

AWARDS CEREMONY

HONORING LEADERS IN THE PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY
WHO FULLY EMBODY SOCIAL WORK VALUES

2020-2021 HONOREES

HALL HIGH SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

2020 – 2021 AGENCY OF THE YEAR

REV. DR. ANIKA WHITFIELD

2020 – 2021 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

REPRESENTATIVE MEGAN GODFREY

2020 – 2021 ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

EMMA WIEDERHOEFT

2020 BSW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

MORGAN BROWNING

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KATELYN RATLEY

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2020 – 2021 SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR

DR. DEBRA HURD

2020 – 2021 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

HAPPY SOCIAL WORK MONTH!

2020 – 2021 AGENCY OF THE YEAR HALL HIGH SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Hall High Social Work Program is a department within an agency of Hall High School, LRSD. The department sees approximately 200 students or 20% of the population. They have one Licensed Clinical Social Worker, six Bachelor level interns from UA Little Rock School of Social Work, and six Master level interns from UA Little Rock School of Social Work that provide services and case management to their population. The average caseload per intern is 12 – 18 students that are seen biweekly or weekly if needed.

Hall High has developed new and innovative programs to serve the clients. School social workers are on the ground daily, working with teachers, guardians, and community stakeholders. Hall Social Work Department provides psycho-educational training including social skills, life skills, and conflict resolution, among others. The department is also able to hold outside agencies accountable in service provision by tracking referrals and collaborating to ensure all students who need mental health services receive services. The department works closely with probation officers when necessary to assist students. The department works closely with onsite resource/police officers to assist in de-escalating situations or providing emotional support. They collaborate with teachers to provide support to improve attendance and academic growth.

Hall Social Work Department supports an advocacy focus for its client population. They work with teen mothers; they collaborate with Young Lives in providing support for teen mothers; this includes educational groups as well as taking on teen mothers as individual clients. They advocate in the community and coordinate items to be donated for future moms. They work with students who have lost a parent and are beginning a Grief Group this Spring. They collaborated with Alateen to form a support group for the students and collaborated with Job Corp to provide an orientation to students that are at risk of dropping out due to “overage and under credits.” Lastly, they provide an After School program that offers Anxiety and Anger Management Groups.

Hall Social Work Department encourages staff to be involved in professionally affiliated groups and to serve on boards, task forces, or committees to work to enhance the agency and the social work profession. The department works for Restorative Justice. The social worker and interns work with administrators and teachers to develop behavioral interventions and plans for those who are experiencing behavioral challenges/suspensions within the school. They have developed a system in which they attend every Student Behavioral Intervention Team meeting and discuss interventions for existing students as well as develop behavioral interventions for new students. The Hall Social worker and interns also identify students in need during the holidays and collaborate with outside community resources to receive donations for food, gift cards, or funds for family needs.

The department provides therapeutic and case management services such as psycho-social assessments and treatment planning, which include goals and objectives derived from evidence-based models. They provide Individual evidence-based therapy, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Trauma-Focused CBT, Solution Focused Therapy, and family and group therapy for the students. Some therapy groups are Grief and Loss, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Teenage Moms and Dads, Peer Support, Anxiety, and Depression. They provide suicide assessments to students and are able to immediately assess an individual for suicidal ideation. They take steps to immediately address the situation with family and assist in navigating next steps to outside agencies when necessary. The social worker and interns provide crisis intervention.

Other resources they provide include Peer Mediation and Psycho-Educational Groups such as Social Skills and Anger Management/Conflict Resolution. Hall Social Work Department also helps to connect families to resources in the community, refer students to outside mental health agencies and collaborate with faculty, community.



2020 – 2021 AGENCY OF THE YEAR
REV. DR. ANIKA WHITFIELD



Rev. Dr. Anika Whitfield is an ordained minister, podiatrist, and co-chairs two major coalitions in Little Rock (Grassroots, AR and The Poor People's Campaign, originally founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.). Much like Dr. King, Dr. Whitfield consistently calls for a "revolution of values," both locally and across the United States, continuously standing by the message "Fight Poverty, NOT the poor." She has advocated that Arkansans receive access to healthcare and mental health services, a living wage, police reform, education equity, and a say in decisions made about us.

