

# Community Work and Learning

## Fall 2021 Symposium



ST. CATHERINE  
UNIVERSITY

Community Work  
and Learning

### **Franceska Moua**

AMP Project Assistant, *BSW Student Engagement Coordinator* with Dr. Mary Nienow

#### **Impact of Work:**

As the Student Engagement Coordinator for the BSW program, I promote student engagement through leadership and academic opportunities. I work with the director of the program, Dr. Mary Nienow. Among many other responsibilities, one part of the director's job is to help students feel connected and supported during the course of their program.

I have many tasks I complete while in this role, many of which I was able to create, so I always have something to do, and it gives me a strong sense of ownership. Some of the larger outreach responsibilities I'm in charge of include the weekly Social Work Digest newsletters, co-advising the Student Leadership Team & Social Work Club, and communicating with prospective and current social work students. Specifically, the digest newsletter holds program updates, student spotlights, scholarship, internship, and job opportunities, as well as opportunities for continuing education and connecting with other opportunities in the social work profession.

Much of the initial foundation was formed for this position in the last year. We have been working this semester to connect and collaborate with Alumni of the program and increase engagement with our "new" St. Kate's only program. Develop a way to help CFW and CFA social work majors connect with each other and build community and adjust to the digital/hybrid/in-person format. We were able to begin converting an office/storage space into what we are calling the social work student center. We hope to have a community library, space for students to eat and connect during breaks, hold meetings, and rest!

#### **Personal Growth:**

Flexibility and resilience have been the two key skills I have gained in this experience. Coordinating educational events, identifying learning objectives, and supervising student groups allow me to build my leadership and community-building skills. This position is a great way to help me identify and practice boundaries, build leadership skills, and gives me more supervision experience.

#### **Career Impact:**

Following my master's program, I intend on practicing therapy, working in student affairs, and eventually becoming a professor. I also have a passion for including students in pre-professional opportunities and would eventually love to give back and be a mentor or supervisor to social work students in the future.