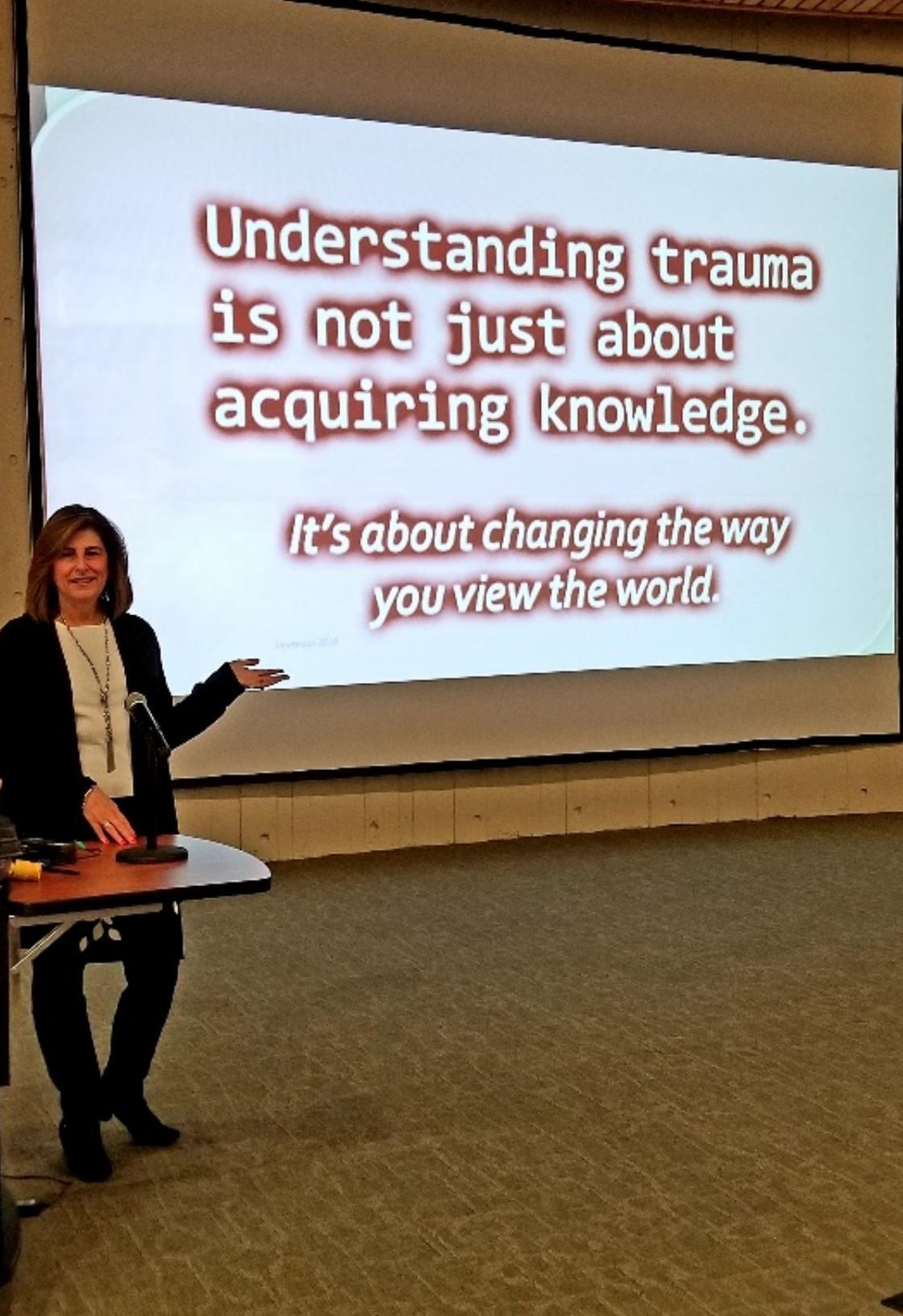
### **The Beauty of Being: Gender-based Intergroup Dialogue for Barry University Students**

The Community Advocates led a series of three closed-group, gender-based workshops to Barry University students. The workshops discussed relevant topics about gender, identity, and prejudice. Trained students received a certificate, free dinners, and a t-shirt. They also had the opportunity to participate in train-the-trainer sessions in the Fall.



