School of Social Work Awarded $750,000 NCWWI grant

The UMKC School of Social Work recently was awarded a $750,000 National Child Welfare Workforce Initiative (NCWWI) University Partnership grant. UMKC and its MSW program are among only 11 universities to receive this funding focused on transforming child welfare workforce development and practices. Other recipients include University of California Berkeley, University of Connecticut, and 8 more programs.

Among these sites, Missouri is unique. Both UMKC’s MSW program and the BSW program at Missouri State University were awarded these grants. Further, Missouri was one of only three sites to also be selected for NCWWI’s Workforce Excellence initiative that provides three years of additional training, technical assistance, and evaluation on specific child welfare improvements.

UMKC’s Associate Professor Rosalyn Bertram PhD, principal investigator for the NCWWI University Partnership grant, serves on these statewide change initiatives that target improved family engagement and transformation of family-centered services, as well as improved staff development in Missouri’s Children’s Division.

The NCWWI grant provides full tuition and most fees for as many as 24 students between 2014-2019. Seven MSW students pictured above began studies this week. Courses for the trainees focus on implementation of evidence-based practices, collaborative family-centered practices and trauma and trauma informed care. As in medical, nursing or dental school programs, trainees rotate through eight-week field placement experiences in a purposeful selection of public and private child welfare responsibilities. Upon graduation, the trainees are supported in securing positions in Kansas City child welfare programs and continue to work with the grant and its community partners to inform transformation of curriculum and child welfare services.