Dr. Whitfield is a proud Hall High Graduate and advocate for public schools, democracy, peace, equity, and justice. She has committed to serving students and parents, and has volunteered in LRSD schools for over 20 years. Most recently, she has been a leader in the fight to highlight inequity and resume local control via a democratically elected school board and equal representation within the LRSD. She has served as a contributing writer for the Huffington Post and has been featured as a public-school advocacy hero in Diane Ravitch's new book regarding the attempted demise of public education, "Slaying Goliath."

She has previously been honored by the state coalition for Peace and Justice (among others), and absolutely exemplifies social work values and ethics. She is a tireless voice for equity, specifically for those that have been adversely affected by systemic and institutionalized racism. She is a beacon for many of us in Central Arkansas and beyond.

2020 – 2021 ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR REPRESENTATIVE MEGAN GODFREY

State Representative Megan Godfrey of District 89 (Springdale) exudes the core values of Social Work. Megan believes in a better Arkansas for ALL Arkansans. She is driven by compassion and equality and tirelessly advocates for families, for fairness, and for the future of our state.

Representative Godfrey sees diversity as an asset and feels that the cultures and experiences of differing individuals enrich our communities. After learning Spanish at Springdale High School and the University of Arkansas, Megan went on to work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities as a public-school teacher, spending the majority of her career as an ESL teacher and specialist in Springdale and now serving as the Co-Director of ESL for Fayetteville Schools. She brings her leadership and advocacy to her role as a state representative.



During her freshman term, Rep. Godfrey fought for families by investing in maternal and infant health, worked to defend the minimum wage increases in Arkansas that voters overwhelmingly passed, and championed bills that make life easier for working families. She advocated for fairness by standing up to bad gun bills that would have harmed communities, spoke up for inclusion and equality and worked tirelessly to pass her landmark bill which allows those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status to be licensed as Arkansas nurses. She made this her mission because individuals in the DACA program were not eligible to sit for the licensing exam in Arkansas, even after paying for and completing the coursework required to receive a nursing degree. Megan’s collaborative efforts did not go unnoticed. She had overwhelming bi-partisan support for this bill as well as the support of the nursing industry and higher education.

Megan states “This bill is a win-win: We are in desperate need for nurses, and these Dreamers — dedicated, resilient, often bilingual — are ideal candidates to serve their communities here in Arkansas. We are doing our state a huge disservice to allow them to leave Arkansas for Oklahoma or move across the country to other states who allow nursing licensure for DACA recipients.”

Her work in her first term doesn’t end there. Representative Godfrey worked with the governor to pass the highway plan, increase teacher pay and expand in-state tuition to more Arkansas Students. She co-sponsored a bill with Rep. Dan Douglas that allows an institution of higher education to charge in-state tuition and fees to three groups of immigrants: the children of people with federally issued I-766 work permits, immigrants from the Marshall Islands and recipients of DACA.

In her first term, Representative Godfrey earned several awards and recognitions, including the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Legislative Champion Award, the Arkansas Municipal League Distinguished Legislator Award, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Business Matters Leadership Award, 2019 Northwest Arkansas 40 Under 40, and served as the House of Representatives Minority Leader Designee to the Arkansas Legislative Council.

2020 BSW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

EMMA WIEDERHOEFT



I am honored to write a letter of nomination for our BSW student Emma Wiederhoeft. Emma has been part of our undergraduate program since Fall 2019 when she was admitted to the BSW Professional Core. After reviewing Emma's biographical information, faculty comments, and her academic and civic accomplishments, it will be evident that she would make a wonderful recipient of the Social Work Student of the Year.

Emma is a social work major with a minor in history. Emma first learned about the profession of social work as a freshman in high school and felt that the 20-minute presentation on social work during career day "change[d] the course of [her] life." She has been engaging in service to her community since middle school. Her life experiences and relationships with others have fueled her passion for creating change and she believes that "a career in social work would allow me to impact the lives of those who need help in the greatest way possible." Her volunteer experiences have caused her to recognize her own privilege and motivated her to pursue trainings that have allowed her to be more client-centered and strength-based in her approaches. She is aware of the importance of listening to the stories of others and getting outside her own "comfort zone" in order to provide compassionate services to her community. She is not afraid of the discomfort that personal and professional growth can bring.