# Trauma-Informed Research, Education, and Practice



A woman with brown hair, wearing a black blazer over a white top and a long necklace, stands on the left side of the frame. She is gesturing with her right hand towards a large projection screen. The screen displays text in a stylized, bold font. The background is a plain wall with a wooden baseboard.

**Understanding trauma  
is not just about  
acquiring knowledge.**

***It's about changing the way  
you view the world.***

## Expanding Trauma-Informed Care

The CHRSJ embarked on expanding our trauma-informed care (TIC) training initiative under the leadership of Dr. Jill Levenson. Our website was enhanced with a webinar, and two short videos describing TIC and its implementation into practice. Customized trainings for agencies serving various client populations were conducted throughout the state, including Citrus Health Network in Miami, Orange Blossom Health Network in Orlando, Elite Counseling Services in Fort Myers, and FIU student counseling services.

Our most exciting accomplishment was the development of a multi-day post-graduate certificate program to help clinicians incorporate trauma-informed principles into service delivery.

*"It is really remarkable to witness the expansion of TIC in our communities. Trauma is so pervasive but sometimes not well understood.*

*I think we are making a real difference in the lives of clients, vulnerable populations, and clinical professionals." Dr. Jill Levenson—  
Training Coordinator*



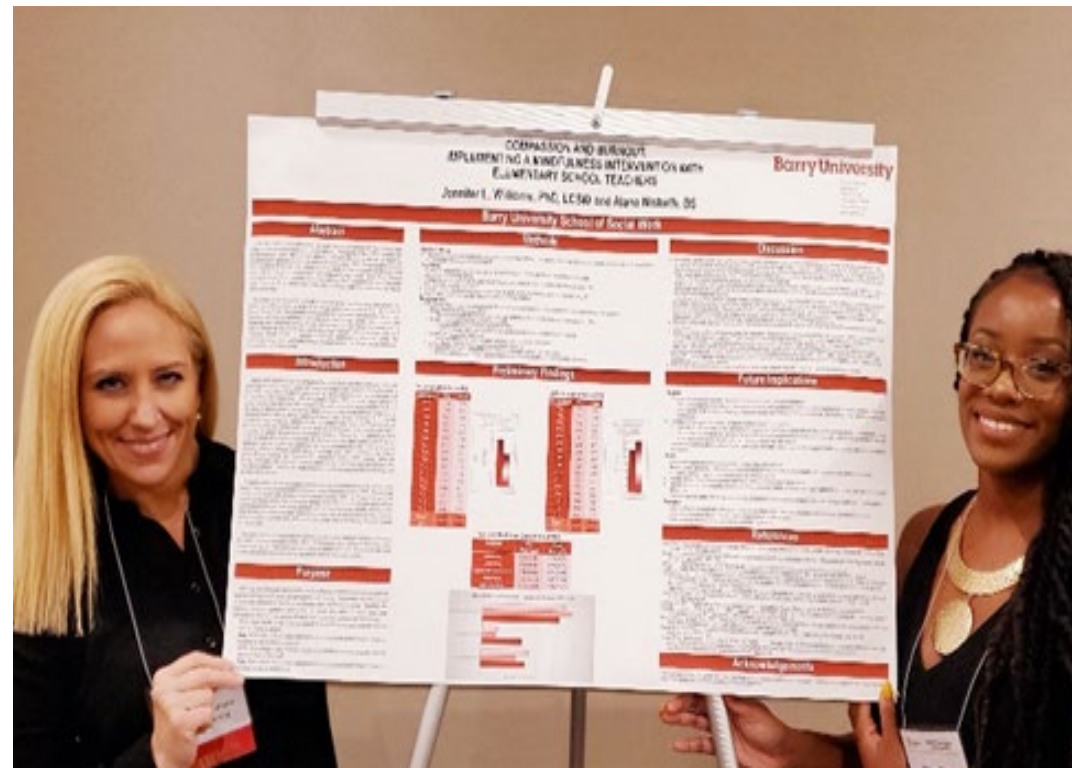
### **Accessing Internal Resources through Expressive Arts**

The purpose of the bi-weekly program, facilitated by Dr. Heidi Heft LaPorte, is to provide Barry students, particularly those who reside on campus, with an opportunity to build community. Through spending time in a creative space, students will have a chance to learn from one another, build on unique abilities, develop coping strategies during challenging times, enhance self-regulation skills and inner strength, and practice self-care through multimodal expressive arts. The program is co-sponsored by the CHRSJ and the Office of Accessibility Services.

