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**UNITING VOICES**  
AROUND THE GLOBE

**ANTI-RACISM**  
VIRTUAL SUMMIT | **2021**

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# Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

October 21, 2021

Greetings Summit Participants!

We are excited to welcome you to the Anti-Racism Virtual Summit! Sacred Heart University is proud to be cohosting this meaningful and necessary event with SWHelper. As so many issues of racism and oppression have come to the foreground over the past year, and continue today, we recognize that the fight against racism and efforts to dismantle oppression are pivotal to creating a more just world for all of us. We give continued gratitude for those who have gone before us and provided "shoulders for us to stand on." We are especially grateful to SWHelper, for continuing in their footsteps.

This summit continues to provide the opportunity for learning, conviction, change and sharing of ideas. The presentations are applicable to developing anti-racist practices across many disciplines. It is our hope that this approach will be a call to action for us all, a call that resonates in both heart and mind. The two-day summit is an opportunity to hear from activists/educators from various professions in addition to social work. Its virtual presentation ensures that any and all may participate. Students, educators, practitioners, professors and beyond will benefit from the various presentations.

We look forward to the continuance of these conversations, long after the summit ends. All of our commitments to anti-racism, can literally make a world of difference.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Johnson-Tyson*, LMSW

Professor Elizabeth Johnson-Tyson  
Director of Student Support and Success  
School of Social Work  
Sacred Heart University



Dear Summit Attendees,

Welcome to the Anti-Racism Virtual Summit!

In partnership with the Sacred Heart University School of Social Work and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), SWHELPER is honored to host this two day Anti-Racism Virtual Summit focused on creating solutions and a call to action.

This Summit is packed full of individuals who attacked the challenges and barriers they were faced with by creating and crafting solutions. When there wasn't a path to move forward, they created one and are now showing others the way.

I would like to thank all the wonderful speakers who choose our platform to share their expertise and lived experiences, and I hope it contributes to your professional goals and development.

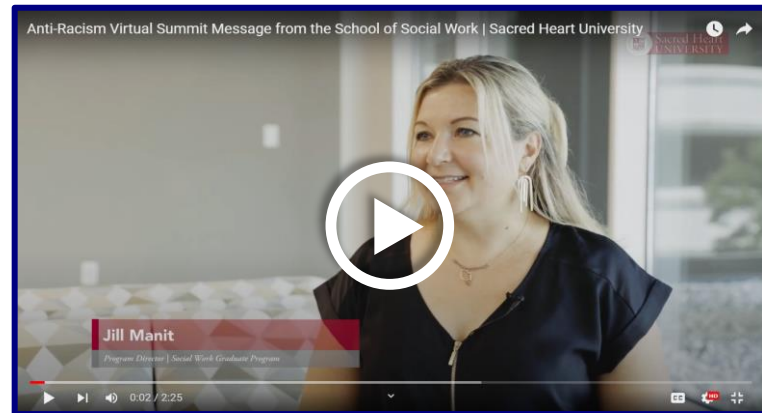
Most importantly, I hope this Summit will inspire all who attend to use the gifts and resources at your disposal to impact and influence change in the world around you.

I look forward to engaging with you!

Thank you,

Deona Hooper, Founder and Editor-in-Chief SWHELPER

# VIDEOS



Message from the School of Social Work | Sacred Heart University



Anti-Racism Virtual Summit October 26th and 27th



Donna Haynes Speaker



Daniella Carter



Kenny Walden Speaker



Reecie Colbert Speaker

ANTI-RACISM VIRTUAL SUMMIT

# SPEAKERS PROMO



## Anti-Racism Virtual Summit Fall 2021

# FALL SUMMIT AGENDA

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL PROGRAM AGENDA](#)

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS



## SAUNDRA STARKS, LCSW, PHD

*Chair Of The Council On Social Work  
Education Board Of Directors*

Dr. Saundra Starks, LCSW is a professor of Social Work and the MSW Program Director at Western Kentucky University. She has over 40 years of social work practice experience which includes teaching, research, consultation, training, supervision and clinical practice. She has numerous presentations and publications in the areas of diversity, women, spirituality, mental health, supervision, cultural competency and leadership training. Her bachelor's degree in Sociology/Social Welfare is from Western Kentucky University, and both her master's degree in Social Work and her doctorate in Counseling Psychology are from the University of Louisville.

