



2019 CRISP

POLITICAL BOOT CAMP & MEDIA TRAINING

July 8-11 | Trinity Washington University

125 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20017



Boot Camp Schedule

Monday, July 8

7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast	
8:00 – 9:15 am	Orientation	
9:30 – 10:30 am	Building Your Public Narrative	Charles E Lewis Jr
10:45 – 12:15 pm	Getting Involved in the Political Arena	David Cohen
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Campaign Operations I	David Cohen
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Beak/Networking Time (One-on-Ones)	
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Campaign Operations II	David Cohen
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Dinner	

Tuesday, July 9

7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast	
8:00 – 9:30 am	Political Social Work	Suzanne Pritzker
9:30 – 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 - 11:15 am	Developing Leadership Skills	Janie Jeffers
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Crafting A Policy Agenda	Suzanne Pritzker
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:30 pm	The Message and The Messenger	Charles E Lewis Jr
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Break/Networking Time	
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Managing Communications	Eric Shultz
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Dinner	

Wednesday, July 8

7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast	
8:00 – 9:15 am	Fundraising/Accounting	Justin Hodge
9:30 – 10:30 am	Veter Engagement Strategies	Jason Green
10:45 – 12:15 pm	All the Things You Need to Do to Win	Jason Green
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Depart for Hill Visit	



7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast	
8:00 – 9:30 am	Leading Public Discourse	Charles E Lewis Jr
9:30 – 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Participant Presentations	
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch and Office Hours	
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Debrief, Wrap-Up, Presentations	



Meet the Participants in the 2019 CRISP Political Boot Camp and Media Training



ANDREA

My name is Andrea Camacho. I have spent the past few years working with immigrant youths as a paralegal and am currently a 2nd year MSW candidate at Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work. After working in a legal setting, I decided I wanted to focus more on the person rather than their case, leading me towards a career in social work. In the future, I would like to organize a campaign that would allow me to use my personal and work experience to become a spokesperson and advocate for immigrant rights in the U.S.



ANDREINA

Andreina Molina is a Master of Social Work student at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service in New York City. Prior to attending school, she worked as a child protective specialist (CPS) with NYC Children's Services (ACS). Her aspiration is to use the knowledge she has gained from her MSW program into her practice with families and staff, as well as take on more leadership responsibilities within the agency. She also has hopes of becoming more politically involved in the community to advocate for those that are in need.



BRITTANY

Brittany Howard is a MSW student at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Brittany received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and a Substance Use Disorder Counselor certificate from the University of Wisconsin - Madison Division of Continuing Studies. Much of her professional experience has involved working with justice-system involved individuals with substance use disorders. In attending the CRISP boot camp, she hopes to cultivate connections and strategies to become more politically involved and to work within the system to effect change.



CASSONDRA

Cassandra Roberts is a member of Class of 2019, recently graduating with her MSW from Fordham University. She focused her studies on Organizational Leadership and Community Practice. With the shift in the political climate she began more interested in the intersectionality of politics and social work. She has canvassed for local NYC politicians, attended press conferences and have met several elected officials in both the New York City and New York State legislatures. Ms. Roberts inspires to move up the ranks within the political realm with goals of becoming a state senator, congresswoman and even President. She believes it is important to have a politician who is one the people, knows the people and understands the system that affects the people.



CESAR

Hello Everyone! My name is Cesar Acosta and I am a 2nd year MSW student at Silberman Hunter College in New York. I currently work in a non-profit organization where I assist people who have intellectual disabilities. My time in this field has allowed me to understand that we need to look at our policies and reevaluate we how we fund our social programs. I would like to rebalance our social and public policies to better accommodate and suit the needs of the people and decrease the influence big business has on policymaking.



CRYSTAL

My name is Crystal Montgomery. I am a recent graduate from Columbia University School of Social Work where I studied social welfare policy as it pertains to children, youth, and families. I grew up in the New York City foster care system and want to give back to the community of youth who age out of the system. For the last three years I have worked as a Youth Development Specialist for the foster care agency that I grew up in. I assist youth ages 14-23 with their transition to permanency. Through my studies, I became very interested in how federal policy affects the way services are implemented in child welfare programs. It is my hope to gain further experience in policy analysis and research so that I can make effective changes within the system to better the outcomes of youth in the United States who age out of foster care.



