



The COMMUNITY COMPASS

OCTOBER 2025 - ISSUE 11

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



Dr. Tabitha Brookins

FACULTY SECURE GRANTS TO ADVANCE SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP AND HEALTH EQUITY

Last summer, social work faculty members were awarded two impactful grants that promise to enhance both social work education and community health outcomes.

The first grant supports the Phi Alpha Connected: A Virtual Community of Leadership, Learning, & Service initiative, co-led by Drs. Tabitha Brookins and Ashley Cochran. This innovative virtual platform aims to extend the mission of the Phi Alpha Honor Society beyond traditional induction ceremonies, offering social work students, especially those in online and distance programs, a year-round space for leadership development, academic growth, and community service. Aligned with ASU's Focus 2030 goals, Phi Alpha Connected fosters student success, civic engagement, and global connectivity, embodying the society's motto: "Through Knowledge—the Challenge to Serve."



Dr. Ashley Cochran

The second grant funds the ACCESS Project: Assessing Barriers to Cancer Screening Among Underserved Women in Alabama's Black Belt, a collaborative effort by Dr. Tabitha Brookins and Dr. Riane Hinton. This project seeks to reduce breast cancer disparities by improving screening access through policy education and community outreach. By increasing awareness of insurance coverage and providing culturally relevant health education, the ACCESS Project aims to boost breast cancer screening rates among African American women in underserved regions, ultimately contributing to better health outcomes and equity.



Dr. Riane Hinton

These grants reflect our faculty's commitment to advancing social work practice, education, and community well-being through innovative leadership and research.



COMPASS POINTS

What a powerful season it has been for our department! From the classroom to the community, our students, faculty, and partners have been moving with purpose.

This semester, our students have led with innovation and heart, creating spaces where culture and wellness meet,

from hip hop-themed movement sessions to R&B-fueled yoga circles that remind us healing can be both rhythmic and revolutionary. Our faculty have been equally inspiring by writing, researching, serving, and even digging in the dirt as we explore the deep connections between environment, food, culture, and emotional well-being.

We're also expanding our reach in exciting ways. Our new online MSW option is connecting learners near and far, and we're preparing to launch evening courses for the BSW program to make social work education more accessible to those balancing work, family, and service.

Across it all, we remain grounded in our mission: to build toward the beloved community envisioned by generations before us. Whether addressing economic inequities, advancing justice in local systems, or planting seeds of healing in our neighborhoods, our students and faculty are pushing the needle forward and we are just getting started.

Our community advisory boards have been helping us think of innovative ways connect with community and strategies to fund our students' service and professional development! Thank you for walking with us, believing in us, and building with us. Together, we are cultivating a social work legacy rooted in culture, compassion, and collective liberation.

With pride and purpose,

Denise Davis-Maye

Denise Davis-Maye, Ph.D., LICSW
Professor & Chairperson
Department of Social Work
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS)



Celebrating Academic Excellence: Hinton Earns Doctor of Social Work (DSW)



The Department of Social Work proudly congratulates Dr. Riane Hinton, Adjunct Instructor, on the recent conferral of her Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) from Tulane University in August.

Her advanced practice project, titled “Academic Motivation of African American Undergraduate Social Work Majors,” explores a timely and important area of student success and is currently under review for publication, a testament to the quality and relevance of her scholarship.

Dr. Hinton has long been a dedicated member of the ASU Social Work community, previously serving as a full-time instructor and Bachelor of Social Work Program Director. In the spring of this year, she retired from the State of Alabama as well as from her full-time faculty role within the department.

Even in retirement, she continues to make a lasting impact, generously sharing her knowledge and experience as an adjunct instructor. Her passion for teaching and student development remains evident in every course she teaches.

We celebrate Dr. Hinton’s achievements and thank her for her continued commitment to excellence in social work education. Congratulations!

Mumpfield Concludes Board Service, Leads Committee

Join us in celebrating Ms. Mumpfield, former Chair of the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners, as she concludes six years of dedicated service across two terms. While her appointment to the Alabama Board has ended, she continues her impactful work in regulation, policy, and leadership as Chair of the Association of Social Work Boards’ Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee for 2025-2026. Ms. Mumpfield and the REAL Committee are actively planning the board’s annual education meeting, scheduled for April 16-18, 2026, in Rhode Island.



Supporting Student Success: Resource Room Celebrates Continued Community Giving

In just two months, the Resource Room team has supported 100 students through a series of food giveaway events. Thanks to the generosity of donors, students were able to take home a wide variety of essential items including pastries, frozen meats, pre-packaged meals, bread, cereal, and soft drinks. Each event ran efficiently and smoothly, reflecting both the strong demand for assistance and the dedication of the Resource Room team.