### **“Empowering Elementary School Teachers to build a Trauma-Informed School through Mindfulness Interventions**

This past Spring, Dr. Jennifer L. Williams and graduate assistant, Alana Nisbeth, B.S, led a project and study with the aim to 1) empower elementary school teachers of a Title 1 school to build a trauma-informed environment through the use of mindfulness practices, and 2) evaluate the effects of a mindfulness-based program on elementary school teachers working at a Title I school in Broward County, Florida. Sixteen (16) teachers volunteered for a 12-week, 30 minutes per week mindfulness training.

Through quantitative data, the researchers examined the differences in teachers' perceptions of stress, burnout, emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, personal accomplishment, as well as mindfulness after mindfulness training.





# Preventing Sexual Victimization





## **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)**

In order to bolster awareness and action across campus during Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April, the CHRSJ hosted events including student discussion groups about the #MeToo movement. Faculty were involved in collaborative discussions with other campus stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Title IX.

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*“Primary prevention is so important,” said Dr. Levenson. “If we can better understand the various factors – including childhood trauma – that contribute to the development of sexually assaultive behavior, we are in a better position to put strategies in place to intervene early, before abuse occurs.”*

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## **Victim to Victimizer Research Project**

A research project, funded through a [RALIANCE grant](#) awarded by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, is now underway. Victim to Victimizer is a collaborative project between Dr. Melissa Grady, from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and Dr. Jill Levenson from Barry. The researchers will survey the voices and experiences of individuals who have committed sexual offenses, along with treatment providers, to explore how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) contribute to sexually abusive behaviors and identify prevention strategies aimed at reducing sexual violence in our communities.

[http://www.raliance.org/press\\_post/raliance-awards-over-450000-in-grants-to-end-sexual-violence/](http://www.raliance.org/press_post/raliance-awards-over-450000-in-grants-to-end-sexual-violence/)



*Be the Voice of Change*



2018-2019 Student Awards

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### **Doctoral Fellowship Award**

Noemi Marquez, LCSW

Noemi Marquez's innovative and important research, *The Lived Foster Care Experiences of Transgender and Gender Diverse Young Adults*, is consistent with one of the CHRSJ's pillars: Promoting Inclusive Communities for Individuals with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities. This research addresses a notable gap in the literature. Moreover, the study represents a promising step toward advancing knowledge about a particularly underserved and marginalized subgroup of transgender young people. We commend Noemi for her advocacy and commitment to human rights and social justice!

### **Center for Human Rights and Social Justice's Research Fellowship**

Joshua Holzworth

Joshua Holzworth, a Bachelor of Social Work student in his junior year, was awarded the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice's 2019 Research Fellowship to work with Dr. Ashley Austin on qualitative and quantitative research projects focused on elucidating risks to well-being, as well as sources of resilience, faced by transgender and gender diverse youth and adults. Josh's primary clinical and research foci include mental illness, stigma, marginalized populations, and Jungian approaches to clinical intervention. Congratulations on this prestigious award!



### **Center for Human Rights and Social Justice Student Advocate Award**

Michidael Ceard

Michidael Ceard was born in Port Au Prince, Haiti. She immigrated to Miami in April 2013 with her family at the age of 13. She is currently a junior studying English Literature and seeking to minor in Africana studies at Barry University.

Ceard has worked on numerous civic engagement projects with the most notable being the Temporary Protected Status Workshop for undocumented people in Opa-Locka, and the Rights-for-Restoration campaign that successfully helped in adding Amendment Four to the Florida Constitution. With time, she plans to become a civil rights attorney working with a nonprofit for social justice and exclusivity.

Jamie Vaughn

Jamie Vaughn is currently a first-year graduate student in the School of Social Work at Barry University and currently works as a Graduate Assistant for 1HTC. She comes to Barry with a master's in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Florida Atlantic University. Her future career paths include working in sexual assault prevention, comprehensive sex education, and sex therapy. After graduating, she hopes to receive her PhD in Human Sexuality or Clinical Sexology.