DENNIS

I am Dennis W. Boyd Jr., and I love people. My passion for education, adolescents, families, and community development stems from my childhood and career experiences as an Educational and HR Consultant to the New York City Department of Education public schools, Charter Schools, religious, and youth-focused organizations. I aspire to work with elected officials to introduce or enhance policies that improve the quality of K-12 education, strengthen youth and families, and empower vulnerable communities. I have dreams of being an advisor to a Presidential administration to influence federal policy to produce equitable outcomes for all people.



DONISHA

Donisha Cotlone is an advanced standing student with a Macro Concentration at University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW). During her time at the GCSW she has been very active with voter engagement. After getting deputized to register voters in Harris County, she went to get deputized in 4 other counties surrounding the Houston area (Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, and Wharton). Donisha's political interests include voting laws, racial disproportionality within the criminal justice and child welfare systems, and healthcare. She is striving for unity within our political system to provide social, racial, environmental, political and economic justice within policies to protect and serve the people. Her political aspiration is to one day become the first African American female Lieutenant Governor of Texas.



ELENA

Elena Riecke is a dual degree student working towards her MSW and MPH at Columbia University. Elena found her passion for policy work during college, where she spent four months studying different models of sex work legalization in Europe. She has since done policy research for the Sex Worker's Project and the Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and is currently working as an intern for the Drug Policy Alliance. She hopes to continue working for harm reduction causes and eventually to work on Capitol Hill as a chief of staff.



HECTOR

Hello, my name is Hector Chaidez Ruacho and I am currently an MSW student at the University at Buffalo. I previously obtained BA. degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice (Cum Laude) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. During my time at the Social Development Research Lab, I first-authored a research study which focused on the relationship between racism, empathy, and social activism related to Black Lives Matter. Being a Mexican immigrant myself, I am passionate in advocating for a trauma-informed immigration system reform as well as incorporating a mental health system which is better equipped to serve diverse populations.



JADE

My name is Jade Goetz and I'm a Master of Social Work candidate for the year 2020 attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My focus is Public Child Welfare, and I intend to work in the field of Child Protective Services post-graduation, either in direct practice or policy. I have a strong passion for radical policies and practices geared toward social justice, and I aspire to change the field of public child welfare in Wisconsin, as well as develop more affirmative policies geared toward children and families. I can see myself working on a campaign or possibly running for office someday.



JELANI

Jelani Tendai is an energetic and progressive thinking married father of two. He is a native Washingtonian and graduate of The University of the District of Columbia. While enrolled in graduate school for social work at The Catholic University of America he was energized and empowered to pursue a sharper political advocacy acumen. Jelani has long been interested in ways he could combat social injustice affecting African American young men; and now he has seized this moment to ready himself for an opportunity to advocate for those young men on a macro level. As a young man growing up in different urban as well as suburban settings, Jelani has seen first-hand the marginalization of his peers and the institutional injustices that all African Americans have had to endure. Mr Tendai considers it an honor and a responsibility to be part of the solution.



KADIJHA

Kadijha Marquardt-Davis is a Master of Social Work student at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Prior to enrolling in graduate school, she worked as a community outreach coordinator for a non-profit specializing in reproductive and sexual health education. Kadijha is passionate about supporting policies and initiatives that promote social, racial, and reproductive justice. This has led her to work for a number of political campaigns and organizations that support these initiatives including, working as a Legislative Advisor for a Wisconsin State Senator. Kadijha hopes to continue this work at the congressional level after graduating.



KAITLIN

Hello! My name is Kaitlin Childs and I was born and raised in California. I am a recent graduate from Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service. After graduating with my BSW degree from San Jose State University, I began working in the field of Child Welfare. I had the privilege of being employed as a social worker in Western Australia, working with Aboriginal children in foster care. After working in Australia, I gained experience as a social worker for Child Protective Services in Colorado. During this time, I obtained an immense passion to advocate for children and families. I am dedicated to serving my community through a micro and macro approach to policy advocacy. Now that I have earned my MSW degree, I will continue working in the Child Welfare system as a social worker, and plan to advocate for policy change to better the lives of children and families. My hope is to someday work for UNICEF to advocate for a global change for children's rights and child protection.



