

Melinda Kay Lewis, LMSW

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BIOGRAPHY

Melinda Lewis is a Professor of Practice in the School of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas, where she teaches both BSW and MSW courses in policy analysis, policy practice, and human rights in social work. She is also Director of the School's Center on Community Engagement and Collaboration, where she leads the School's efforts in lifelong learning, public scholarship, and support for community-engaged research and relationships. She works with key community partners, represents the School of Social Welfare in university and regional community engagement efforts, and serves as an ambassador for the School and the profession in community coalitions and related initiatives. This role builds on Melinda's decades of work with nonprofit organizations to enhance their strategic communications, advocacy strategy development and execution, and evaluation of social change efforts, focused in the substantive domains of economic justice, family support, and human rights. Since 2022, Melinda has been the faculty lead for the School's International Social Work study abroad program in Costa Rica, which includes teaching internationally and guiding the School's continuation of a longstanding international partnership. In 2024, she was awarded the International Affairs Advisory Board International Teaching Award for these roles in the university's strategic priority of comprehensive internationalization. For five years, Ms. Lewis was Assistant Director of the Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion, now based at the University of Michigan. At AEDI, she co-authored three books about wealth inequality, student debt, and policies to make education an equitable ladder of upward mobility, as well as peer-reviewed scholarship about asset development approaches. These publications were culminations of Ms. Lewis' responsibility for translating research on the effects of early children's assets into materials with direct policy implications and media appeal; supporting scholarship around economic mobility and wealth creation; and advancing the field of Children's Savings Accounts. She is also co-author of the book *Social Policy for Effective Practice: A Strengths Approach*, which is widely used in BSW and MSW social policy courses in institutions around the country.

EDUCATION

M.S.W. Washington University, St. Louis, May 2001

B.S.W. with honors University of Kansas 1999

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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|--------------|--|
| 2023-present | Professor of Practice, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 2023-present | Director, Center for Community Engagement & Collaboration, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 8/13-2023 | Associate Professor of Practice, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 8/18-2023 | Associate Director, Center on Community Engagement and Collaboration, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 8/13-6/18 | Assistant Director, Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI), University of Michigan School of Social Work |
| 10/12-8/13 | Policy Director, Assets and Education Initiative (AEDI), School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 8/07-8/13 | Lecturer, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |

AWARDS

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| 2024 | International Affairs International Teaching Award, University of Kansas |
| 2021 | Gene A. and Gretchen Budig Award for Excellence in Teaching, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 2020 | Mid-Career Award, Association for Community Organization and Social Action (ACOSA) |
| 2015 | Rocco Award, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 2005 | Outstanding Alumna, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas |
| 1999 | Truman Scholar |
| 1999 | Phi Beta Kappa |
| 1996 | National Merit Scholar |

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

In print

- Elliott, W., Kite, B., O'Brien, M., Lewis, M., & Palmer, A. (2018). Initial elementary education findings from Promise Indiana's Children's savings account program. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 85, pp. 295-306.
- Lewis, M., O'Brien, M., & Elliott, W. (2017). Immigrant Latino Families Saving Against Great Odds: The Case of CSAs and the Prosperity Kids Program. *Race and Social Problems*, 9(3), pp. 192-206.
- Lewis, M., O'Brien, M., Jones-Layman, A., O'Neill, E., & Elliott, W. (2017). Saving and educational asset-building within a community-driven CSA program: The case of promise Indiana. *Poverty and Public Policy*, 9(2), 188-208.
- Elliott, W. & Lewis, M. (September 2015). Student debt effects on financial wellbeing: Research and policy implications. *Journal of Economic Surveys*. doi:10.1111/joes.12124
- Elliott, W., Lewis, M., Nam, I., & Grinstein-Weiss, M. (2014). Does parents' college savings reduce college debt? *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review*, 96(4).
- Lewis, M., Cramer, R., Elliott, W., and Sprague, A. (2013). Policies to promote economic stability, asset building, and child development. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 36, 15-21.
- Lewis, M. (2008). Families in the Heartland: Exploration of the Social, Economic, and Cultural Realities of Latino Immigrants. *Families in Society* 89(2), pp. 193-201.