After graduating, Emma plans to attend graduate school and obtain her MSW. She hopes to work with older adults and plans to contribute to "a society which does not view aging as a weakness but emphasizes the power of intergenerational relationships." Emma maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.852 and maintains a 4.00 in her social work courses.

During her time as a student, Emma has remained committed to going above and beyond in her efforts to serve the community. Beginning in 2018, she served as a tutor and mentor on a weekly basis for children ranging from preschool to eighth grade. She had to put that role on hold a year later so that she could focus on her studies but plans to return to the same non-profit soon to continue volunteering. In 2019, Emma volunteered around 20 hours weekly for the Full Circle Food Pantry and serves in capacities beyond the volunteer role by fulfilling duties as the communications coordinator. One of her priorities as the communications director involves highlighting the new "express delivery" option for the food pantry. This option connects service users to food if they are unable to leave work during the day to come to the pantry. Emma is highly valued by the Full Circle Food Pantry and this has resulted in her being selected for a paid internship position with the Cooking Matters program. Emma was chosen for this position after a competitive application and interview process.

Emma's commitment to community goes beyond her work with the food pantry as she had provided almost 500 hours of volunteer work with a wide variety of agencies.

Leadership Experiences

- (upcoming) Intern, Cooking Matters, Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Food Pantry (May 2020)
- Intern, Seeds that Feed (January 2020-present)
- Intern, American Diabetes Association (June-August 2019)
- Mentor, R.O.C.K. Camp (March-October 2018)

- Mentor, University Perspectives 360 (Fall 2018)
- Communications Coordinator, Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Food Pantry (April 2019-present)
- Board Member, Volunteer Action Center (April 2019-present)
- Mentor, Emerging Leaders (Spring 2018)
- Participant, Emerging Leaders (Fall 2017)
- Participant, Lead Hogs (August 2017-May 2018)

Volunteer Experiences (Total=497 hours)

- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (Fall 2019)
- Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Food Pantry (Fall 2017-present)
- Potter's House Academy (Spring 2018-Spring 2019)
- Razorback Food Recovery (Spring 2018)
- Young Democrats (Fall 2017-present)
- Social Work Action Group (Spring 2019-present)
- Catalyst Leadership (event)
- Diversity Leadership Institute (conference)

Emma has been recognized and nominated by her faculty in the School of Social Work for her strengths in and out of the classroom.

Emma's faculty have many positive remarks to offer:

- "Emma is hardworking and determined."
- "She is a natural advocate."
- "She has spirit and tenacity."
- "She is always insightful and displays an ability to think critically."
- "She has a great sense of humor and a wonderful relationship with her other cohort members."

When gathering feedback from colleagues about Emma, the responses were unwavering and positive. Emma has demonstrated a passion for serving others that has manifested in concrete efforts to support individuals and non-profits. Emma pursues growth and learning. She shows up and does the work needed. She cultivates and maintains professional and positive relationships with faculty and her colleagues. The School of Social Work is very proud of all that Emma has accomplished and all that we know she will achieve in the future. Emma has already made a lasting impact on so many and would be very deserving on this award.

2021 BSW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

MORGAN BROWNING

I am honored to write a letter of nomination for our BSW student Morgan Browning. Morgan is pursuing a major in social work with departmental honors, as well as a minor in Spanish. She maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.906 and a 4.00 in her social work courses. Her strong commitment to the NASW Code of Ethics is illustrated by the accomplishments and service outlined below.

Morgan applied to the BSW program in Spring 2019 and began her coursework in the BSW Professional Core in Fall 2019. Morgan spent the summer before her BSW program began studying abroad in Alicante, Spain to strengthen her Spanish language skills. In January 2020, Morgan began work on her honors thesis which required her to create a program to “improve awareness and understanding of white privilege and encourage anti-racist action within campus community.”

Per Morgan’s honors thesis advisor, Morgan has demonstrated “passion and energy for social justice issues” as well as a “strong work ethic.” Morgan’s project allowed her to work with members of UA fraternities and sororities on issues related to white privilege and white supremacy. See attached letter for additional details.