### **Center for Human Rights and Social Justice's Fellowship**

Aiyana Angeni Gonzalez, BSW

Merlyn Asencio, BSW

Bryan Torres, BSW



# Research and Scholarship

## Combatting Human Trafficking

### Presentations

Zaoui, S. (2018). The Consequential Relationship: Childhood Sexual Abuse & Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking—Journeying Together with Best Practices. The Just Conference. San Diego, California, October, 2018.

### Research Projects

LaPorte, H. H. & Zaoui, S. H. (in progress). From victim to leader advocate: The lived experiences of individuals who have been impacted by sex trafficking and the restorative process as they transform the culture from the inside out.

Lewis, S. J. & LaPorte, H. H. (in progress). Evaluation of Human Trafficking Enhanced Collaborative Model Program of Palm Beach with PBSO and Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach County, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

## Preventing Sexual Violence

### Publications

Levenson, J. S., Grady, M. D., & Morin, J. W. (2019). Beyond the "Ick Factor": Counseling Non-offending Persons with Pedophilia. *Clinical Social Work Journal*. doi:10.1007/s10615-019-00712-4

Grady, M. D., Levenson, J. S., Mesias, G., Kavanagh, S., & Charles, J. (2018). "I can't talk about that": Stigma and Fear as Barriers to Preventive Services for Minor-attracted Persons. *Stigma and Health*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/sah0000154>

### Books

Ackerman, A. & Levenson, J.S., (2019). *Vicarious Restorative Justice in Sexual Assault Cases*. Safer Society Press: Brandon, VT.

### Presentations

Zaoui, S. & Atkinson, M. (2019). Applying Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity to Haitian Female Survivors



of Sexual Trauma. Orlando, Florida. NASW Regional Chapter, 6/2019.

### Keynotes

Levenson, J.S. (2019). Trauma Informed Practice in Sex-offending Treatment. Keynote Speaker, New York ATSA Chapter, 5/20/19.

Levenson, J.S. (2019). Through the Lens of Trauma: A paradigm shift in the prevention of juvenile offending. Keynote Speaker, National Adolescent Perpetrator Network (NAPN), Fort Lauderdale, FL 5/2/19.

Levenson, J.S. (2019). Sex Offender Housing Restrictions. Mitchell Hamline School of Law. St. Paul, MN. 2/28/19.

### Visiting Scholar

Levenson, J.S. (2019). University of Massachusetts Lowell. 4/1-4/2/19.

Invited by the School of Criminology & Justice Studies.

### Lectures:

1. Everything you ever wanted to know about sex offenders but were afraid to ask.
2. Restorative Justice: Building bridges among individuals impacted by sexual harm (with Dr. Alissa Ackerman)
3. Understanding childhood adversity and trauma-informed care.
4. Brainstorming session with the Title IX sexual assault prevention team at UML.
5. Meet & Greet with UML doctoral students

### Research Projects

\$50,000 Awarded February 2019

National Sexual Violence Resource Center  
(RALIANCE Grant)

Jill Levenson, Co-Investigator

Principal Investigator: Melissa Grady, PhD, Catholic University School of Social Service

Victim to Victimizer. Two national online surveys will explore perceptions of people who commit sex crimes and sex-offending treatment providers about the role of trauma in the development of sexually abusive behaviors and the role of trauma-informed care.

## **Trauma Informed Research Education and Practice**

### Book Chapters

Levenson, J.S. (2019 in press). Trauma-informed care in youth correctional settings. In Ugwudike, P. (ed.) Routledge Companion to Rehabilitation in Criminal Justice. Routledge.

Levenson, Willis & Prescott (2018). Incorporating Principles of Trauma-Informed Care into Evidence-Based Sex-Offending Treatment. In Jeglic & Mercado, eds., New Frontiers in Offender Treatment – The Translation of Evidence-Based Practices to Correctional Settings. Springer.

Nowakowski-Sims, E. & Powers, D. (2019). Trauma-informed Infant Mental Health Assessment. In In J.

Courtney & R. Nolan (Eds.). Infant Mental Health. NY, New York: Routledge.