These giveaways play an important role in supporting students' health, well-being, and academic success. The Resource Room extends heartfelt thanks to all who make this work possible especially Chester and Elaine Mumpfield for their continuous support and hands-on help with shopping and transporting goods.

Additional gratitude goes to R.H. Rice Lodge #345, Shaaban Temple #103, and the NPHC-Central Alabama Chapter for their consistent support, generosity, and willingness to show up whenever needed to help unload and stock supplies.

Together, these efforts ensure that students have access to the resources they need to thrive.



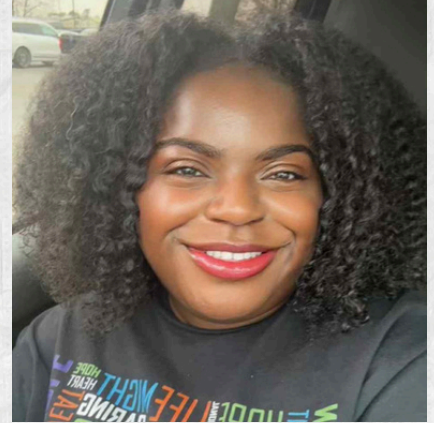
MSW GRADUATES EARN LICENSURE CREDENTIALS



Katherine Eileen Knott, LMSW



Waii Williams, LMSW



Destiny Gray, LMSW

We are excited to announce that Katherine Eileen Knott, Waii Williams, Spring 2025, and Destiny Gray, Spring 2023 MSW graduates, successfully passed the Social Work Licensure Exam, earning their Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) credentials!

The license certifies fulfillment of the rigorous professional standards required to practice social work at an advanced level. This significant milestone opens doors to greater career opportunities, including clinical practice, leadership roles, and specialized fields within social work. Congratulations to Ms. Knott, Ms. Williams and Ms. Gray on these achievements, with anticipation for the continued positive impact in their careers and communities.



Additionally, Ms. Knott served as a 2024–2025 Albert Schweitzer Fellow. Her fellowship project, “Strengthening Collaboration and Communication About Homelessness with People Who Have Lived Experience of Homelessness,” made a meaningful impact and reflects her deep commitment to community engagement and social justice. Scan the QR codes for details.

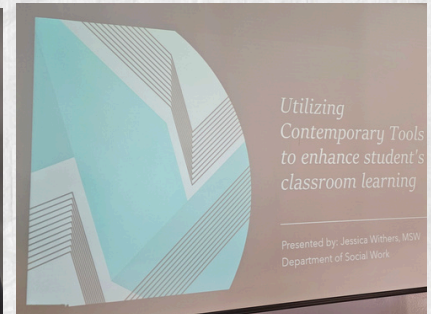


Student Joins CASA as Intern

We’re proud to share that Alaiyah Brown has been selected as an intern with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the River Region! CASA volunteers advocate for children in the foster care system, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met. Their work helps children find safety, stability, and hope.

Withers Presents at 2025 ALSSO Conference

Ms. Jessica Withers, Instructor and BSW Practicum Coordinator, presented last week at the 2025 Alabama Student Success Organization (ALSSO) Conference held on campus in Auburn, October 16-17.



Her session, "Utilizing Contemporary Tools to Enhance Students' Classroom Learning in Social Work," focused on innovative ways for faculty and staff to create a unique learning environment. This aligns with the conference theme, "Build Bridges and Break Barriers," encouraging new perspectives to support student success.

We commend Ms. Withers for representing the department with such forward-thinking ideas and dedication to enhancing social work education.

Speaker Shares Insights on Emotional Intelligence

Ms. Jessica Withers Bachelor of Social Work seminar class welcomed Dr. Cynthia Steele as guest speaker. She delivered an insightful presentation on Emotional Intelligence in the work place, outlining critical areas in which students can effectively demonstrate it in professional settings. We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Steele for sharing her expertise and contributing to the enrichment of our student's learning experience.



Department Hosts BSW and MSW Fall Orientation

The Department of Social Work hosted a warm and engaging orientation to welcome both Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) students back to campus. The event marked a vibrant and enthusiastic start to the academic year, as faculty and staff gathered to connect with new and returning students.

The orientation sessions provided an overview of key departmental policies and procedures, emphasizing the importance of the Student Handbook as a critical resource for academic success. Students also received guidance on academic advisement and practicum requirements, along with words of encouragement and support from the college's assistant dean and the University Counseling Center.

The evening was filled with meaningful conversations, and a shared sense of purpose as the Social Work community came together to begin a new chapter.

Watch highlights from the orientation on our YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/Da6KTSwi7Gc>) or scan the QR code.



Big things are growing at Alabama State University

We're thrilled to announce an interdisciplinary journey where students dive deep into Environmental Justice, Food Security, Cultural Foodways, and Environmental Planning, all through the collaborative power of the Departments of Social Work, Biology, and Geography!