Books

- Chapin, R. and Lewis, M. (2023). *Social Policy for Effective Practice: A Strengths Approach*. Sixth Edition. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Chapin, R. and Lewis, M. (2020). *Social Policy for Effective Practice: A Strengths Approach*. Fifth Edition. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Elliott, W. and Lewis, M. (2018). *Making Education Work for the Poor: The Potential of Children's Savings Accounts*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Elliott, W. and Lewis, M. (2016). *Student Debt: A Reference Handbook*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
- Elliott, W. with Lewis, M. (2015). *The real college debt crisis: How student borrowing threatens financial well-being and erodes the American dream*. Broomfield, CO: Praeger.

Book Contribution

- Lewis, M. (series editor, 2016-present). *New Directions in Social Work*. New York, NY: Routledge.

- Lewis, M.,** Chapin, R., and Rand, H. (2020). Strengths Perspective Policy Practice Principles. In *Rooted in Strengths: Celebrating the Strengths Perspective in Social Work*. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas.
- Elliott, W. and **Lewis, M.** (2016). *Student Debt Effects on Financial Well-Being: Research and Policy Implications*. For Claus, E. and Claus, I. (Editors). A Collection of Surveys on Savings and Wealth Accumulation. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.
- Lewis, M.** (2023, 2020, 2017, 2014, 2011). *Instructor Resources* and editorial assistance. For Chapin, R. *Social Policy for Effective Practice: A Strengths Approach*. Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Editions. New Directions in Social Work: Routledge.

Book Review

- Lewis, M.** (2010). Book Review: Jessica Valenti, *Full-Frontal Feminism: A Young Woman's Guide to Why Feminism Matters*. *Affilia-Journal of Women and Social Work* 25(3):323-324.

Encyclopedia Chapter (Peer-Reviewed)

- Elliott, W. and **Lewis, M.** (2014). Child development accounts (CDAs). *The Encyclopedia of Social Work*.

Op-Ed Articles

- Cartwright, M. and **Lewis, M.** (June 10, 2014). [Smart Way to Save for College](#). *The Hill*.
- Lewis, M.** (2013, July 3). Saving for Education Improves Outcomes, Evidence Shows. *Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Lewis, M.** and Weatherford, H. (2012, February 15). Circus in Topeka. *The Kansas City Star*.
- Lewis, M.** (April 26, 2006). Immigrants, College. *The Kansas City Star*.

Media Appearances

- Elliott, W. and Lewis, M. (2023-present). *Tangible Hope: Leveraging Assets to Bring Children's Dreams within Reach*. Podcast. Ann Arbor, MI, national.
- Whitford, E. (August 7, 2018). ['Making Education Work for the Poor'](#). Author profile in *Inside Higher Education*.
- Lewis, M.** (2015). *WRHI*. Radio show. Charlotte, NC, local.
- Lewis, M.** (2015). *WFSK's 411 with Sharon Kay*. Radio show. Nashville, TN, regional.
- Lewis, M.** (2015). *KCUR's Central Standard*. Radio show. Kansas City, MO, regional.
- Lewis, M.** (2015). *New Books in Education*. Podcast. New York, NY.

Blog Posts

- Lewis, M.** (May 27, 2016). [Save a Little, Gain a Lot: Cultivating College-Saver Identities](#). *EDinsight*. The Kauffman Foundation.
- Lewis, M.** and Elliott, W. (October 30, 2015). [College financing: from debt to assets](#). *Social Mobility Memos*. The Brookings Institution.
- Lewis, M.** (2014-2015). [The Mobility Beat](#).
- Elliott, W. and **Lewis, M.** (September 9, 2014). [New Report: Are Student Loans the Best we can Do?](#)
- Lewis, M.** (November 7, 2013). [An Assets Agenda for Higher Education](#).
- Lewis, M.** (November 6, 2013). [The Student Loan \(Financial\) Shuffle](#).
- Lewis, M.** (November 5, 2013). [Student Loans buy a degree, but at what cost?](#)
- Lewis, M.** (2009-2014). [Classroom to Capitol](#).