Dr. Starks maintains a part time psychotherapy practice in Bowling Green, Kentucky (Bower, Starks, Reeves & Hayes). In addition, she serves on several national, international and local community service committees and boards. She is the most recent past Chair of the Bowling Green International Center board for refugee resettlement.



## KEYNOTE: DANIELLA CARTER

*Founder of Daniella's Guestbook*

Daniella is a lifelong advocate for LGBTQ+ youth. She has given speeches at local, national, and international events, including panel discussions with political leaders and dignitaries.

She spoke at TED Talks Live and also delivered talks during TEDxABQ and TEDxMidAtlantic. Carter appeared in a Puma campaign alongside Cara Delevingne and shared her experience with youth homelessness at the Human Rights Campaign's "Time to Thrive Conference." She was recognized on the 2015 Trans 100 list and attended the Obama White House's Annual Emerging Leaders Day, highlighting 100 Black leaders. She has appeared on BBC, Grammys, MSNBC, Good Morning America, ABC News, the New York Daily News, People Magazine, Forbes.com and in the New York Times.



## ELIZABETH JOHNSON- TYSON, MSW, LMSW

*Director of Student Support and Success at  
Sacred Heart University School of Social Work*

Daniella is a lifelong advocate for LGBTQ+ youth. She has given speeches at local, national, and international events, including panel discussions with political leaders and dignitaries.

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## DEONA HOOPER, MSW

*Founder and Editor-in-Chief of  
SWHELPER*

Deona Hooper, MSW is the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of SWHELPER, and she has experience in nonprofit communications, tech development, and social media consulting. Deona has a Masters in Social Work with a concentration in Management and Community Practice as well as a Certificate in Nonprofit Management both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Deona is the developer of the SWHELPER app, SWHELPER publishing platform, and the Global Social Welfare Summit.

SWHELPER is an award-winning, mission-driven, and progressive news website.

We are dedicated to providing news, information, resources, and entertainment related to social work, social justice, and social good. Our audience is comprised of academics, policymakers, social workers, students, mental health practitioners, helping professionals, caregivers, and people looking for information to help themselves or a loved one in crisis.



## KENNETH WALDEN

*Political Activist/Influencer*

Kenneth Walden is a political activist who uses his platform to empower people to vote. As a child, Kenneth grew up with three siblings and was raised by a single mother who worked three jobs.

During his early adult years, Kenneth worked a minimum waged job and was no stranger to poverty. After years of suffering from a lack of economic opportunities, Kenneth eventually relocated to North Carolina where his mother had been living since his stepfather's passing. While in North Carolina he got a job at a factory making \$10/hr. During his free time, he decided to jump back into his first love – politics. It wasn't until 2016 that Kenneth got his first real chance to experience campaigning.

During the democratic primary, Kenneth saw how Hillary Clinton had been hit with an onslaught of misogynistic attacks, along with misinformation against her from the left and the right. So, he decided to get involved by finding the nearest Clinton campaign headquarters and signed up for phone banking. One week after phone banking at the Clinton campaign headquarters, Hurricane Matthew hit his town and Kenneth's entire town was flooded.

Donna Haynes is the founder of DMV Mothers Like Me, a local support group that connects suburban mothers of DC, Maryland, and Virginia whose lives have been directly impacted by gun violence.

She is the typical mother of two; born and raised as a product of a middle-class urban community. She was educated through the Prince George's County Maryland public-school system and earned a Bachelor's degree at Bowie State University.

Donna groomed herself in the dual roles of a career-driven professional, and a dedicated homemaker. After becoming a divorcee following a 22-year marriage, she suddenly also found herself thrown into the unexpected role of a caregiver to one of her young adult sons when falling victim to gun violence.

