

## Introducing the MFP/ANA Doctoral Fellows FY 2018-2019



**Kalisha Bonds, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC**, is currently pursuing a PhD at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) School of Nursing in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Bonds received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

She received a Master of Science in Nursing at Vanderbilt University specializing as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Ms. Bonds' research focuses on the mental health of African American dementia dyads (e.g., person with dementia and their caregiver), beginning with early diagnosis and treatment. She has an interest in understanding the dyadic decision-making surrounding formal medical service use.

She began her career as a medical-surgical nurse in pediatrics and adolescence at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. After a few years of working with adolescents diagnosed with mental illnesses, Ms. Bonds' passion for mental health burgeoned. Changing her focus from adolescents to older adults, she became the full-time psychiatric consultant in long-term care and assisted living facilities providing counseling and managing the treatments of older adults with mental illness. Currently, she is an Instructor at the OHSU Layton Aging & Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Ms. Bonds is a Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar (2016-2018), a member of the American Nurses Association, Oregon Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International, and Gerontological Society of America.



**Precious Daniels, MSN, RN**, is an ANCC, certified Adult Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. She is a second-year student in Georgetown University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. Ms. Daniels earned her BSN with a minor in Psychology from Villanova University and her MSN in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania.

Her interests include outpatient engagement and treatment adherence of veterans with serious mental illness. For fourteen years she provided intensive, community-based, clinical care coordination to veterans experiencing homelessness, chronic mental illness, addictions, and the gamut of chronic medical co-morbidities at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia. She prides herself on clinical excellence, having always gone above and beyond what was required for her veteran patients. Her nursing experience also includes inpatient acute psychiatric and addictions care, nurse management, and other nurse leadership roles. Her passions include behavioral health, serving vulnerable and special populations, nursing quality, care coordination, and community health, especially health policy and advocacy for vulnerable populations to reduce health disparities and inequities.



**Yovan Gonzalez, MSN, RN, FNP-BC**, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Masters of Science in Nursing specializing as a family nurse practitioner.

*For more than 40 years the MFP has provided ethnic minority nurses with opportunities to earn doctoral degrees in nursing with concentration in substance abuse and/or mental health specialties and become proficient in addressing these maladies across the lifespan.*

*Applicants must be:*

- U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- A registered professional nurse
- Enrolled in a doctoral program
- Ethnic minority to include: African American, Alaska Native, American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander

Mr. Gonzalez is completing his Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. His DNP scholarly project focuses on increasing nurses' knowledge in the screening and management of substance use through an online SBIRT program.

He works as a family nurse practitioner at Gouverneur Health and the Roberto Clemente Center (RCC) part of the New York City Health and Hospitals system. Originally from Lima, Peru, Mr. Gonzalez's fluency in Spanish is valued in a facility whose clients are primarily Hispanic. At Gouverneur, Mr. Gonzalez leads efforts to integrate behavioral health into primary care by participating as a member of the Integrated Care Committee and the Primary Care Behavioral Health Subcommittee. Mr. Gonzalez was one of the first nurse practitioners at Gouverneur to be waived to prescribe buprenorphine. At RCC, Mr. Gonzalez successfully integrated a buprenorphine clinic and screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) into routine clinical practice.

Mr. Gonzalez is the recipient of the 2018 American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Substance Use Disorders Evidence-Based Training Award. Mr. Gonzalez is also a 2018 American Psychiatric Nurses Association Board of Directors student scholar.



**Jaenelle Grace, MSN, RN, CRNP, PMHNP-BC**, is enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2010

and her Master of Science in Nursing in 2017 both from UAB. Currently, she is completing a post-graduate psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner residency program through a joint partnership between the Birmingham VA Medical Center (BVAMC) and the UAB school of nursing. Mrs. Grace will complete her doctorate program next year

While at the BVAMC, she has gained specialized experience by completing rotations through the PTSD clinic, Homeless Clinic, Mental Health Intensive Case Management, Suicide Prevention Coordination, Crisis Team, and Residential Care Coordination. Through her experience working on the Addiction Recovery Unit at UAB Hospital and rotating through the Outpatient substance use clinic (OSAC) at the BVAMC, she developed a passion for substance abuse prevention and treatment in underserved African American populations. Mrs. Grace will begin working in corrections this fall where she plans to focus her clinical work on improving the continuity of mental health care for inmates released from prison, with a special focus on barriers to African American's access to care once they are released.