Morgan has maintained a high level of performance in her academic endeavors, as well as significant involvement in community service. She has served local women, children, and families in her volunteer work. She has also volunteered on campus to support peers and contribute to campus community. Morgan has continued to complete her projects even in the



Accomplishments & Contributions:

- Intern, Children’s Safety Center of Washington County (August-December 2020)
- Intern, NWA Center for Sexual Assault (January-July 2020)
- President, Social Work Action Group (January 2021-Present)
- Events and Social Media Coordinator, Social Work Action Group (August 2019-December 2020)
- Peer Mentor, Fulbright College Honors Program (September 2018-Present)
- Volunteer, Thurman G. Smith Elementary School (September 2019-March 2020)
- Volunteer, Magdalene Serenity House Women’s Shelter (January-June 2019)
- Volunteer, EOA Children’s House (January 2018-February 2019)
- Member, Phi Alpha Honors Society (September 2019-Present)
- Chancellor’s List (Spring 2018, 2019, 2020)
- Dean’s List (Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
- Recipient, Sturgis Study Abroad Grant (Summer 2019)
- Recipient, Honors College Study Abroad Grant (Summer 2019)
- Recipient, Honors College Research Grant (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

Morgan’s faculty have many positive remarks to offer:

- Morgan is “consistently conscientious, thoughtful, organized, and excelled in her academic endeavors and project tasks.”

- Morgan is “responsible, professional, approachable, and intelligent. She is incredibly dependable, works well with others, and is absurdly mature.”
- Morgan is “articulate and always submits work that is timely and of good quality. She is a critical thinker.”
- While Morgan may sometimes be more reserved in a large classroom setting, she “expresses a genuine passion for social work in her written and small group work.”
- Morgan’s “efforts, passion, and never-ending energy [makes her] the epitome of what a Bachelor of Social Work student should be.”

Morgan has demonstrated clear leadership through numerous actions that align with the social work profession’s ethics and principles. Morgan’s commitment to the social work profession and our community is steadfast. Her willingness to examine her own privilege and use that privilege to confront injustice and ignorance further demonstrates this commitment.

The School of Social Work at the University of Arkansas is proud of Morgan’s commitment to her social work education, her consistent support of her peers, and her community service efforts directed towards a more equitable and compassionate community. We have no doubt that this is only the beginning of Morgan’s journey in social work and know that she will continue to make meaningful contributions to the profession and those our profession serves.

2020 MSW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

KELLY DUNDON



This letter is written in enthusiastic support of Kelly Dundon, MSW student, at the University of Arkansas School of Social Work. Kelly is an outstanding student who came into the MSW program, already having worked and studied abroad and in other areas of the country, and bringing with her, varied work and educational experience. Rather than appearing to have “done it all”, Kelly jumped in full force as she started the MSW program. She participated in the Title IX Student Advisory Committee and was instrumental in creating an MSW internship placement in that office. She joined the Faculty with Physical Disabilities Research Team almost immediately after beginning graduate school and continues to work with this team for her thesis and, as part of the Disability Resource Group, works to help effect positive change across the campus of the University. During this time, Kelly has also worked as part of the Intimate Partner Violence Research Team, with whom she delivered a presentation in Oslo, Norway.

In addition to the already impressive events listed above, Kelly served on the Anticipatory Grief Support Group Curriculum Committee for the Schmieding Center & UAMS Hospice House, and traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam as a recipient of the International Social Work Stipend Award. She is a certified SafeZone Trainer through Out Alliance and speaks fluent German and conversational Spanish. And she has done all of this while working as a Graduate Assistant and participating in a 24 hour per week internship.

Through all of her accomplishments, Kelly demonstrates a fierce commitment to social justice and to, not only fully embracing diversity herself, but taking action to combat oppression on as many levels as she can squeeze into her short time at the University. In a few months when Kelly graduates, she will leave a positive and lasting impression regarding what it means to be a social worker and to fully embrace Social Work Ethics and Values. For these reasons, I would like to nominate Kelly for the NASW MSW Student of the Year. The field of Social Work has already been impacted by such a bright, positive force and she is most deserving of this award.

2021 MSW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

KATELYN RATLEY

The NE Branch of NASW –AR is proud to nominate Katelyn Ratley for the MSW Student of the year 2021. Katelyn is in the MSW Advanced Standing Program at Arkansas State University where she is slated to graduate in May of 2021. She graduated Cum Laude from Arkansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work, and a minor in Sociology in May of 2020.

Katelyn has received recognition on the chancellor’s list twice, and the Dean’s list four times while working on her undergraduate degree. She also received 2nd place award for her research on HIV and AIDS in the rural African American population of the Arkansas Delta at the Arkansas Health Disparities conference in spring of 2020.