This unique initiative will create hands-on, real-world learning experiences where students tackle critical issues facing our communities and planet, from access to healthy food and cultural sustainability to equitable environmental solutions.

Biology meets, Geography meets, Social Work and the result is a powerhouse of knowledge, advocacy, and action. Whether it's mapping food deserts, analyzing ecosystems, or supporting community-based solutions, ASU students will, as always, lead the charge toward a better, more just future.

Standing on the shoulders of Dr. Derryn Moten and his historic efforts to commemorate the legacy of a WW I community garden, Drs. Ashley Cochran, Denise Davis-Maye, Elisha Dung and Olufemi Ajayi are leading this charge!



Dr. Abdirahman M. Dahie Visits to Boost Partnership with Somali National University

We were honored to welcome Dr. Abdirahman M. Dahie, Assistant Professor/Lecturer and Head of Department of Sociology & Social Work at Somali National University, the country's only publicly funded higher education institution. His visit is part of our growing partnership through an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between our institutions.

During his visit, Dr. Dahie met with the Department Chair, faculty and staff from the Department of Social Work, as well as the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Associate Dean, to explore opportunities for collaboration and exchange.

He also attended the 2025 Fall Faculty/Staff Institute, where he connected with President Quinton Ross, Provost Carl Pettis, and other university leaders.



FACULTY ADVANCE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN KENYA

Dr. Denise Davis-Maye, Chair of the Department of Social Work, and Dr. Kenley Obas, Associate Professor, had a successful visit to Nairobi, Kenya in July where they completed a collaborative engagement involving Alabama State University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), and the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

They met with leaders from several Kenyan universities, including United States International University-Africa and Masai Mara University to discuss potential partnerships in social work, educational leadership, and Open and Distance e-Learning (ODEL).

We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Davis-Maye and Dr. Obas for serving as outstanding ambassadors for Alabama State University, advancing its mission on the global stage as ASU continues to cultivate academic alliances that prepare students for success in an increasingly interconnected world.



Future Social Work Leaders Gain Insight at 24th Annual Fall Social Work Conference

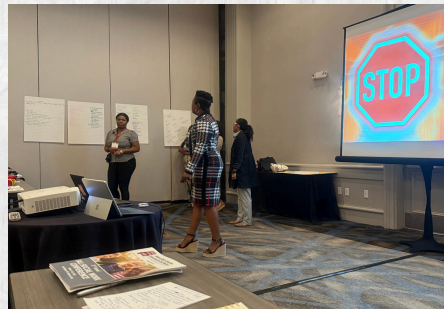
BSW students Tyriah Davis (Senior), Lauryn Burrell (Senior), and Anthony Richardson (Junior) attended the 24th Annual Fall Social Work Conference held in Birmingham, AL on October 9-10, 2025.

The conference, hosted by The University of Alabama School of Social Work through the Title IV-E partnership between the Alabama Department of Human Resources and the Alabama Higher Education Consortium on Child Welfare, brings the latest research to Alabama's child welfare practitioners. It focuses on various aspects of public child welfare and workforce well-being.

This year's keynote speaker was Mr. Mark Anthony Garrett, a leading expert in child welfare and K-12 education. Our students gained valuable insights to support their interests. They left inspired and ready to make a difference!



**AHE
CCW**
Alabama Higher Education
Consortium On Child Welfare
In cooperation with the Alabama Department of Human Resources



ABSW PROMOTES AWARENESS, WELLNESS, AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

The Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) has had a busy month promoting awareness, wellness, and community service. They hosted Stamp Out Domestic Violence and Paint It Purple, where participants painted their hands and nails purple in support of survivors and the #PutTheNailInIt campaign.

In partnership with SheCarePods, they also led a Journal Therapy Workshop that encouraged reflection, stress relief, and self-care. Over the weekend, members volunteered at the Heart of Alabama Food Bank, showing compassion and teamwork while serving families in need.

Support these dedicated students by joining ABSW for their Chipotle Fundraiser on October 30th! Proceeds will fund future events and initiatives.



WE CAN DO THIS!!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE
FOIL-WRAP
GOODNE
GENEROU
HELPING
TASTE: MADE
FRESH
EVERY
DAY
THING
FOOD
BETTER
WORLD
ULTIMATE
GROWING
THE
BETTER
WORLD

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
**ASSOCIATION OF BLACK
SOCIAL WORKERS**

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH | 5-9PM
2560 BERRYHILL RD STE C, MONTGOMERY, AL, 36117

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **7YQE78L**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

 **CHIPOTLE**

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



SOCIAL WORK OUT OF THE BOX FALL FIELD DAY

Future social work professionals
explore various pathways in the
field and develop essential skills to
equip them for a range of roles
as practitioners.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Career Resources
- Networking Opportunities
- Skills-Building Activities