Donna has since become a Certified Divorce Coach and the self-published author of CINCINNATI DOE: A Mother's 30-Day Journey in ICU, detailing her experience of tragedy turned to triumph.



## DONNA HAYNES

*Founder of DMV Mothers Like Me*



## CAMERON DASHER

*Student/Gun Violence Survivor*

Cameron Dasher became a victim of gun violence in August 2018 at age 19. Prior to his traumatic brain injury, he was an honor roll student-athlete who thrived on the baseball field during his high school career and had begun to pursue a college degree in Mass Communications.

After suffering a near-death incident and re-learning how to walk and talk again over a one-year span, Cameron has begun to navigate through his new norm. He now continues his college education, has re-entered the workforce and manages a small home-based business. He is not only a survivor but a walking miracle whose story of hope and resilience is shared to inspire communities everywhere.



## ELSPETH SLAYTER, MSW, PHD

*Professor at Salem State University*

Elsbeth Slayter, MSW, PhD is a professor of social work at Salem State University in Salem, MA, who identifies as a member of the disability community. She teaches child and family policy, forensic social work, disability practice and evidence-based research courses. Her equity-focused research and consulting centers around disability, race, ethnicity in the addiction and child welfare service sectors. She co-leads Salem State University's certificate program in equity-minded practice for child welfare supervisors and managers.

Her doctorate is in social welfare policy from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she was a pre-doctoral trainee funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the American Association on University Women. Prior to her doctoral work, Dr. Slayter practiced as a forensic social worker in child welfare, public criminal defense, juvenile justice, and education settings. Her master's degree in social work is from New York University.



## LAMONT SIMMONS, MSW, EDD

*Assistant Professor at Salem State University*

Dr. Lamont D. Simmons is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Salem State University. He has practiced social work in child welfare, mental health, and school-based settings. His scholarship primary frames the experiences of students in social work and higher education in relation to their persistence and academic success.

He has particular interest researching persistence among men of color, first-generation college students, and non-traditional age undergraduate students. Dr. Simmons has also worked collaboratively on projects related to microaggressions, anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion – to which these projects inform his work as a social work educator and scholar.



**CORAL BEALER, MSW  
CANDIDATE**

*Student at Case Western Reserve  
University*

My name is Coral Bealer and I'm a 24 year old graduate student at Case Western Reserve Advanced Standing MSW program. I recently graduated from Central State University 2021 with a Bachelors in Social work. I'm originally from Cleveland Ohio but was raised in Columbus for the majority of my life. When I have free time I enjoy dancing. I'm currently a part of a dance company called Thioassane West African Dance located in Columbus Ohio.

How did I come across Social Work? Honestly, social work found me. I grew up in an environment where advocacy is the norm. It's one of those things that came naturally to me and personally I've always wanted to be an activist. I grew up wanting to go against standards that weren't meant for me to follow. I strongly believe that we as humans should continue to question societal norms and change them for the betterment.



**CHRISTEL WEKON-  
KEMENI, MD**

*Pediatric Resident at UNC Children's  
Hospital*

Christel Wekon-Kemeni, MD, also known as Dr. Dub, is a third-year pediatric resident at the UNC Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC. He is from the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Miami and earned his medical degree from the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

He is the creator of the Black Man, M.D. Blog, a blog originally created to document his experiences throughout his medical training that has now evolved into an entity designed to inspire others by sharing helpful information about becoming a medical doctor, highlighting minority healthcare students and professionals, providing scholarships to minority high school students, and more. In addition, he held leadership positions on multiple levels in the Student National Medical Association as a medical student, and is involved in a wide variety of initiatives at his residency program.



**LESLEY JACKSON,  
MSW**

*Social Worker*

Lesley Jackson is a Social Worker who aligns her practice at the intersection of macro and micro Social Work, currently working in mental health with children and families. Before entering Social Work practice,

Lesley worked for several years in education, increasing equity and access to higher education for BIPOC students. In her spare time, Lesley loves to learn from others and travel the world!