Katelyn is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, National Society of Leadership and Success, National Honors Society, the Arkansas State University Bachelor’s and master’s Social Work Organizations, as well as Arkansas State’s chapter of Phi Alpha honors society. She has also held multiple leadership positions at the Arkansas State Baptist Collegiate Ministry, including event coordinator, missions’ coordinator, worship leader, and small group leader.

Throughout her collegiate career, Katelyn has gained service experience with multiple populations. She had the opportunity to be a volunteer case manager at the homeless resource center in Jonesboro (HUB) as well as working with adolescents in a tutoring program, creating events with the geriatric population, and creating community events in neighborhoods of lower socioeconomic status through A-State C.A.R.E., a nonprofit organization housed in the Social Work Department at A-State.

In addition, Katelyn works with students’ grades 7-12 through her local church, where she facilitates groups, coordinates trips and events, and gives one-on-one support to students. She has also done volunteer work in various areas, including Peru, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Dallas, Texas, Louisiana and Washington D.C.

Katelyn is highly motivated, and passionate for the wellbeing of people, mental health issues, and fighting for social injustice. She lives under the belief that “people are not projects,” and strives to live out the Social Work core values in all parts of her life-educational, professional, and personal settings. With a love for the Social Work profession and for people, Katelyn seeks to fight for those who do not have a voice, embrace and empower diversity, and to work intentionally for the betterment of society.



2020 – 2021 SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR

LAURA DANFORTH, PHD, LCSW



Dr. Laura Danforth - Educator. Encourager. Advocate. Dr. Laura Danforth brilliantly exemplifies the best of what we are capable of as social workers and community members, which is why I'm proud to nominate her as Social Worker of the Year.

Dr. Danforth is a community-minded social worker. Not only does she lead by example, as she is consistently involved in efforts to elevate and improve her community in Central Arkansas, she ensures that this invaluable work will continue by engaging her Management and Community Practice Master of Social Work Students at the University of AR Little Rock. Since joining the faculty there, Dr. Danforth has had a major role in growing the Management and Community Practice concentration exponentially in terms of enrollment. Her dynamic teaching style, coupled with her passion for community work and engagement, has led to more flourishing social workers recognizing their own passions- thus increasing the positive impact of social work values and ethics in our communities. Dr. Danforth routinely orchestrates opportunities for her students that revolve around service learning, integrating her expertise and experience to assist others.

Dr. Danforth's passion for her community and its members has been operationalized most recently through her tireless advocacy on behalf of the students and families of the Little Rock School District, during a particularly tumultuous time. Dr. Danforth has not only been consistently involved as a concerned citizen, actively participating in groups attempting to highlight social and economic inequities and attending countless meetings to ensure that public comment is heard, she has become a leading voice in the struggle for equal representation and opportunity for ALL students of the LRSO. Despite numerous barriers, including being forcibly removed from a State Board of Education meeting for calling attention to the fact that the leadership refused to hear public input, Dr. Danforth has repeatedly exemplified social work values in action. Her efforts contribute to a positive perception of social workers in our community- individuals that are willing to dig deep and do the difficult work of passionately challenging social injustice.

2020 – 2021 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT DR. DEBRA HURD

Dr. Debra Hurd has been a social worker for thirty years. Her background includes providing direct services for abused and neglected children and their families, youth at risk for delinquency, senior citizens, and acute care and sub-acute care patients. Debra's career in social services began in the trenches in 1983 when she went to work for the Arkansas Department of Human Services in rural Arkansas as a Child Protective Services Worker. She was the victim of workplace violence early in her tenure with DHS, however this did not deter Debra in her career path. She continued in this position for two years before going to work for Area Agency on Aging, where she was a Case Advocate and then Youth Bridge as a Community Advocate. Debra completed her BA in Social Work from the University of Arkansas in 1988 and shortly after began work at Fayetteville City Hospital where she served as Director of Discharge Planning and Director of Social Services at Fayetteville. While in this position, Debra earned her master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Arkansas in 1991. From this segment of career, shares knowledge, experience and wisdom that she shares freely through her delightful storytelling style.