Mrs. Grace is a member of the American Nurses Association and American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). At the upcoming APNA 32nd annual conference, she, along with her colleagues, will present a

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*The MFP National Advisory Committee (NAC) reviews and scores applications based on a set of uniform criteria. Admission decisions are based on a composite of information including applicants previous academic performance, letters of recommendations, relevant professional activities, published manuscripts and presentations, proposed research and/or clinical projects and a scholarly essay that clearly demonstrates the applicants knowledge of mental health and/or substance use and a commitment to a career dedicated to either research, practice, education, and policy and focused on the reduction of health disparities in mental health and/or substance use disorders, prevention, treatment and recovery. Each application is considered using the same criteria and only the top scoring applications are accepted.*

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mini concurrent educational session on the importance of screening for traumatic brain injury in mental health care.



**Joi Breanna Henry MSN, RN, CNL**, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner at Rush University College of Nursing. She plans to focus her doctoral project on mental health awareness and education for minority adolescents in the Chicagoland. Ms. Henry received her Bachelor's degree in Biology at Monmouth College and her Generalist Entry Master's (GEM) degree from Rush University College of Nursing in 2016. During her time as a GEM student she was a Robert Wood Johnson scholar as well as a mentor and she presented at the 2016 American Public Health Association's national conference.

Ms. Henry began her career as a substance abuse nurse working with patients addicted to opiates undergoing medication-assisted treatment. Currently, she works as a classroom nurse at a therapeutic day school providing individualized care to students with an autism spectrum disorder as well as other social and emotional disorders. Her goal is to increase mental health awareness for adolescent minorities through education and early intervention. Another long-term goal is to expand the availability of culturally informed mental health care and increase awareness and availability of early intervention services in minority and underserved communities.

She is a member of the American Public Health Association, the American Nurses Association and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



**Roxanne Jeffries-Baxter GNP-BC/FNP-BC, RN**, is currently enrolled at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's dual degree Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)/ Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program.

Ms. Jeffries-Baxter's career has included both medical and mental health clinical experiences across many settings including long term-care to home care to corrections. Additionally, she has experience as a nurse in inpatient and outpatient psychiatric and substance abuse treatment facilities. In her current practice, she provides treatment to clients with substance abuse and co-occurring mental illness in which clear evidence also exist between addiction and childhood trauma, mental illness, and economic insecurity.

Ms. Jeffries-Baxter is interested in increasing the opiate recovery success rate among adolescence and young adults by implementing Buprenorphine treatment in the Methadone Maintenance Clinic where she practices. She is also interested in exploring the effects of trauma treatment on substance abuse recovery rates. She is proficient at providing mental health care as a Family/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner with optimal outcomes.

She is an active member of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) where she has contributed to unit and facility based educational activities. She also serves as a preceptor and mentor for new and novice nurses and Nurse Practitioners.



**Daisy Lara, MSN, RN, CRNP, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC**, is pursuing a DNP at Wilmington University, New Castle, DE. Her DNP project will focus on the integration of a Spanish-speaking Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner within a primary care office for mental health services.

Mrs. Lara has extensive advance practice nursing experience. She has worked as a lead nurse practitioner in an inpatient psychiatric facility where she provided mental health services to the adult, geriatric and adolescent population including those on the specialized eating disorder unit. Mrs. Lara worked as a care coordination specialist within the hospital system providing psychiatric consultations and provided

psychiatric services, advocacy and support using tele-psychiatry to surrounding community hospitals. She currently works in an outpatient community facility and a sub-acute dual diagnosis facility providing evidenced based substance and mental health recovery services.

She participated in Solid Rock International's mission trip to the Dominican Republic where she provided medical and psychiatric services. Mrs. Lara has worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing. She currently is a community mental health educator and is a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor and QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) instructor, which is a suicide prevention program. Mrs. Lara is member of the Chester County Suicide Prevention Task Force and Educational Committee.