KRISTEN

Kristen Hibit is a MSW student slated to graduate in May 2020. Kristen currently works as an Immigrant Work Specialist at New York State Department of Labor, Division of Immigrants Policies and Affairs, providing workers' rights education and services to immigrant workers and labor law compliance education to agricultural businesses. Previously, Kristen worked with refugee populations in employment services and developed business partnerships to facilitate and support the employment of refugees. Kristen recently interned with Freedom Network USA, a coalition of experts and advocates that utilize a human rights-based approach to human trafficking. Kristen's focus is macro social work with a particular interest in policy and human rights for immigrant and refugee populations and a human rights-based approach to solve systemic issues. Kristen's political inspirations are AOC and Barack Obama.



LAURA

In helping others I have found unparalleled enrichment in life. Through pursuing my MSW at University of Wisconsin – Madison I hope to continue my efforts in helping others. I have been employed as a social worker for five years, focusing on individual practice with adults diagnosed with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Upon graduation I aspire to expand my efforts to practice social work at the macro level and have interest in helping create policies, working for political campaigns, and/or working on behalf of social causes.



MANDI

Hi! I'm Mandi Spishak-Thomas. I'm a licensed clinical social worker with experience working with veterans, Alzheimer's disease, caregivers, substance use, homelessness, and long-term care. I'm currently working towards a PhD in Social Work at Columbia University with a focus on health policy. I'm a baseball aficionado and am a member of my local Planned Parenthood Activist Council working on political and government organizing. For the last seven years I've dreamed of working in politics. I've watched the West Wing way more times than I'm proud to admit and dream of being the next CJ Cregg. I hope to someday work as chief of staff to a female politician, helping to advise and shape policy related to health care and beyond.



MAWUSI

I am a recent MSW graduate from Columbia School of Social Work who is passionate about bringing the voices of marginalized populations to the forefront of policy change. I entered social work with the desire to change the conversation surrounding child welfare policies and found myself delving into the deeply rooted issues that affect children, youth, their families and their communities including housing and homelessness. I hope to apply a human rights based approach and a trauma informed perspective in the research and policy analysis involving vulnerable communities.



OLIVER

Councilman Oliver Davis is serving in his 12th year on the South Bend City Council. He is a licensed clinical social worker in the South Bend Community School Corporation. Oliver is a Doctoral Candidate in the Doctor of Social Work Program at the University of Southern California. He earned the Professional Certificate in Management at the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business & the Professional Certificate in Political Social Work at the University of Michigan. He earned the Master of Social Work Degree at The Ohio State University & earned the Bachelor of Social Work Degree at Oakwood University.



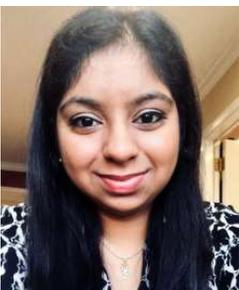
PAMELA

I am the first and only child of six in the Ashford family who graduated from college with a BA in Paralegal Studies from Mercy College. I am pursuing a MSW degree at Fordham University. My first job was with the Westchester District Attorney’s Office as a Domestic Violence Aide. With 9 years of experience, I began work as an Advocate in our Victim’s Justice Center, where I have worked for the last 7 years. As a newly established position, I was forced to wing it, so I returned to school, to improve my knowledge and skills. I have participated in politics for most of my adult life, starting with the NAACP Youth Chapter in Port Chester, NY, where my family/colleague and I established the first Youth Chapter. I have assisted with numerous campaigns from the DA’s office to Judgeship offices, the majority of campaigns were successful. I remain very engaged. If an opportunity presents itself, I might enter politics.