**MILDRED JOYNER,  
MSW, LCSW**

*President of NASW and IFSW North  
American Region*

Mildred "Mit" C. Joyner, MSW, LCSW (Pennsylvania Chapter), is the incoming President of the National Association of Social Workers and the current IFSW North American Regional President. She is a professor emerita of social work at West Chester University (WCU) in Pennsylvania. Joyner received a BSW from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and her MSW from Howard University's School of Social Work in Washington, DC.

Her professional career began at Chester County Children and Youth services as a protective service worker; she was promoted to department head, then legal liaison of the child abuse unit. Joyner later joined the faculty at WCU as an associate professor, where she was elected by the faculty as department chair of the undergraduate social work department. She retired from the university as a full professor, and presently works as a consultant.



**IVANIA DELGADO,  
PSYD, MSW, MS**

*Assistant Professor at Florida International  
University*

Dr. Ivania Delgado is an Assistant Professor at Florida International University, and she has 15 years of mental health experience working with individuals, couples, families, and groups in both public and private sectors in Miami-Dade County.

Ivania has over 14 years of teaching experience in higher education. Ivania's practice is grounded in social justice, connection, and compassion. Ivania is a mother, partner, hija, and community member who stands shoulder to shoulder with the people that she serves in the name of liberation.



**REECIE COLBERT**

*Founder of BlackWomansViews  
Media*

Reecie Colbert is the founder of BlackWomenViews Media. Colbert is a political and cultural commentator appearing weekly on the Roland Martin Unfiltered Show and the Clay Cane Show. She is renowned for her unique mix of bold, intelligent, and unfiltered commentary. She is also on a mission to debunk disinformation.

Since December 2019, Reecie is a weekly contributor to the Roland Martin Unfiltered Show every Thursday. She delivers smart and when necessary, biting commentary on current events. She has interviewed elected officials, entertainers, and experts from a variety of fields. In Summer 2020, Reecie is a weekly contributor to the Clay Cane Show on Sirius XM UrbanView every Thursday. She has become a fan favorite of SiriusXM UrbanView subscribers for her unbossed and unfiltered commentary on the week's biggest stories. She is also known as the encyclopedia on VP Kamala Harris.



**SUK-HEE KIM, MSW,  
COI, PH.D.**

*Associate Professor at Northern  
Kentucky University*

Dr. Suk-hee Kim is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work (College of Health and Human Services) and, a Site Coordinator for the PCWCP, and an active faculty fellow of the Institute for Health Innovation at Northern Kentucky University. In 2021, Dr. Kim was appointed to the CSWE Commission on Research. The Boston University School of Social Work Alumni Association selected her to receive the Outstanding Career in the Field of Social Work Award 2021.

Dr. Kim also was notified by the Council on Social Work Education, that CSWE Board of Directors voted unanimously to select Dr. Kim the recipient of the prestigious CSWE Distinguished Recent Contributions to Social Work Education Award for 2021 at the national level.



**VIVIAN SHANNON-  
RAMSEY**

*Director of Field Education and Assistant  
Professor of Social Work at Bowie State  
University.*

Vivian Shannon-Ramsey is the Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Social Work at Bowie State University. She works with students to provide academic development opportunities, assist with basic college requirements, and motivate students toward completion of their postsecondary education.

Professor Shannon-Ramsey has over 15 years of higher education experience working with first-generation and low-income students and individuals with disabilities. Before joining Bowie State University, she worked as a Project Director of a TRiO program to implement a mentor program to provide first-year college students with additional academic and social support.

She is 2017, Fulbright Scholar to Chile and a former member of the Diversity Abroad Task Group that focused on the international needs of first-generation students seeking to study abroad.



**PHYLLIS E. GILLIANS,  
ED.D**

*Assistant Professor at Bowie State  
University*

Dr. Phyllis E. Gillians has been a professional social worker since 1990. Dr. Gillians is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Bowie State University. Her prior work experience includes supervision of social workers in Connecticut State Government-Foster Care and investigative casework in Florida State Government.

