



NASW-MICHIGAN PRESENTS

# 2024 SOCIAL WORK STUDENT OF THE YEAR & EMERGING SOCIAL WORK LEADER AWARDS

April 12, 2024 | 6:00 - 8:30pm

# Program

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**Doors Open | 5:45 PM**

**Welcome | 6:00 PM**

Duane Breijak, LMSW-Macro | Executive Director, NASW-Michigan  
Kaelyn Lewis, LLMSW-Macro | Director of Membership &  
Communications, NASW-Michigan

**Opening Remarks: *Empowering Social Workers* | 6:10 PM**

Fatima Salman, LLMSW-Macro | President, NASW-Michigan

**Awards Ceremony | 6:15-8:15 PM**

2024 Student of the Year Awards

Presented by:

Kaila Hemphill, NASW-Michigan BSW Student Representative  
Allison Bohn, NASW-Michigan MSW Student Representative

Emerging Social Work Leader Award @ 7:15 PM

Presented by: Rae Johnson, LLMSW-Macro | President-Elect, NASW-Michigan

**Networking & Celebration | 8:15 PM**



# 2024 Emerging Social Work Leaders



**Brandon Bond** is an alum of the University of Michigan's College of LSA and Schools of Public Health and Social Work. Brandon currently serves as a Mental Health & Well-Being Student Advocate at the University of Michigan College of LSA where he is responsible for: supporting the integration of mental health and well-being into the college's policies, organizational structure, and programs; developing a strategic plan for the future of mental health and well-being for the College of LSA; enhancing public health and crisis prevention efforts within LSA; and facilitating opportunities to centralize collaboration and well-being efforts between units. Brandon co-founded the School of Social Work Consulting Club and serves as Washtenaw Literacy's volunteer DEI Consultant, developing their first-ever DEI strategic plan. Brandon also serves on the Youth Advisory Board that is charged with helping MTV and Active Minds develop and implement a national emotional peer support campaign that centers the perspectives and needs of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth and young adults. Locally, Brandon serves on the Board of Directors for both Garrett's Space, a suicide prevention non-profit, and the International House Ann Arbor, a residential community non-profit geared towards promoting intercultural exchange and lasting global friendships. Brandon is also a mayoral-appointed Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Ann Arbor. Nationally, Brandon participates in the Mental Health America's Inaugural Youth Policy Accelerator Program and is a contracted Professional National Mental Health and Well-Being Public Speaker through Active Minds Speakers Bureau.

**Taylor Volpe** is an LMSW who works for Lapeer County Community Mental Health (CMH) as the Triage & Emergency Services Supervisor. Taylor graduated with her MSW from Michigan State University in 2019. She started her first job in the field with Lapeer CMH, as a Triage Clinician. In 2021, Taylor was promoted to supervisor of her department, where she has continued her career growth. Since taking over as supervisor, Taylor has made several organizational changes to better support persons served. Currently, she manages a team of 11 clinicians and two peer support specialists. In addition to this role, she often volunteers to guest speak at local universities to excite new social workers about the field. Her compassion and dedication to her job is unwavering, but anyone who knows Taylor knows that her true passion is suicide prevention. Taylor joined the Suicide Prevention Network of Lapeer in 2019 and has been an active member since. She hosts in-house suicide prevention training once per quarter at Lapeer CMH, and often travels to other organizations in the community to provide in-services to educate community members of mental health services available in the area. Taylor recently received grant funding to start a L.O.S.S. Team in Lapeer County and she plans to serve as lead responder on this team. Additionally, Taylor and her team recently attended an intensive training to restart the DBT program at Lapeer CMH. Taylor plans to supervise this program in addition to her current role, to bring a much-needed evidence-based practice back to the Lapeer community.





# 2024 Social Work Students of the Year

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## **Andrews University**

Morgan Williams | BSW  
Leslie Rodriguez-Slikkers | MSW

## **Calvin University**

Melanie Parangalan | BSW

## **Central Michigan University**

Madison Berwald | BSW

## **Cornerstone University**

Courtney Winter | BSW

## **Eastern Michigan University**

Jahne Gollman | BSW  
Charis Bly | MSW

## **Ferris State University**

Al Alley | BSW  
Carlton Thompson | MSW

## **Grand Valley State University**

Daniela Centeno | BSW  
Anna Obi | MSW

## **Hope College**

Freddie Baker | BSW

## **Kuyper College**

Abigail Brown | BSW

## **Madonna University**

Sara Pitchford | BSW  
Melody Montgomery | MSW

## **Michigan State University**

Maddi Mahar | BSW  
Givaunni Jackson | MSW

## **Northern Michigan University**

Kendra Grafenauer | BSW  
Dana (DJ) Selin | MSW

## **Oakland University**

Chelsea Campbell | BSW  
Chapri Paulateer | MSW

## **Saginaw Valley State University**

Cherie Long | BSW  
Eddie Dunn Jr. | MSW

## **Siena Heights University**

Briana Lamont | BSW

## **Spring Arbor University**

Amber Slaby | BSW  
Tristan Waechter | MSW

## **University of Detroit Mercy**

Kristen Hayes | BSW

## **University of Michigan**

Kevin Nguyen | MSW

## **University of Michigan-Flint**

Bryce Aguilar | BSW

## **Wayne State University**

Sydney Nowak | BSW  
Dorothy Vandekieft | MSW

## **Western Michigan University**

Noemi Mendez | BSW

A celebration of Michigan social work student leaders who have shown outstanding academic achievement, organizing efforts, student involvement, and a commitment to our Code of Ethics.



# 2024 Social Work Students of the Year



**Bryce Aguilar, BSW**  
University of Michigan - Flint



**Noemi Mendez, MSW**  
Western Michigan University



**Anna Obi, MSW**  
Grand Valley State University



**Jahne Gollman, BSW**  
Eastern Michigan University



**Briana Lamont, BSW**  
Siene Heights University



**Courtney Winter, BSW**  
Cornerstone University



**Melody Montgomery, MSW**  
Madonna University



**Sara Pitchford, BSW**  
Madonna University



**Carlton Thompson, MSW**  
Ferries State University



**Chelsea Campbell, BSW**  
Oakland University



**Sydney Nowak, BSW**  
Wayne State University



**Tristan Waechter, MSW**  
Spring Arbor University



**Kendra Grafenauer, BSW**  
Northern Michigan University



**Leslie Rodriguez, MSW**  
Andrews University



**Cherie Long, BSW**  
Saginaw Valley State University



**Freddie Baker, BSW**  
Hope College



# 2024 Social Work Students of the Year



**Givaunni Jackson, MSW**  
Michigan State University



**Eddie Dunn Jr., MSW**  
Saginaw State Valley University



**Abigail Brown, BSW**  
Kuyper College



**Dana Selin, MSW**  
Northern Michigan University



**Chapri Paulateer, MSW**  
Oakland University



**Maddi Mahar, BSW**  
Michigan State University



**Charis Bly, MSW**  
Eastern Michigan University



**Daniela Centeno, BSW**  
Grand Valley State University



**Madison Berwald, BSW**  
Central Michigan University



**Melanie Parangalan, BSW**  
Calvin University



**Amber Slaby, BSW**  
Spring Arbor University



**Al Alley, BSW**  
Ferries State University



**Kevin Nguyen, MSW**  
University of Michigan



**Morgan Williams, BSW**  
Andrews University



**Dorothy VandeKieft, MSW**  
Wayne State University



**Kristen Hayes, BSW**  
University of Detroit Mercy