DATE:
Friday, November 14, 2025

TIME:
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

LOCATION:
Abernathy Hall
Great Hall of Teachers

ASU
ALABAMA STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
For information call 334.229.6957


**PHI ALPHA
HONOR SOCIETY**



INTERPROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK PANEL

Diverse Pathways in Practice
w/ Phi Alpha Alumni

 **Tuesday October 28, 2025**

 **6:30p - 7:30p PST**

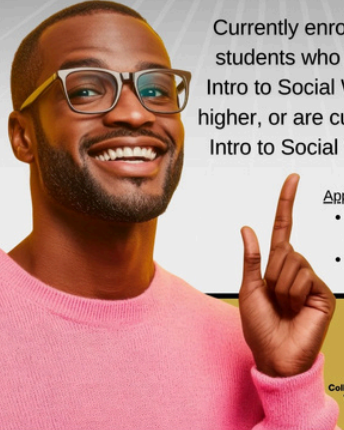
 **<https://tinyurl.com/PhiAlphaUSC10-28>**

 **phiaalpha@usc.edu**  **[@phiaalphaatusc](https://www.instagram.com/phiaalphaatusc)**  **[uscphiaalpha.org](https://www.uscphiaalpha.org)**

This is open to all eligible individuals. Phi Alpha Honor Society operates all of its programs and activities consistent with the University's Notice of Non-Discrimination. Eligibility is not determined based on race, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or any other prohibited factor. We request individuals with disabilities who need accommodations to email us.

REMINDER

BSW PROGRAM Applications due Friday, October 31st



Currently enrolled Social Work students who have completed Intro to Social Work with a 'C' or higher, or are currently enrolled in Intro to Social Work may apply.

Applications available:

- On Social Work Hornet Connect page
- Abernathy Hall, Rm 319

ASU
ALABAMA STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

THROUGH THE LENS: DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



MEET HORNETS MAKING AN IMPACT

Dr. Ashley Cochran was featured in the university's Full Circle Journey series that highlights ASU alumni in their accomplishments on and off campus.



Ms. Sharonda Pettaway, Dr. Ashley Cochran and Ms. Jessica Withers, BSW Faculty members, pictured with seniors in Ms. Withers field seminar class after shooting a promotional video encouraging BSW students to apply to the program.



Whitney Young SWK Club joined a Girls' Chat on Healthy Relationships at The Grove, a housing program for young women aging out of foster care.



Students, faculty, and staff gathered for an afternoon of connection, good food, and conversation about what unites and shapes our social work journey.



Tasty Tuesday guest speaker, Dr. Bridgette Stasher-Booker, (center) with Social Work students.



Dr. Bridgette Stasher-Booker delivered an empowering message entitled, Professional and Polished: Dressing with Confidence and Communicating with Impact, at Tasty Tuesday, the networking event for Social Work students.



Ms. Sharonda Pettaway and Dr. Tabitha Brookins along with BSW students managed the department's display table at the Fall 2025 Career Fair



Preparing to Empower
Alange T. Matthews - Sophomore



Future Changemakers!
William Peoples and Tanyah Moore



Spring 2025 Phi Alpha Honor Society Inductees



Picture Left to Right Below:
RCAS Chair Dr. Tabitha Brookins, Keynote Speaker Richard Williams, who is a Pastor and Community Leader in Montgomery, with Co-Chair: Dr. Ashley Cochran. Spring '25.



Pictured Left: RCAS Moderator: MSW student Delverna Broomfield. Mr. Allen Smith, MSW student and moderator, presenting award to Dr. Katrice Crawford, Spring '25.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK FACULTY AND STAFF



**Denise Davis-Maye, Ph.D, LICSW,
Department Chair, Professor
ABSW Advisor**



**Tabitha Brookins, Ph.D,
LICSW, Associate Professor**



**Ashley Cochran, Ph.D, LICSW,
Assistant Professor,
Whitney Young Advisor**



**Lloyd Davenport, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor
BSW Practicum Placement Liaison**



**Penny Genous, LICSW
Adjunct Instructor**



**Debra Hickey,
Administrative Assistant**



**Riane Hinton-Smith, DSW, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor**



**Ryan Jones,
Adjunct Instructor,
MSW Practicum Placement Liaison**



**Kai Mumpfield, LICSW
Instructor,
Director of Field Education**



**Dawna Nelson, Ph.D, LMSW
Associate Professor**



**Sharonda Pettaway,
Assistant Professor,
BSW Program Coordinator**



**Tonya Scott-Williams,
Administrative Assistant**



**Shanae Shaw, Ph.D,
Assistant Professor,
MSW Virtual Option Coordinator**



**Jessica Withers,
Instructor,
BSW Field Coordinator**