She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), American Nurses Association (ANA), Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the National Association of Hispanic Nurses including the Philadelphia Chapter.



**Douglas A. Reed, MS, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC**, is enrolled at Johns Hopkins University's DNP program. He is interested in exploring factors that contribute to successful engagement and adherence in patients of color with mental illness. In his current role at Brightpoint Health, a federally qualified health care center, he provides full scope psychiatric services across the lifespan in an outpatient mental health setting in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Additionally, he provides consultative psychiatric services to sex offenders under the auspices of the New York State Office of Mental Health and The Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Mr. Reed obtained his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Howard University located in Washington, D.C. He began his nursing career in the intensive care unit for several years before transitioning into community health nursing. He worked at Whitman Walker Clinic as a HIV

adherence nurse responsible for providing direct nursing care to individuals living with HIV, teaching public health and nursing student's content around infectious disease, and overseeing a night STD clinic. Realizing that he wanted to enhance his engagement in direct patient care, he earned his Master of Science from The University of Maryland, becoming certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner. He worked several years as the primary care provider for homeless individuals with severe mental illness under a grant sponsored by SAMHSA titled "Health Works" with the sole aim to integrate primary and behavioral health care. Realizing the importance of integrative care, Mr. Reed pursued additional training at The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, followed by board certification as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

Mr. Reed is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) and Chi Eta Phi.



**Brianna Michelle Singleton, MPH, RN, PHH, AGPCNP-BC**, is currently enrolled at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) where she is pursuing a PhD in nursing. Her research topic focuses on the

effects of occupational burnout and social determinants of health such as housing stability and commuting among Bay Area transit workers.

She entered the inaugural Master of Public Health cohort at UCSF and became the school's first Vice President of Administrative Affairs. She then matriculated into the MSN program at UCSF where she served as Diversity in Action Advocate (DIVA) and Nursing Student of Color member.

Ms. Singleton has always been committed to increasing health equity for societies most vulnerable populations. As a student at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), she volunteered at the student run homeless clinic. After graduating from UCR, she worked with adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. For three years

she was a coordinator for the 'Health of Incarcerated People' elective and health educator for incarcerated women. She currently works at St. James Infirmary, a peer-based occupational health and safety clinic for sex workers and their families as the continuity care nurse practitioner.



**LeTizia Baxter Smith, MSN, RN**, is pursuing a DNP at Emory School of Nursing in Atlanta, Ga. She is a psychiatric-mental health nurse and nurse educator. She is a faculty instructor at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She works diligently with students and agencies across the U.S. to establish high quality psychiatric clinical placement experiences and is the curriculum committee chair elect for the MSN programs at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Mrs. Smith is also an active supporter of the Diversity and Inclusion committee efforts at the university.

Her quality improvement efforts will focus on clinician attrition among providers in community mental health settings. Currently, she provides behavioral health care at a community mental health agency treating the severe and persistent mentally ill population to strengthen their functioning in the community to decrease their risk for hospitalization. She is dedicated to improving healthcare disparities among minorities, improving the access and quality of care for vulnerable populations, and increasing the number of minority nurse educators in the field of nursing.

Mrs. Smith is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA), and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF).



**Melissa Anne Smith, MSN, RN** is working towards a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)-Doctorate Nurse Practitioner (DNP) degree with the University of South Alabama. She earned an Associates in nursing degree from Mercer County Community College. She started her career as a staff nurse with Trenton Psychiatric Hospital while completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing Education from Thomas Edison State University. Currently, her research goal is to develop and integrate a standardized mental healthcare model.

Ms. Smith is the Mental Health Educator and the Prevention and Management of Disruptive Behavior (PMDDB) Program Coordinator for a Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center. She also serves as faculty with the Jersey College of Nursing and Drexel University and cares for patients with mental illness and substance use disorders as a per diem staff nurse on a Dual Diagnosis Unit.

Ms. Smith is passionate about mentoring, increasing culturally competent care for minorities with mental illness, and eradicating stigma. She is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, and the Eastern Nursing Research Society.