### Presentations

Baird, J. (2019). Trauma-Informed Supervision. Presented at National Association of Social Workers Annual Conference, Florida Chapter, Orlando, FL

McMahon, S. & Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2018). Self-efficacy of Trauma-Informed Care among a sample of MSW students in a trauma-informed curriculum. Paper presented at Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting.

Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2019). No Mat Required: Yoga Skills for Mental Health Professionals. Center for Family Services, Palm Beach County.

Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2018, 2019). Trauma Informed Care. Children's Services Council, Palm Beach County.

### Posters

Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2019). Childhood Adversity and Delinquency among Youth in the Context of Child-to-Parent and Sibling-to-Sibling Violence. Poster presented at Society for Social Work and



Research 23rd Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

## **Creating Inclusive Communities for Individuals with Diverse SOGIE**

### Publications

Austin, A., Craig, S. L., Dentato, M. P., Roseman, S., & McInroy, L. (2019). Elucidating transgender students' experiences of microaggressions in social work programs: Next steps for creating inclusive educational contexts. *Social Work Education*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2019.1575956>

Craig, S. L., McInroy, L. B., & Austin, A. (2018). "Someone to Have My Back": Exploring the Needs of Racially and Ethnically Diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender High School Students. *Children & Schools*, 40(4), 231-239.

### Presentations

Austin, A., Craig, S. L., D'Souza, S. & McInroy, L. Finding Escape, Belonging, and Hope Online: A Grounded Theory Study of Transgender Youths' Internet Engagement. Society for Social Work and Research. San Francisco, CA. January 18, 2019.

Craig, S. L., McInroy, L., Eaton, A. & Austin, A. Navigating Negativity Online: How Gender and Sexual Minority Youth Cope with Cyber Discrimination. Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA. January 18, 2019.

Austin, A. (Expert Panelist) Wrestling with shame: The implications of faith, sex, and gender. Sunserve's Annual Clinical Care conference, Miami Shores, FL, November 9, 2018.

Craig, S. L., Austin, A., & D'Souza, S. Exploring the Influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Minority Stress, and Internalized Stigma on Depression in Transgender Youth and Young Adults. World Professional Association of Transgender Health, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nov 2-6, 2018.

Austin, A. & Craig, S. L. Transgender affirmative cognitive behavioral therapy: Preliminary efficacy and acceptability. Society for Psychotherapy Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands, June, 2018.

Alessi, E. A., Austin, A., Craig, S. L., & Dentato, M. The mental health treatment needs of hyper marginalized LGBT clients (Expert Panel) Society for

Psychotherapy Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands, June, 2018.

### Posters

Austin, A. Craig, S. L., & D'Souza, S. Transgender Affirmative Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Promising Approach for Promoting Positive Mental Health among Transgender Youth. World Professional Association of Transgender Health, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nov 2-6, 2018.

### Research Projects

Austin, A. & Holzworth J. (In Progress). Expanding Knowledge about Gender Dysphoria: A Photo Elicitation Interviewing Study. Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, \$1500.00

Austin, A. (Co-Investigator, Chair U.S. Regional Network) (Craig, S.L. PI), International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR), Social Sciences and Health Research of Canada.

- Subproject: Austin A. (Co-PI) and Dentato, M. D. (Co-PI) Photo Elicitation Inquiry of Online and Offline Experiences of Resilience among

Transgender Youth with Intersecting Identities, (2019-2020)

## **Promoting Wellness in Marginalized Communities**

### Research Projects

LaPorte, H. H. & Murray, R. M. (in progress). Creativity, accessibility, and inclusivity in higher education.

Nowakowski, E. Program Evaluator. (2019). Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction Program. Department of Justice. \$100,000.

### Presentations

Rosenwald, M. (2019, April). "Angels in Disguise": Focus group themes from a Children's Bureau supportive housing demonstration. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. Washington, DC.

Rosenwald, M., Rios, C., & Ramlow, P. (2018, November). A social work-human resources partnership to facilitate prejudice reduction on campus. Paper presented at the meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.



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# CHRSJ Staff



**Ashley Austin, PhD, LCSW**

Professor, School of Social Work  
Distinguished Professor, Center for Human Rights and  
Social Justice



**Carolina Rios, M.A.**

Coordinator, Center for Human Rights and  
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