Research Reports/Major Monographs

- Willey-Sthapit, C., Magarati, M., Neupane, G., Pokharel, R., **Lewis, M.** & Pradhan, M. (2025). *Domestic violence in Nepal: Broadening the definition and highlighting family and community responses*. Kopila Nepal and Center for Community Engagement and Collaboration (CCEC), University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.
- Lewis, M.**, Gullledge, E., Miller, B., Harsch, K., McArthur, V., Jager, S., & Akin, B. A. (2024). *For Better Child Welfare Outcomes, Always Family First*. Kansas Invests in Families (KinVest), Center for Research to Transform Systems for Community, Family and Social Justice, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. <https://socwel.ku.edu/ccec-research-brief-kinship-brief>.
- Barton, J., Jimenez, P.N., Biggs, J., Garstka, T.A., **Lewis, M.**, & Ball, T.C. (2023). *Asking the Right Questions: Screening as a Tool for Family Engagement in Early Home Visiting*. Lawrence, KS: Center for Research to Transform Systems for Families, Communities & Social Justice; Center for Community Engagement & Collaboration; School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas.
- Elliott, W., **Lewis, M.**, O'Brien, M., LiCalsi, C. Brown, L. Tucker, N. and Sorensen, N. (2018). *Contribution activity and asset accumulation in a universal children's savings account program*. Ann Arbor, MI: Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI).
- O'Brien, M., **Lewis, M.**, Jung, E., & Elliott, W. (2017a). *Savings Patterns and Asset Accumulation in the Promise Indiana Children's Savings Account (CSA) Program: 2017 Update*. (AEDI Working Paper 01-17). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI).
- O'Brien, M., **Lewis, M.**, Jung, E., & Elliott, W. (2017b). *Harold Alfond College Challenge (HACC) 2017 Savings Report for Households Who Opted-In to the Program from 2008 to 2013*. (AEDI Working Paper 03-17). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI).
- O'Brien, M., **Lewis, M.**, Jung, E., & Elliott, W. (2017c). *Savings Patterns and Asset Accumulation in New Mexico's Prosperity Kids Children's Savings Account (CSA) Program: 2017 Update*. (AEDI Working Paper 02-17). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI).
- Lewis, M.** and Elliott, W. (2015). *A Regional Approach to Children's Savings Account Development: The Case of New England*. Lawrence, KS: Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI).
- Elliott, W., **Lewis, M.**, Poore, A., and Clarke, B. (2015). *Moving Toward a Policy Agenda for Improving Children's Savings Account Delivery Systems*. Boston, MA: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion.
- Elliott, W., and **Lewis, M.** (2015). *Transforming 529s into Children's Savings Accounts (CSAs): The Promise Indiana Model*. Lawrence, KS: Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI).
- Elliott, W. and **Lewis, M.** (2014). *Unequal outcomes: Student loan effects on young adults' net worth accumulation*. Lawrence, KS: Assets and Education Initiative (AEDI).
- Elliott, W. and **Lewis, M.** (2014). *The student debt problem in America: It is not enough to say, "students will eventually recover"*. Lawrence, KS: Assets and Education Initiative (AEDI).
- Lewis, M.** and Elliott, W. (2014). *Examining the Canadian Education Savings System and its Implications for U.S. Children's Savings Account (CSA) Policy*. Lawrence, KS: Assets and Education Initiative. (AEDI).
- Elliott, W. and **Lewis, M.** (2014). *Harnessing assets to build an economic mobility system: Reimagining the American welfare system*. Lawrence, KS: Assets and Education Initiative (AEDI).
- Elliott, W. and **Lewis, M.** (2013). *Are student loans widening the wealth gap in America? It's a question of equity*. Lawrence, KS: Assets and Education Initiative (AEDI).

Lewis, M., Elliott, E., Cramer, R., and Black, R. (2013). [Policy Discussion](#). In *The Biannual Report on the Assets and Education Field*.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Webinars

- Lewis, M. (January 26, 2022). *Advocacy Strategies and Skills*. Webinar for the Family Advisory Council. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.
- Lewis, M. (April 2, 2020). *Why evaluate your advocacy? And how?* Webinar for the Center for Community Engagement and Collaboration. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.
- Lewis, M. (February 6, 2020). *A Framework for Nonprofit Board Capacity*. Webinar for the Center for Community Engagement and Collaboration. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.
- Lewis, M. (November 7, 2019). *Nonprofit Advocacy Rules for Election Years*. Webinar for the Center for Community Engagement and Collaboration. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.
- Lewis, M. and Elliott, W. (May 17, 2017). Children's Savings Accounts (CSAs), Asset-Based Financial Aid, and the Opportunity Pipeline. National College Access Network webinar.
- Lewis, M. (January 19, 2017). *Why evaluate your advocacy? And how?* Webinar for the Kansas City Nonprofit Advocacy Collaborative.
- Elliott, W., Adams, D., Friedline, T., Rauscher, E., and Lewis, M. (March 10, 2015). Center for Social Development 20th Anniversary Celebration. Lawrence, KS: AEDI.
- Lewis, M. (October 28, 2014). *Asset Building for Parents and the Next Generation*. Region V Fatherhood Initiative. National Institutes of Health and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Lewis, M., Elliott, W., and Black, R. (November 18, 2014). [If you Build It, Will they Save? Examination of the Canadian Education Savings Program](#). Webinar.