SARA

Sara’s passions include: soccer, the Bronx and social justice. Her mother is a South Bronx native and her father immigrated to the US from Mexico. Sara recently graduated from Columbia’s School of Social Work with a concentration in policy and currently works as the Immigration Services Program Manager for South Bronx United (SBU), a non-profit using soccer as a tool for social change. Prior to joining SBU Sara worked as a youth advocate/social worker for NYCFC’s City in the Community Foundation and at the Federal Defenders of New York as a paralegal and paralegal supervisor. Sara would like to start a campaign at SBU aimed at empowering young women in the Bronx who play soccer. In the long term, she hopes to serve the Bronx community on a macro scale through elected office.



VAIDEHI

My name is Vaidehi Jokhakar and I am very interested in the intersection of public health and social work. I recently obtained my MPH from The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and am hoping to utilize skills I learn in this boot camp to help make change in healthcare policy. I would like to kickstart initiatives that encourage healthy living both for humans and the environment. I am very excited to partake in this years CRISP Political Boot Camp!



WHITNEY

Whitney Marris is entering her final year of studies at the Buffalo School of Social Work. While her professional background is predominantly within the criminal law field, she has been advocating beside and mobilizing the masses in pursuit of a more just sociopolitical landscape for many years. Whitney is also no stranger to envelope stuffing, door knocking, and phone banking in support of progressive candidates on national and local levels alike. Her interests include restorative justice, LGBTQIA+ rights, gender equality and reproductive justice, economic equity, and infusing a trauma-informed framework into the public institutions and service systems with which disenfranchised and oppressed individuals frequently come into contact. Whitney currently resides in the DC metro area with her partner, Alex, and their puppy, Jennifer.

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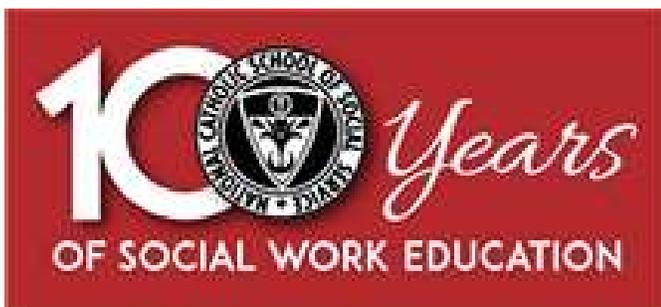
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Meet the Boot Camp Planners and Presenters



Charles E. Lewis, Jr. is the founder and president of the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP), a nonprofit organization that works to engage social workers with the U.S. Congress. He is an adjunct professor at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work teaching communications courses in the DSW program. He is also an adjunct professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work where he earned his PhD in 2002. Dr. Lewis was Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director for former Congressman Edolphus “Ed” Towns. He is a member of the 12 Grand Challenges for Social Work Executive Committee and serves as a co-lead on the Smart Decarceration policy subcommittee. He is also a member of the board of directors of Influencing Social Policy.



Charlyn Stanberry, Esq. serves as Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09). Previously, Charlyn served as Vice President of External Affairs for Net Communications, Regional Voter Protection Director for the Florida Democratic Party and the Hillary for America campaign, and as Staff Counsel for the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC). Born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, Charlyn received her B.S.B.A and M.P.A. from the University of Central Florida. While at the University of Central Florida, Charlyn was named a National Leadership Fellow with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and a finalist for the eWomen Network “Emerging Leader of the Year” award. Charlyn received her J.D. from Florida International University-College of Law.



David Cohen has led winning political and advocacy campaigns for candidates, progressive organizations and Fortune 25 companies for more than 15 years. One of Obama’s first hires in 2007, David led the campaign in the successful NV, CT, and WI primaries, and managed the \$50 million mail program in the general election. As a consultant, he has built innovative programs that bridge data, tech, politics and advocacy. In 2017 he founded Forward Majority, a super PAC focused on winning back Democratic majorities in state legislatures. The organization raised more than \$10 million in its first election cycle and has run independent expenditure programs in more than 150 districts across six states.