**Kizito Nakokunya Wenani, MPH, RN, MSN**, is seeking a DNP in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing at The Ohio State University College of Nursing. Mr. Wenani obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and a minor in Community Development from the Catholic University of East Africa, Kenya. He received a Master of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. He is a psychiatric-mental health nurse at a Veterans Administration (VA) psychiatric hospital in Tomah, WI.

Prior to nursing, Mr. Wenani worked both as a hospital chaplain and a chaplain for Tyson Foods, Inc. Missouri for more than 10 years. He has also served as a Swahili

Cultural diplomat with the US Department of State where he taught Swahili and East African culture to the United States diplomats whose deployment countries were Kenya and Tanzania.

He started his career as a community health care worker in Tanzania before moving to the United States in 2005 to study for his graduate degree in Theology. Years of service as a catholic priest, a hospital chaplain and Tyson Foods Factory chaplain in rural Midwest helped him to identify a need for minority mental health professionals which influenced his change in career path to psychiatric mental health.

Mr. Wenani is a member of the American Nurses Association.

has caused those needing mental health and substance abuse services to have limited resources for treatment.

She is a member of Black Nurses Rock and served as President (2016-2017) of the Mobile Bay Area chapter, which was the recipient of the Health and Wellness Award for their community involvement. She has served on the board for Project Hope, an organization to assist those returning from prison to reestablish their rights and family situations. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), American Nurses Association and Alabama State Nurses Association.

## Re-Appointed Fellows



**Agnes D White, MSN, RN**, is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Walden University and plans to pursue her Post Graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

certificate from the University of Alabama. Mrs. White has a Master of Nursing from the University of South Alabama and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Mobile (formerly Mobile College). She is currently a faculty member at Bishop State Community College where she has taught students from the entry level, mobility track and the senior students transitioning into their roles as professional RN's. While serving as a program director (2014-2017) at Virginia College she was instrumental in initiating a new program, Patient Care Technicians/Certified Assistant Nurses (PCT/CAN).

Mrs. White has an American Nurse's Credentialing Certification in Perinatal Nursing and has worked over 18 years in Obstetrics and Gynecology. While working as an OB/GYN nurse, she also worked as a psychiatric nurse. Mrs. White has an interest in solving mental health issues in the community including the co-existence of substance abuse that is increasing at a high rate, especially opioid use. The closure of mental health facilities in the state of Alabama and across the nation



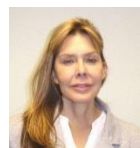
**Griselle Batista Estrada, MSN, RN**, is a wife, mother, psychiatric-mental health nurse, and nurse educator. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor and faculty at the

Student Success Center at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) College of Nursing and Health Innovation. Ms. Estrada has also served as a faculty advisor for the Hispanic Student Nursing Association at UTA since 2011 and was recognized as Faculty Advisor of the Year by the university in 2015.

Ms. Estrada obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Puerto Rico. She initiated her career as a medical-surgical nurse in Puerto Rico before moving to the United States. Years of volunteer service as a ministry leader in the faith community helped her to identify a need for Spanish-speaking mental health professionals. She chose to switch her career path, received a Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Miami, and became a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. In 2006, Ms. Estrada recognized her love of teaching and transitioned into full-time nursing education. Currently, Ms. Estrada is seeking a PhD in Nursing at Duquesne University School of Nursing. Her research

focus is suicide prevention and mental health promotion in the Hispanic population.

She is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau, and the American Nurses Association. Ms. Estrada is passionate about mentoring, promoting student success, raising awareness for mental health issues, and serving the Hispanic community. She is thrilled about her appointment as an MFP Fellow and hopes this wonderful opportunity will continue to build her knowledge, cultural competence, and leadership skills. Credentialing Center (ANCC) as a Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She is also certified with distinction by the Neuroscience Education Institute's Master Psychopharmacology Program. Ms. Bounds has extensive professional experiences with youths and their families. For example, she has practiced at Cook County Juvenile Detention Center where she supervised their overall day-to-day treatment. She has also worked in an acute in-patient child and adolescent psychiatric service at Rush University.