Invited Presentations

- Lewis, M. and Brox, A. (April 10, 2025). *Engaged Reading: Field Guide to Climate Anxiety*. KU Commons, Lawrence, Kansas.
- Lewis, M. (November 22, 2024). *Here, there, everywhere: Teaching and learning through relationships, across borders*. Presentation in celebration of International Education Week, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- Elliott, W., Reeves, R., Hamilton, D., and Lewis, M. (July 25, 2018). *Making Education Work for the Poor*. Book presentation at New America. Washington, DC.
- Lewis, M. (April 4, 2018). *Impact of Children's Savings Accounts*. Presentation for the Midwest CSA Consortium. Minneapolis, MN.
- Lewis, M. (March 7, 2018; repeated by request 2019, 2020, 2021-2022 (virtually), 2023). *Telling your Story*. Presentation for Kansas NASW Day. Topeka, KS.
- Lewis, M. (December 6, 2017). *Building a Movement, to Construct a Pipeline*. Presentation for the Midwest CSA Consortium. Madison, WI.
- Lewis, M. and Elliott, W. (November 2, 2017). *Imagining an Opportunity Pipeline*. Presentation for the Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.
- Lewis, M. (October 30, 2017). *Pathways to Service*. Presentation for Office of Service Learning, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.
- Lewis, M. (June 12, 2017). *Supporting your Nonprofit's Advocacy*. Presentation for the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the REACH Healthcare Foundation, Kansas City, MO.
- Lewis, M. (May 6, 2017). *Student Debt, the Racial Wealth Gap, and the American Dream*. Presentation for the United We Stand Coalition, Kansas City, MO.

- Lewis, M.** (March 6, 2017). *Strategic Communications for Advocacy*. Presentation for the Kansas City Nonprofit Advocacy Collaborative.
- Lewis, M.** (May 18, 2016). *Making Tax Time, Saving Time, for Economic Mobility and the American Dream*. Keynote Presentation for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, United Way of Greater Kansas City.
- Lewis, M.** (April 22, 2016). *Saving for Postsecondary Education: Why? How?* Presentation to Kansas City GradForce Task Force, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).
- Lewis, M.** (November 2, 2015). *The Real College Debt Crisis and the Coming Revolution in Financial Aid*. Presentation at University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO.
- Lewis, M.** (August 6, 2015). *The Real College Debt Crisis: How Student Borrowing Threatens Financial Well-Being and Erodes the American Dream*. Presentation for State Assets Learning Cluster. St. Louis, MO.
- Lewis, M.** (April 9, 2015). *Integrating Advocacy into your Nonprofit Organization*. Presentation for the Kansas Health Foundation. Wichita, KS.
- Lewis, M.** (October 3, 2014). *Immigration Policy and its Effects on Social Work Practice*. Presentation for School of Social Welfare Lecture, University of Kansas.
- Lewis, M.** (October 1, 2014). *Student Loans and Financial Security*. Panel moderation for Pew Charitable Trusts/Senate Economic Mobility Caucus.
- Lewis, M.** (September 11, 2014). *Integrating Advocacy into your Communications*. Presentation for the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the REACH Healthcare Foundation.
- Lewis, M.** (September 9, 2014). *Saving for Prosperity: Building Wealth and Educational Achievement through Asset Building*. Presentation at the Alliance for Economic Inclusion conference. Kansas City, MO: Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.
- Lewis, M.** (August 22, 2014). *Foundation Students and the Organizational Context*. Presentation for Field Education Office, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas.
- Lewis, M.** (August 12, 2014). *Asset Building for Parents and the Next Generation*. Presentation at the National Child Support Enforcement Association conference. Portland, OR.
- Lewis, M.** (August 8, 2014). *Field Instructors and Policy Practice*. Presentation for the Field Education Office, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas.
- Lewis, M.** (May 2014). *Using Your Whole Team: Integrating Advocacy into your Organization*. Presentation for the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the REACH Healthcare Foundation.
- Lewis, M.** (September 2013). *An inequitable welfare system for the poor*. Address presented at the University Forum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- Lewis, M.** (July 2013). *Policy Agenda for the Assets and Education Field*. Address presented at the release of the Biannual Report on the Assets and Education Field, New America Foundation, Washington, DC.
- Lewis, M.** (June 2012). *The Strained Safety Net*. Address presented at the Human Services Summit, for United Community Services, Overland Park, KS.

