



Keynote

Social Work: A Call to Action in this Time of Reckoning

The presenters have provided a combined 85+ years of service to the social work field. Using their experience and professional relationship over the past 35 years, they will engage the audience in a discussion of the state of the social work field, using a series of metrics and indicators. They will also examine ways in which social workers have contributed significantly throughout history. Looking at the current social challenges (pandemic, calls for racial justice, voter suppression and more) they will outline ways in which the profession can strengthen its effectiveness for these times and beyond. They will discuss the implications for leadership development in social work and propose a paradigm that is aligned with social work values and objectives. Implications for schools of social work will be presented along with recommendations for how the graduate social work curriculum can be strengthened. Participants will have the opportunity to think about how we can build on the profession's activist roots and traditions in responding to a call to action to meet these current challenges to shape a more just and equitable future.



Linda Lausell Bryant, Ph.D, MSW

Clinical Associate Professor; Director, DSW Program and Adaptive Leadership Institute
NYU Silver School of Social Work

Linda Lausell Bryant is Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Doctorate in Social Work program and the Adaptive Leadership in Human Services Institute at NYU Silver. She is also the Katherine and Howard Aibel Executive-in-Residence. She is devoted to developing the leadership capacities of social workers to spark change at the intersection of race, ethnicity, and social justice. In 2020, she co-developed and implemented a Faculty Antiracism Training to strengthen skill in antiracist pedagogy, inclusive teaching and mentoring for all NYU Silver faculty. She is a sponsor and contributing author to *Latinx in Social Work*, a book of narratives for healing and justice.

In her 35-year career, she has been the Executive Director of Inwood House, serving young mothers in foster care, an associate commissioner at the NYC Administration for Children's Services, and a member of the NYC Panel for Education Policy. She is currently board president of National Crittenton, pursuing social and systems change for young women. She is the recipient of the Latino Social Work Coalition's 2021 Lifetime Achievement, Silver's Distinguished Contribution to Student Engagement Award and the Martin Luther King Jr. Faculty Award. She has co-authored "A Guide for Sustaining Conversations on Racism, Identity and Our Mutual Humanity" and "Social Work: A Call to Action."



Phil Coltoff, MSW, ACSW

Senior Fellow, NYU Silver School of Social Work

Phil Coltoff is presently a Senior Fellow at the Silver School of Social Work at New York University. He was also a visiting professor and Aibel Executive in Residence at Silver. A national leader and innovator in the field of social service and youth development, he led the Children's Aid Society, one of the largest and oldest social agencies in the United States from 1980 to 2005. During this period of leadership the budget of the Society grew from \$10 million to \$85 million annually and developed trailblazing programs in teen pregnancy prevention, public school reform, and the reintegration of juvenile offenders. These programs have been replicated in over 13,000 sites, nationally and internationally.

Coltoff is the recipient of numerous leadership awards, including the prestigious William S. White award from the United States Department of Education. He has authored or co-authored seven books, including *Social Work: A Call to Action* and has mentored countless social work professionals. Coltoff served on the professional board of Boys and Girls Club of America, Child Welfare League of America and the National Assembly on Social Welfare. Coltoff lives in Greenwich Village, NY with his wife Lynn Harman, an attorney and social worker.

