



# CHILD ADVOCACY STUDIES 2023 NEWSLETTER



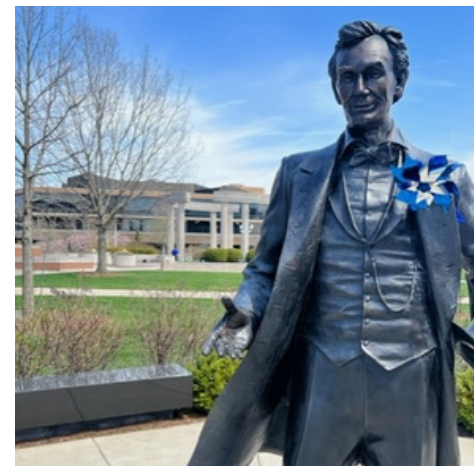
## KEEPING YOU IN "THE KNOW"

179 UIS Students have earned CAST Certificates

CAST is now offered as a Minor at UIS

5 UIS students have completed their CAST Minor

The **Campus Child Advocates** held a ceremony in observance of child abuse prevention month in April. During the ceremony, students, faculty, and staff placed 171 pinwheels around the colonnade and held a moment of silence for 171 seconds to recognize child fatalities .



# CAST MINOR SPOTLIGHT

NA'KAYA HUGHES

"I'm currently working as a summer camp counselor at the Stephens Family YMCA and work at Next Generation Daycare as a substitute teacher. Once the summer is over I'm hoping to get a position as a Student Support Advocate at one of our Champaign Unit 4 Schools."



ISA DURHAM

"My future plans are to continue my education. As of now, I am enrolled in the HDC program at UIS for my masters. I want to work with children/adolescents in the therapy/counseling setting so my CAST minor was a great foundation for me to learn more about how I can do that."



KATIE BROWN

"I am working for Camelot Care Centers in Springfield as a case manager. I graduated with a BSW as well with a minor in Child Advocacy. The CAST courses have helped me understand how important it is for someone to be a voice for kiddos! I would love to dedicate my work to helping children succeed and have a happy home. Specifically from the CAST courses I realized that child abuse is global and affects all ages. Child abuse does not discriminate either. I also gained trauma informed training through the CAST courses. I think the CAST courses have allowed me to help more children than I had ever thought I could. Finally, the CAST program confirmed my desire to work with children that need an advocate!"



# CAST MINOR SPOTLIGHT

KATIE MINER

"Currently after Graduation I am working as a behavioral technician for a behavioral health company doing in home therapy. I'm doing this because I absolutely adore the kids and want to get experience working with kiddos who have different disabilities. In the next year or so I am hoping to get a job with a state agency working with at-risk youth (I'm currently thinking specifically lockout and runaway youth, but we will see where I end up!). I'm then wanting to get my master's in human development counseling (hopefully paid for) and my end goal is to be a trauma therapist for kiddos with different developmental disabilities as they are a particularly vulnerable population (I would still want to see kiddos who need help, I just want to make sure that I have the proper tools to help a very vulnerable population).

As for CAST, it has not only helped me feel prepared for what I might encounter in the future but has even helped me even in my daily life. I am constantly surrounded by kids, and I feel like I now have a deeper understanding of what can affect them and their development as well as how to be a better advocate. I also think CAST does a good job as helping to prevent/delay secondary trauma or caregiver stress that might result as a part of being a child advocate and in a field as strenuous as this. This is because we are exposed to a lot of heavy content, but there was always an emphasis on grounding ourselves and making sure we also took time to care for ourselves. I think this is important as it provided practice for our future experiences. I have also suggested CAST to anyone who is working with kids, even tangentially. The content can be hard to swallow, but I think it is oh so important, and helpful day-to-day."



Jimmy Ehlschlaeger

"The CAST courses have helped me to understand legal, sociological, and psychological factors in play regarding child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The CAST courses taught me how to use critical thinking skills to use in the field of child advocacy. It has also taught me about the field of child advocacy locally, nationally, and internationally. These courses also helped me and my classmates understand some of our childhoods better and why some of us as adults have the issues and traumas that we do. My future plans are to go to Law School, become an Assistant State's Attorney, and prosecute crimes against children. I also want to teach children in my community that they have a right not to be harmed through abuse or neglect, which were lessons me and my peers were never taught in elementary school. This summer, I had the pleasure of meeting Erin Merryn, the founder of Erin's Law, ratified in three-fourths of the States in the US, which helps protect K-12 children from sexual abuse. I want to thank Doctor Betsy Goulet, Taylor McCarthy, Kristin Nesbit-White, and Professor Kendra Hansel for guiding me and my peers and providing us with a quality education, critical thinking skills, experiences, and having the lab simulator. Anyone who wants to go into the field of child advocacy should take these courses. My only regret is that I didn't take more CAST courses."



# What you can do to help current and future CAST students:

- Send us an e-mail address that we can use to keep in touch with you!
- Keep us up to date on your current employment.
- Let us know if you hear of any internship opportunities that might be relevant.