Conference Presentations

- Lewis, M.** and Tyuse, S. (October 2024). *Social Work and Voting Rights*. Conference presentation for Council on Social Work Education. Kansas City, MO.
- Horner, P., Kawam, E., Ostrander, J., **Lewis, M.**, & Granruth, L. (October 2024). *Socrates in the Trump Era: Teaching Students and Educators Policy Dialogue Skills*. Conference presentation for Council on Social Work Education. Kansas City, MO.
- Horner, P., Kawam, E., Ostrander, J., & **Lewis, M.** (October 2023). *Influencing Social Policy: Policy and Anti-Racist Social Work Education*. Conference presentation for Council on Social Work Education. Atlanta, GA.

- Lewis, M.** (March 4, 2022). *Strengths Perspective in Policy Practice*. Conference presentation for Joplin Professional Social Workers Group.
- Lewis, M.** (September 25, 2019). *A Strengths-Based Policy Agenda: With and for those we serve*. Keynote presentation for Mid-America Assistance Council annual conference. Kansas City, MO.
- Lewis, M.** (April 3, 2019). *Making Education Work for the Poor*. Keynote presentation for the Kansas Association of Scholarship and Financial Aid Administrators conference. Lawrence, KS.
- Lewis, M.** (July 18, 2018). *Building Advocacy Capacity to Reduce Poverty*. Presentation for the Kansas Conference on Poverty. Topeka, KS.
- Quint, C., Feinstein, A., Grant, P., & **Lewis, M.** (October 9, 2017). *Children's Savings Accounts and Scholarships: Practitioners' Perspectives*. Presentation for the National Scholarship Providers Association Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Lewis, M.** (September 21, 2016). *Interim Measures for Children's Savings Account Programs*. Presentation for the Assets Learning Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lewis, M.** (July 17, 2015). *Assets for Mobility: Agenda for Prosperity in the New Economy*. Presentation for Kansas Poverty Conference. Topeka, KS.
- Lewis, M.** (March 4, 2015). *Asset-Building and Child Well-Being*. Plenary Presentation at California Child Support Policy Symposium. Sacramento, California.
- Lewis, M.** (September 17, 2014). *The Canadian Education Savings Program and its Implications for U.S. CSA Policy*. Panel Presentation at the CFED Assets Learning Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lewis, M.** (May 8, 2014). *Does Parents' College Savings Reduce College Debt?*. St Louis Federal Reserve Bank Research Symposium, *The Balance Sheets of Younger Americans: Is the American Dream at Risk?*
- Lewis, M.** (2013, July). *Giving Students a Stake*. Presentation at the Kansas Poverty Conference.
- Lewis, M.** (2013, April). *Working with what you've got: integrating advocacy into direct-service organizations*. For the School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

11/2009-2018 Nonprofit Advocacy and Evaluation Consultant, independent practice
 Advise nonprofit organizations and philanthropies on policy advocacy, advocacy evaluation, and strategic communications, toward an aim of more effective policy and social change efforts. Provide capacity-building for agency staff, service constituents, and Board members, prepare tools and policy documents, conduct analyses, and organize events to build nonprofits' understanding of the communities they serve, the skills and resources needed to influence the policy environment, and the organizational structures that facilitate social change. Conduct analysis and facilitate strategic consideration of outcomes related to philanthropies' policy change activities. Assess field capacity related to community change initiatives. Past clients include American Civil Liberties Union, Child Abuse Prevention Association, Communities Creating Opportunity, Cornerstones of Care, El Centro, Foster Adopt Connect, Harvesters, Health Forward Foundation, Heartland Conservation Alliance, Jewish Vocational Services, Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Association of Community Action Programs, Kansas Association for the Medically-Underserved, Kansas Head Start Association, Lee's Summit Cares, Mattie Rhodes Center, Missouri Budget Project, Missouri Jobs with Justice, Missouri Foundation for Health, Rawlins County Dental Clinic, REACH Healthcare Foundation, ReDiscover Mental Health, reStart, Inc., Samuel Rodgers Health Center, Sunflower Foundation, Support Kansas City, The Whole Person, Tri-County Mental Health, Vibrant Health, United Community Services, Uzazi Village, United Way Association of Kansas, United Way of Greater Kansas City.