Her primary areas of focus are: Child Welfare, Cultural Competence, Bullying, and Racial Profiling. Prior to her relocation to Maryland, Dr. Gillians worked as an Assistant to the Dean/Student Programs at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service and Adjunct Professor teaching Introduction to the Profession of Social Work and Understanding Diversity in the Workplace at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York from 2005 through 2014. In 2007, she served as a field instructor for Fordham College of Liberal Studies, teaching Integrative Seminar for the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Program.



**MAKEBA GREEN,  
MSW, PHD.**

*Chair of the Department of Social  
Work at Bowie State University*

Makeba T. Green is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Work at, Bowie State University and a proud alumnus. A lover of HBCU education (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), Dr. Green received her PhD from the School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University, (Atlanta, GA), Master's of Social Work (MSW) from Howard University (Washington, DC) and a Bachelor's of Social Work (BSW) from Bowie State University (Bowie, MD).

A seasoned pedagogue, researcher, and clinician, Dr. Green has taught courses across the curriculum for 17 years, directed the undergraduate field placement program, and provided case management to families with children at risk of out-of-home placement. With a sincere dedication to Social Work and best practices in mental health; Dr. Green consistently provided direct service to the female addiction population. Notably, Dr. Green's research in study abroad opportunities for underserved populations continues to evolve, as her most recent work explores the impact of study abroad programs has on undergraduate students attending HBCU's and minority-serving institutions.



**ELIZABETH JOHNSON-  
TYSON, MSW, LMSW**

*Director of Field Education and Assistant  
Professor of Social Work at Bowie State  
University.*

Elizabeth Johnson-Tyson, MSW, LMSW, is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Student Support and Success at the Sacred Heart University, School of Social Work. In response to the unique needs of social work students in general, and BIPOC and first-generation students specifically, she developed the Student Support and Success Program. She teaches courses in the undergraduate (BSW) and MSW programs with great interest in the anti-racism course and the children and families' course.

She also serves as a member of the University President's Advisory Council and has contributed substantially to the University's efforts to address issues that impact its' students. Prior to working at Sacred Heart University, she taught in the BSW program at another university.



**JILL MANIT, MSW,  
PHD.**

*MSW Program Director at Sacred Heart  
University School of Social Work*

Jill Manit, Ph.D., MSW, Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work and MSW Program Director at Sacred Heart University (SHU), teaches courses in content areas related to anti-racist practice, policy practice, and community assessment. Prior to her work at SHU, she served as the field education program coordinator for 10 years at another University.

Within that role, she proudly co-developed and co-implemented the Nevada Policy Practice Academy, which coordinated specialized training and field supervision for BSW and MSW students in policy practice placements. Her practice experience spans working with individuals, groups, and communities. This includes direct substance abuse treatment services, family-based services, and non-profit management, training, and technical assistance to substance abuse prevention providers throughout the western region of the United States. Dr. Manit continues to provide technical assistance and other consulting services to key stakeholders implementing statewide system changes in children's mental health services.



## CASSANDRA WELCHLIN

*Executive Director of MS Black Women's Roundtable*

Cassandra Overton Welchlin is the Executive Director of the MS Black Women's Roundtable (MS-BWR), an inter-generational statewide network dedicated to increasing civic engagement and voter participation among black women while at the forefront of championing just and equitable public policy on behalf of Black women and girls. MS-BWR is an affiliate of the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation/Black Women's Roundtable.

It was the first women's agenda launched in the South with seeded support from the Ms. Foundation for Women out of New York. The women's agenda does the following: prioritizes women's rights, equity, economic security; advances an intentional and explicit racial and gender framework; and centers women, particularly black women. Cassandra continues to provide leadership and vision to the MS Women's Economic Security Initiative as a project of the Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable.