## REQUIRED COURSES (15 hours)

PAD 481	Perspectives on Child Maltreatment and Advocacy	3
PAD 482	Global Child Advocacy Studies	3
Or		
PSY 484	Childhood Trauma: Risk and Resiliency	3
PAD 483	The System's Response to Child Maltreatment	3
PAD 486	Child Advocacy Studies Capstone	3

One of the following:

IPL 300	ECCE: Internship Applied Learning
IPL 301	ECCE: Applied Learning Project

\*Or any PAD 300 or 400 electives

## CAST CERTIFICATE Requirements (9 hours)

PAD 481	Perspectives on Child Maltreatment and Advocacy
PAD 483	The System's Response to Child Maltreatment
Choice of:	
PAD 482	Global Child Advocacy Studies or
PSY 484	Childhood Trauma: Risk and Resiliency

[Click here to see the  
UIS Catalog for Summer/Fall 2023](#)

# The UIS Residential Simulation Lab

got some updates!



**The Residential Simulation Lab is utilized by CAST students to develop skills that they will likely use in their professional careers.**

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## CAST Faculty Q & A

**Amy Wheeler, LCSW**

### **Which CAST courses do you teach?**

"I currently teach 482 but have also taught 481 and 483".

### **What do you think your students enjoy the most about the CAST courses?**

"Learning, of course! :) I think my students probably love when they connect to the material in a way they hadn't anticipated. (But I personally enjoy they are being better prepared for this line of work! - Even if they might not see that when they take the class.)"

### **What is your favorite part of teaching the CAST courses?**

"I love learning from the students! Each semester the discussions promote new resources, new ideas, and new passions!!!"

### **If you could take any of the CAST courses, which would you take?**

"All of them, duh! Seriously".

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST FACULTY

**Betsy Goulet** is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the UIS Child Advocacy Studies Program (CAST) in the School of Public Management and Policy where she has taught for twelve years. Dr. Goulet is also the Director of the Alliance for Experiential Problem-Based Learning at UIS.



She has presented nationally and internationally on the Child Protection Training Academy model that originated at UIS in 2016. In the summer of 2020, the Journal of Public Child Welfare published Dr. Goulet's research article on the model "Moving from Procedure to Practice: a statewide child protection simulation training model" co-authored with the CPTA evaluation team, Dr. Theodore P. Cross and Dr. Yu-Ling Chiu. In 2020, the Capacity Building Center for States, part of the Children's Bureau, created a new website for simulation training, featuring the UIS Training Academy.

<https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/workforce/simulationtraining/>

Dr. Goulet also serves as the principal investigator for a new simulation training project federally funded through the Administration for Children and Families in partnership with Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois.

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST FACULTY

**Amy Wheeler, LCSW**  
**Director of Experiential Learning, The Alliance**  
**Adjunct Instructor, CAST**

Currently Amy teaches 482 - Global Child Advocacy, but previously taught 481 and 483.



Amy came to UIS in 2017 as a simulation facilitator and curriculum designer after two decades in the social work field. Bringing practical experience and the passion for improving public service delivery, she is now the Director of Experiential Learning for the Alliance. Amy is enthusiastic about building UIS partnerships to deliver innovative learning experiences to improve frontline service delivery for the wellbeing of children and families. Amy completed her Bachelor of Social Work at James Madison University and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Kentucky. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and is currently working towards her Doctorate of Public Administration at UIS.

Fun facts: Amy is quite fond of her bulldogs and all things Wonder Woman. If she won the lottery she would compete with Jay Leno's garage. She celebrates life with wife Dr. Celest Weuve, also UIS faculty. She has two adult children and an extended family who roam cage-free in Appalachia.

## GET TO KNOW THE CAST FACULTY

**Dr. Ruby E. Powell** is a highly respected professional in corporate training, motivational speaking, coaching, counseling, and consulting, with extensive experience in ministry leadership and teaching. She holds degrees in Criminal Justice/Pre-law and Psychology/Community Counseling and Guidance, and a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Powell excels in administration, workshop facilitation, and curriculum development, and has authored training materials. Dr. Powell's coaching, counseling, and consulting talents empower individuals to achieve transformative life changes.



Dr. Powell is an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois-Springfield where she teaches Perspectives on Child Maltreatment for the Child Advocacy Studies Program. She also provides career readiness instruction at Prairie State College.

Dr. Powell's dedicated service of over 30 years has supported children and families facing abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence. Additionally, Dr. Powell serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Dr. Ruby E. Powell & Associates, LLC, and the Founder and Executive Director of Oasis Empowerment Zone, Inc., where she provides result-driven coaching, counseling, and consulting services. Through the Oasis Empowerment Zone, she empowers single mothers through workshops, affordable coaching, and networking opportunities, aiming to help them achieve self-sufficiency. Alongside her accomplishments, Dr. Powell is a co-author and contributor to relationship manuals, and she enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with her family.

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST FACULTY

## **Kendra Hansel, J.D.**

Kendra Hansel is a University of Illinois-Springfield Capital Scholars Honors alum with an established career prosecuting child abuse and maltreatment. Kendra graduated from UIS in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Legal Studies. She went on to graduate from the Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2014 with a focus on public interest law. Kendra credits her multi-disciplinary courses at UIS and her time serving in the SIU Juvenile Justice Law Clinic for developing her passion for victim-centered investigation and prosecution of child maltreatment.



Kendra is currently an Assistant State's Attorney in the Felony Division at the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office where she serves as the Chief of Child Protection. She oversees the Juvenile Abuse/Neglect/Delinquency Division and prosecutes all felony crimes against children in conjunction with the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center. Kendra was chosen as the 2021 Sangamon County CAC Advocate of the Year. Kendra previously had the honor to work with the UIS CAST program in training newly licensed DCFS investigators and now serves as an adjunct professor at UIS in the CAST program where she has the privilege of teaching students the importance of a multi-disciplinary response to combat child maltreatment in our community.