

SOCIAL WORK @ USG

NEWSLETTER



HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOCIAL WORK

For our Fall 2022 edition of Social Work @ USG, we are excited to feature our partnership with the Healthcare Initiative Foundation (HIF). HIF is committed to improving the quality of healthcare in Montgomery County and as a part of that mission, HIF has provided scholarships and mentoring to over 200 undergraduate social work, nursing, and public health students at USG since 2016. This year we are excited to announce that HIF has expanded its support of Social Work @ USG by offering scholarships to BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) students who continue their career path by completing their MSW (Master of Social Work) at USG.

UMBC's BSW Program at USG has a diverse student population with many students identifying as first-generation immigrants and/or college students and multilingual, and through their lived experiences have a deep understanding of multiple identities. Due to financial constraints, the need to work, and other challenges, many students delay their path to graduate studies. These new HIF scholarships will help students overcome barriers to furthering their careers and increase the number of qualified diverse behavioral health practitioners in Montgomery County.

We are excited to feature three social work students who have received the HIF scholarship for 2022 - you can read about their journeys below.

Katie Morris & Joan Pittman
Directors of UMBC and UMB's Social Work Programs at USG

MEET THE SOCIAL WORK HIF SCHOLARS FOR FALL 2022



Amy Caballero first became interested in social work when she worked with unaccompanied minors navigating the legal process. She started her social work career by earning her bachelor's degree from UMBC and has continued into the MSW program at UMB with the ultimate goal of earning her clinical

license and being able to provide mental health care to Montgomery County families in need. The HIF scholarship has helped her continue her journey to a graduate degree in social work.



Tracey Heckel began her college career later in life and is proud to be a first-generation college student in her family. Prior to pursuing her degrees, Tracey had several opportunities to work with vulnerable populations in different employment experiences, lighting a fire in her to make helping

those in need more than a job but a life's calling. After earning her BSW from UMBC, she is now pursuing her MSW as an Advanced Standing student and is a social work intern with Montgomery Hospice. "The HIF scholarship has allowed me to lower my hours of employment to focus on my field

placement and have more time to concentrate on my classes." After graduation, Tracey's goal is to be a medical social worker helping clients navigate end of life transitions, trauma, and complex grief.

Liah Baker's passion for helping others was ignited by an early experience volunteering in an assisted living home helping older adults. She decided to pursue a social work career at UMBC where she had a field placement at a housing program serving clients experiencing homelessness. Liah was accepted into the Advanced Standing MSW program and plans to graduate in 2023. Liah shares, "The Healthcare Initiative Foundation's scholarship has assisted my retired single mother and me in my ongoing higher education with significant financial ease. After earning my MSW, I will pay it forward by working in the behavioral health field with adults and families."

"HIF is honored to invest in and champion the dreams of these amazing students that have and will continue to make such impactful change in our community. Their call to service is inspirational and we're proud to be a part of their journey."

-Crystal Carr Townsend
HIF President & CEO