## KEYNOTE: FEMINISTA JONES

*Author and Community Activist*

Feminista Jones is a Philadelphia-based feminist writer, public speaker, community activist, and semi-retired social worker. She is an award-winning blogger and the author of the novel Push the Button, the poetry collection The Secret of Sugar Water, and the critically-acclaimed Reclaiming Our Space: How Black Feminists Are Changing the World From the Tweets to the Streets (Beacon, 2019).

Feminista's passion and talent for writing have led to her being featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Time, Essence, XOJane, Complex, Vox, Salon, and EBONY magazine to name a few publications. She is currently a weekly columnist at Zora Magazine, operates her own subscription-based platform, and contributes to various publications as a freelancer and commissioned writer.



## ARLENE GARCIA, MSW, PHD

*Director of the Social Work Program at the University of the Virgin Islands*

Dr. Arlene Garcia is the Director of the Social Work Program at the University of the Virgin Islands. She is a licensed clinical social worker and possesses a doctoral degree in educational leadership.

Dr. Garcia served in many social work capacities, including leadership, for the CT State Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services for over 15 years. In 2016, Dr. Garcia started a private counseling practice, the CT Center for Counseling and Education. Her practice offers counseling services that support peace and healing within a social and racial justice framework.

In 2015, Dr. Garcia and her colleagues started an education advocacy organization called RACCE (Radical Advocates for Cross Cultural Education). Their mission is to challenge systems of oppression and advocate for culturally competent educational practices.

# GOLD SPONSERS



## Organization Description:

The Master of Social Work program at CSUN provides you with the skills and knowledge to address society's most urgent social needs, utilizing a lens that espouses an intersectional, trauma-informed collaborative perspective in working with vulnerable and at-risk populations. The curriculum covers a range of professionally focused content, enabling you to learn how best to promote the wellbeing of individuals, families and their communities.

## Program Highlights:

Focused on urban community practice, this program offers a generalist approach designed to expand your career possibilities. Field work experiences are arranged for you in multiple settings, enabling you to apply concepts and practice skills from course work in a variety of real-world situations.

Convenient online format: Students can attend weekly online sessions live or watch the recording later at a more convenient time. Additionally, instructors meet with small groups of students for weekly field classes. Exceptional support services, such as a personal program management team, keep you on track with one-on-one assistance from the first day of the program to the last.

CSUN's cohort model allows you to progress to each new class with the same peer group. With this format, enrollment is guaranteed in all courses, leading to on-time graduation rates of 90 percent or higher.

CSUN's Master of Social Work features a carefully crafted curriculum, specifically designed to meet the career development needs of current or aspiring social work professionals. The curriculum also enables students to gain the requisite skills and perspective to work at any level: individual/family (micro); group/community (mezzo); and societal/policy (macro). Distinguished faculty and leading practitioners work together to deliver content with real-world relevancy.



# SILVER SPONSERS

# BRONZE SPONSERS



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SOCIAL WORK



**WESTERN**  
NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY  
School of Social Work



**GRAND VALLEY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF  
**CENTRAL**  
**MISSOURI**  
LEARNING TO A GREATER DEGREE



# SWHELPER MOBILE APP

“SWHELPER has finally announced the launch of its mobile app which is compatible with both **Android** and **iOS** devices. The SWHELPER mobile app was created to help people in crisis locate resources in their local area quicker.”

- Find Resources In Your Local Area Crisis Lines, Support Groups, Food Banks And More
- Register To Vote Using Rock The Vote
- Check Your Voting Status And Polling Location
- Get Free News, Podcasts, And Webinars In The Shelper App



DOWNLOAD APP

## ABOUT US

### WHO WE ARE?

SWHELPER is a woman owned, award-winning, mission-driven, and progressive news website dedicated to providing information, resources, and entertainment for the social good.

SILENCE IS **COMPLICITY**



### WHAT WE DO?

Our goal is to use an interdisciplinary approach to providing news, information, and resources for all helping professions using a system of care approach to sharing knowledge.

[contact@socialworkhelper.com](mailto:contact@socialworkhelper.com)

CONTACT  
US

