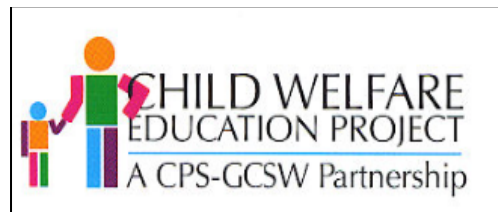


# Child Welfare Education Project

## CWEP Newsline



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CWEP Website: <http://www.uh.edu/socialwork/community/cwep/current-students/index.php>

### What's Inside

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Director's Corner  | 2   |
| Advisor Tip        | 3   |
| Spotlights         | 4-6 |
| Upcoming Graduates | 7   |
| Updated Calendar   | 8   |

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## Director's Corner: Arnitia Walker



**Each year in November millions of people across the country celebrate National Adoption Month.** The federal government has high expectations for child welfare agencies across the nation. Three of those include safety, permanency, and well-being. Child protection staff in Region 6 work extra hard to ensure that each child freed for adoption has a “forever” family. They understand how important it is for children to achieve permanency. Attaining this goal includes locating appropriate and supportive lifetime families who will provide children with safe and stable homes. Children deserve to have someone in their lives who will love them unconditionally, while at the same time provide them with legal membership status.

Many activities are scheduled throughout National Adoption Month to support adoption consummations across the region. These include special ceremonies, receptions, and mass adoptions. Adoption is not just for babies and toddlers. There are thousands of school aged children and adolescents waiting for a permanent home.

*President Barack Obama stated the following: “This month, we celebrate adopted children, teenagers, and their diverse families. We work to give more young people permanent families and promising futures. And we encourage our friends and neighbors to open their hearts and their homes to children in need.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2013 as National Adoption Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month by answering the call to find a permanent and caring family for every child in need, and by supporting the families who care for them.”*

*Texas Governor Rick Perry was quoted as saying, “Each year the month of November is dedicated to finalizing many adoptions and recognizing the countless men and women within our state who have chosen to become adoptive and foster parents. By opening new avenues of opportunity for children and guiding them towards success, they exemplify the best of Texas.”*

The push for adoption should not simply occur once per year. This should remain a priority each and every day for all involved to guarantee that all children who are freed for adoption will receive a permanent family.

# Advisor Tip



*Always double-check your financial status PRIOR to registration to ensure a smooth process!*

*~Brunessia Williams*

# CWEP Student Spotlight

**Nicole Robinson**, Dec. 2013



1. What is your current position with CWEP? How long have you been at that position? What prior experience(s) did you bring to that position?

I am now a 2<sup>nd</sup> year advanced standing clinical track student with a specialization in Health Disparities, as well as a continued recipient of the CWEP stipend. My current intern position is Substitute care Worker. I graduated from Texas Southern University in 2008, where I received a BA in Social Work. After graduating from the Social Work program, I dedicated myself to CPS. Children and families is where my passion began.

2. What advice do you have for our CWEP students?

Write the vision down and make it plain! Always remember why you first desired to be a part of influencing and enabling families to succeed. When things become tough and you have feelings of inadequacy, go back to the vision and read it. Add to the vision what things have greatly impacted your life thus far in what you do, and make the best decision for your life because I truly believe that if it is in your heart to do what you do, then it is your call and destiny to fulfill it.

# CWEP Student Spotlight

**Sara Ferrell**, Dec. 2013



## 1. What have been the greatest rewards in the CWEP or CPS family?

Being part of the CPS family I've learned how the system works. Our clients, whether it be children, parents, caregivers, need specialist who care about what they do and will strive to make a difference. Being in Investigations in 2010 I was grateful that I could remove children from environments that we deemed a safety risk. In Conservatorship, teamwork was very important and trying to accommodate all parties involved with a case was trying at times and hard work but you could see the difference you made as a specialist. With Kinship now, I have been able to advocate for the behalf of my clients to ensure the children placed with them have a better future. Every day is different and being a part of it has been a great experience.

## 2. What motivated you to join the MSW program?

After having a kidney transplant in the winter of 2010, I realized that being a LMSW would open more doors for me and that my life was not over. A social worker has more areas and opportunities and specialties than other professions do. Always wanting to help people and finding new skills to do that motivated me to pursue my education further so that I could say, "I am a social worker, not just a case worker." We are the voice of the children and every second counts.

CWEP Student Spotlight

## Theresa Anderson, May 2014



1. What has been the greatest rewards working in the CWEP or CPS family?

The greatest reward being a part of the CWEP program is having the ability to incorporate my GCSW experience with that of child welfare. My interest lies in the doctoral program, therefore I consider exploring the different positions and needs of the child welfare community a reward to possibly later explore in my research. Most importantly, I value the relationships I have built, which afforded me the opportunity to call them mentors, future colleagues, and friends.

2. What motivated you to join the MSW program?

My motivation to join the MSW program was my family and my professional goals. I am one who is always striving to reach my highest potential and a MSW degree seemed fitting. I knew the importance of education to remove glass ceilings and open doors to professional opportunities. Being employed in the foster care division for three years, I was at a point in my life when I was ready to move up the ladder and this was only possible to a certain extent without a higher degree. It was important to me that I complete the program before my son began school. In turn, I applied to the UH GCSW and was accepted into the program, which has motivated me to set my sights higher and pursue my Ph.D.

**CWEP Students Graduating  
Soon!**

*We're very proud of all of our graduates, and not all of them could be showcased this month! Two other students are graduating this year and we recognize their amazing journeys as well!*

***Yolanda Westbrook** ~ December 2013*

***Mary Nduwke** ~ May 2014*

*Congratulations to all five graduates of the Child Welfare Education Project program in the 2013-2014 academic year!*



# ***CWEP Calendar December, 2013-May, 2014***

***Subject to Change*** Check at [www.uh.edu/socialwork](http://www.uh.edu/socialwork) for final schedule

***December 7, 2013: Last day of classes***

***December 9-10, 2013: Reading Period***

***December 11-19, 2013: Final Exams***

***December 20, 2013: Official Closing of Fall Semester***

***January 13, 2014: First day of Spring Semester Classes***

***January 20, 2014: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday***

***January 21, 2014: LAST day to add a class***

***January 29, 2014: LAST day to DROP OR WITHDRAW without receiving a grade***

***January 30, 2014: CWEP Brown Bag Mandatory Meeting, 12-1p.m. at 2525 Murworth, CPS Office***

***February 21, 2014: LAST day to apply for graduation on time with a \$25 fee***

***February 21, 2014: CWEP Mentor Event; 12-1p.m. at 2525 Murworth, CPS Office***

***February 22, 2014: FIRST day to apply late to graduation with a \$50 fee***

***March 10-15, 2014: Spring Break!***

***March 21, 2014: LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR GRADUATION***

***March 25-28, 2014: CWEP Advising for summer and fall 2014***

***March 26, 2014: LAST day to drop a course or withdraw with a W***

***April 28, 2014: Last day of classes***

***April 29, 2014: Make-up day or Reading Period***

***April 30-May 8, 2014: Final Exams***

***May 9, 2014: Official Close of Spring Semester; Commencement***