Deborah E. Woolford is currently attending University of Maryland-Baltimore School of Social Work. She is an Admissions Ambassador, peer mentor, RA Scholar, and USGA Senator. She is a graduate of both the inaugural class of the CRISP Political Boot Camp and the Nancy H. Humphrey Institute for Political Social Work. She has been accepted in the ninth class of the Baltimore Collegetown LeaderShape program. Her aspiration is to become a political social worker for older homeless youth. She graduated from Coppin State University with her BSW in May 2016. Deborah was president of the Social Work Association and instrumental in organizing students to attend Student Advocacy Day in Annapolis and Student Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Deborah was a co-presenter at the NASW, CSWE, and NACSW conferences in 2016.



Eric Schultz is a senior advisor to former President Barack Obama. Schultz served in the White House as the Principal Deputy Press Secretary and Special Assistant to the President. In this role, he advised President Obama, spoke on behalf of the Administration on Air Force One and in the White House briefing room. In 2004 he steered communications efforts in New Hampshire for John Kerry — a state that Kerry won in both the primary and general elections. Four years later, he served as the national press secretary for John Edwards’ Presidential campaign. Schultz served as Deputy Campaign Manager for Al Franken’s 2008 Senate race. Schultz earned a B.A. in political science at Washington University in St. Louis, where he was recently honored with the University’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

Meet the Boot Camp Planners and Presenters



Janie L. Jeffers is founder and president of Jeffers and Associates, LLC, a strategic management consulting firm providing services to Harvard University, the U.S. Justice Department, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and various criminal justice organizations. President Bill Clinton appointed her a Commissioner on the United States Parole Commission in 1999. She also worked for the First Lady and President Clinton. From 1996-1997, she was the Senior Policy Advisor for the President's Crime Prevention Council, chaired by Vice President Gore. She was an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at her alma mater Howard University School of Social Work where she received her MSW degree. She has been a field instructor at the Columbia University School of Social Work and an adjunct professor at Baruch College in New York City.



Jason Green is the co-founder of SkillSmart, Inc., executive director of The Quince Orchard Project, and president of 1331 Productions. A Maryland-based attorney, Green is an entrepreneur and leading voice on community, social innovation, and economic opportunity in the era of automation and AI. Before co-founding SkillSmart, an employment enterprise built to match job-seekers' skills with the needs of employers, Jason spent years in public service, most recently as Associate White House Counsel to President Barack Obama. He also served as National Voter Registration Director on Barack Obama's 2008 campaign. Green is also a documentary filmmaker, and community leader in his hometown of Gaithersburg, MD. Jason is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and earned a law degree from Yale Law School.



Justin Hodge is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work who promotes socially just policies through his engagement in governmental and political organizations. He was elected to serve the Washtenaw County community as both the Chair of the Eastern Washtenaw Democratic Club and the Vice-Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Washtenaw County Democratic Party. He was also appointed to serve on the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Community Advisory Board for Law Enforcement where he brings a social justice perspective to the board. In August 2018, Hodge ran unsuccessfully for Washtenaw County Commissioner. While earning his MSW at Michigan, Hodge worked with a team to create Lansing SAVE that automatically enrolls students in Lansing Public Schools in college savings accounts.



Dr. Suzanne Pritzker began her professional career as a policy advisor for the Virginia Secretary of Education and as an analyst for the Virginia General Assembly. With a front-line view of the policy-making process, she developed a passion for educating and empowering vulnerable populations to participate in—and influence—public policy development and implementation. She is actively involved in national efforts to strengthen the policy influence of the social work profession, including service on multiple national committees and on the board of Influencing Social Policy. She facilitates trainings on teaching policy for social work faculty across the U.S. Additionally, Dr. Pritzker is co-author of the textbook, *Political Social Work: Using Power to Create Social Change* published by Springer.



Tanya Rhodes Smith is the Director of the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work and visiting lecturer at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. She teaches Program Planning and Evaluation, Political Advocacy and Political Social Work. Since earning her MSW in 2000, she has worked in a variety of settings and has been a committed advocate for children and families in the Bridgeport area. She has experience in policy development, non-profit administration, team management, community organizing, legislative advocacy, research and evaluation. Her previous employers include DHA Associates, The Center for Family Justice, the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, and Person to Person. In addition to her role as Director, she is a facilitator for the Leadership Development Roundtable.



The Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP) is an independent, nonpartisan 501(c)4 organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for social workers' participation in the political arena

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