Debra began her academic career working at the University of Arkansas School of Social Work in 1993 as a Research Assistant. While in this position, Dr. Hurd completed her Ph.D. in Health Sciences from the University of Arkansas in 1998, promoted to Research Associate Professor in 2004 and to Clinical Full Professor in 2012. Dr. Hurd currently serves as Principal Investigator of the Arkansas Academic Partnership in Public Child Welfare, representing eight universities in Arkansas. She negotiates and manages a 3.1 million dollar contract each year to fund the partnership, which focuses on education and training of prospective and current child welfare workers. Dr. Hurd has also served as the Interim Director of the Social Work Research Center, and during that time, served as either the Principal or Co-Principal Investigator of associated Research Center grants from the U.S. Department of Education. She was the Statewide Coordinator for the Case Consultation Project. Additionally, Dr. Hurd served as Principal Investigator of a three-year evaluation project with the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas, and received funding from the University of Arkansas Women's Giving Circle to develop programming for new Hispanic residents.

Debra represents the profession of social work well with her extensive record of presentations at state national and international conferences. She has presented topics related to child welfare and training students to work in child welfare for us at the NASW AR conference as well as in locations such as Paris, Ireland, Utah, Florida and Texas. Part of her mission as a social work leader is to disseminate information and educate others.

Debra embodies the words professionalism and leadership. She is community oriented and shows leadership through her extensive record of community service. One specific example of outstanding leadership and service is Debra's appointment by Governor Asa Hutchinson to serve on the Social Work Licensing Board in 2015 and her re-appointment in 2018. She was elected as Vice Chair of this Board in 2019 and reelected in 2020. According to colleague, Prof. Sara Collie, LCSW, MSW Director of the University of Arkansas School of Social Work, "Debra is a consummate professional, demonstrating social work values and ethics in all endeavors. She is a role model and mentor for younger social workers practicing in child welfare. As the Principal Investigator on the IV-E grant she brings this professionalism to enhance and support the partnerships with other universities across the state. The depth of her expertise provides context and perspective for our school as we strive to provide the best learning experience for our students. I've had the pleasure of presenting and traveling internationally with Debra; her knowledge, quick wit, and sense of purpose made those experiences unforgettable. We are fortunate to count her as a colleague and social worker."

Dr. Debra Hurd truly deserves the honor of the NASW AR lifetime achievement award not only because of her professionalism and leadership capabilities, but also because of the impact she has had on clients, social work students, colleagues and the state of Arkansas. Her work with IVE directly results in quality child welfare in the state of Arkansas. She has changed countless Arkansans' lives, no doubt has saved many lives and put many families back together. One of her colleagues, Tommy Milford, LCSW, Technology Manager and Research Assistant put it this way, "Debra is amazing! She is able to keep a very complex eight university partnership running smoothly, managing budgets, collaborating, planning and overseeing work that covers 75 counties, constantly on the road, while also serving on the licensing board. And she makes it look easy, which it is not!"

Dedicated to social work education, Debra is a part of the life of the University of Arkansas School of Social Work. A colleague, Dr. Kameri Christy, PhD, puts it this way, "Debra has always been a thoughtful and insightful colleague. She has frequently and consistently provided invaluable service to the School, even though she is not required to provide service to the School in her role as the PI for IV-E contract. Her work ethic is undeniable and admirable."

Although Debra is not currently teaching, she has taught many classes and as an instructor, Debra has impacted the lives of many students. One memory of Clinical Assistant Professor Ananda Rosa, LCSW illustrates this impact. "I met her for the first time when she taught my Statistics for Social Work class in graduate school in 1997. My memories of graduate school are a little fuzzy since it was 23 years ago, but I remember Debra and her teaching style very vividly. The sensible, direct, and accessible way that she approached teaching was foreshadowing for what it would be like to be her colleague, years later.

Debra also brings her sensible approach into her relationship with colleagues Ananda goes on to say, "It is such a pleasure to work with Debra on a daily basis and I am always happy when she is any meeting or when I get to be on a committee with her. She brings substance to anything she participates in and a fair and balanced perspective. And she is a lot of fun. Anytime we find ourselves at a retreat or a working lunch, Debra will bring great stories or anecdotes and it's always something new. Although I have interacted with Debra sometimes more than others over the past 23 years, it is truly an honor to have her as part of my social work journey and I know for sure that I am not the only one! Brava Dr. Debra Hurd!"