5/2001-6/07

Director of Policy Advocacy and Research, El Centro, Inc.

Conducted policy advocacy on issues including access to higher education, predatory lending, affordable housing, workers' rights, civil liberties, immigration reform, and health care. Cultivated allies in Kansas to work on legislative, media, and organizing campaigns. Conducted qualitative and quantitative research with immigrant families to inform policy decisions and give voice to immigrants' struggles. Directed voter registration and education efforts in Latino communities, trained nonprofit organizations on civic participation, and facilitated immigrant-centered leadership development. Led successful campaigns to pass in-state tuition for undocumented immigrant students, more than \$800,000 per year in asset-based anti-poverty initiatives, and enhanced consumer protections; organized opposition to several anti-immigrant legislative attacks. Led grassroots fundraising efforts and secured national grants to support advocacy and community organizing efforts.

1/2000-5/2001 Research Assistant, Center for Social Development, Washington University
Supported CSD research on inclusive state 529 college savings plan policy and assisted with planning national symposium on asset policy.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Influencing Social Policy, Executive Board (Secretary) (January 2025-present)

Influencing Social Policy, Board Member (2020-present)

Children and Youth Services Review, Peer Reviewer (2016-present)

Council on Social Work Education, Special Commission on Macro Practice Workgroup (2017-2018; 2021-2022)

Families in Society, Peer Reviewer (2008-2010)

KU TEACHING RECORD

SW 455 Poverty in the Global Economy (2009-2013)

SW 532 Community and Organizational Dynamics and Human Behavior (2009-2012)

SW 560 International Social Work: A Costa Rican Perspective (Study Abroad) 2023-present

SW 534 Social Policy and Advocacy (2024)

SW 574 Social Work Across and Among Borders (2022, 2025)

SW 708 Human Rights and Justice (2022)

SW 713 Community and Organizational Practice (2007, 2014-2021)

SW 720 Social Policy and Advocacy (2011-present, online, in-person, blended formats)

SW 841 Advanced Policy and Programs (2003-2005, 2007-2023)

SW 846 Advanced Advocacy and Community Organizing Practice (2008-2009, 2014-2023)

SW 855 International Social Work: A Costa Rican Perspective (Study Abroad), 2022-present

SERVICE

National Service

2024 Policy Focus Team Member, Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Macro Social Work Practice (2022 EPAS)

2015 Policy Focus Team Member, Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Macro Social Work Practice

2005-2007 Campaign for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, National Strategy Council member

2003-2007 United We DREAM Campaign, National Steering Committee member

University Service

2025-present University Teaching Awards Committee member

2024 KU Reads Selection Committee member

2023 Shulenburg Award Committee member (KU Libraries)

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| 2018-present | Chair, Macro Subcommittee KUSSW MSW Committee |
| 2021-present | Member, Awards Committee, KU School of Social Welfare |
| 2014-present | Truman Scholar Selection Committee, University of Kansas |
| 2019-2022 | Service-Learning Showcase Judge, University of Kansas |
| 2020-2021 | University Scholars Mentor, University of Kansas |
| 5/16-8/16 | McNair Scholars Faculty Mentor, University of Kansas |
| November 2014 | Presentation for Freshman Seminar, University of Kansas |
| October 2014 | Presentation for KU Fights Hunger event, Student Union Activities |
| 2011-2013 | Immigrant Justice Student Group Faculty Advisor, University of Kansas |

Community Service

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| 2024-present | Prairie Village Environmental Committee, appointed member |
| 2022-present | Mothers Out Front KC, Member, Steering Committee |
| 2016-2022 | Kansas Action for Children, Member, Board of Directors Chair, 2020-2022 Board Chair-elect, 2019-2020 Chair, Operations Committee, 2018-2019 |
| 2017-2019 | ACLU of Kansas Immigration Task Force, Chair |
| 2014-2016 | United Way of Greater Kansas City, Advisory Member |
| 2010-2012 | REACH Health Care Foundation Community Advisory Committee |
| 2007-2012 | Kansas Families for Education, Member, Board of Directors |
| 2003-2006 | Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity, Vice-President, Board of Directors |