**Cynthia Taylor Greywolf, DNP, PMHNP-BC**, is pursuing a PhD at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, in Honolulu, HI. Her research will focus on substance abuse prevention and treatment in underserved Pacific Islander populations in Hawaii. Currently, she provides behavioral health care at one of the 14 federally supported community health centers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai which is 62 percent Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islanders.

Ms. Greywolf has extensive advance practice nursing experience. She has served as the attending practitioner on a busy inpatient psychiatric unit in Boston, MA where she provided mental health and substance abuse treatment to underserved ethnically diverse older adults. She has provided psychiatric and substance use direct care in homeless shelters and led teams of health professionals in community settings in the treatment, prevention, and recovery from mental health and substance abuse disorders. She has provided education

to include the best evidence-based interventions to support recovery to varied medical teams on health disparities experienced by underserved minorities suffering from addiction to alcohol, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin.

Ms. Greywolf was born and raised in the high desert of northeastern New Mexico and the Boston Mountains of southeastern Oklahoma. She spent her formative years growing up as a member of the Cherokee Nation in rural Oklahoma where she developed a keen interest, love and appreciation for cultural diversity.



**Erica Joseph, DNP, PMHNP-BC, APRN, NP-C**, is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and plans to pursue a PhD at the Southern University & A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. Mrs.

Joseph's phenomenon of interest is suicide and substance abuse prevention and understanding the barriers to psychological treatment for African Americans who have been diagnosed with mental illness in primary care settings within the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System.

As a board certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner, Mrs. Joseph provides individualized case management services to Veterans with severe mental illnesses and their families in order to strengthen their functioning in community settings and to reduce the occurrence of re-hospitalization at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare Systems' Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program

Additionally, she was instrumental in the start of tobacco cessation classes at the Baton Rouge Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic which lead to her award as a 2014 Champion for Tobacco Cessation by the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). She was also selected as the 2015 Advance Practice Nurse of the Year by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation/Louisiana State Nurses Association and is the 2015 recipient of the Edith Lobue Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Baton Rouge Nurses Association. Mrs. Joseph is a member of

the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and serves as Treasurer of the Louisiana Chapter, the American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, the Louisiana State Nurses Association and the Baton Rouge District Nurses Association



**Angel Johann Solorzano Martinez, DNP, RN, BSN, PHN, MBA, MSN** is enrolled in the PhD program at Florida Atlantic University, in Boca Raton, FL. His research interest is psychiatric nursing, prevention and management of

substance abuse disorders for individuals with a dual diagnosis. Mr. Martinez is passionate about caring for patients with mental illness and substance abuse disorders and has years of clinical experience working as a staff and relief charge nurse in the acute adult and geriatric inpatient psychiatric units at the Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. Mr. Martinez currently works part-time as a nursing clinical instructor in psychiatric mental health at the University of San Francisco. As a bilingual (Spanish and English) registered nurse he is able to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate nursing care and health education to better assist populations of various socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. He has received various recognitions for his teaching excellence.

Additionally, Mr. Martinez is actively engaged in the Bay Area communities as a volunteer educating patients and people about health practices, management and prevention of substance abuse disorders.

He was born and raised in Guatemala and immigrated to the United States in the late 90s. He has since earned an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) from the City College of San Francisco, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Masters' Degree in Nursing (MSN) from San Francisco State University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Dominican University of California. Mr. Martinez enjoys spending free time with his family and loved ones, listening to music and dancing, and exploring the world through his travels.



**Marie A. Smith-East, PMHNP-BC, MSN, MS, EMT-B**, is a PhD nursing student at the University of Central Florida. Marie is board-certified as a Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and has worked in the

community mental health setting over the past six years. In education, she has been a nursing clinical instructor and facilitator, contributing to curriculum and policy development. Marie's research interests include factors that contribute to medication adherence, particularly in minority populations with schizophrenia spectrum disorders. Her focus includes metabolic side effects and caloric intake as it relates to the use of psychotropic medications. In her spare time, Marie enjoys volunteering with the "On-Call Team" of the Schizophrenia and Related Alliance Disorders of America and serving on the Addictions Council of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



**Audrey Alana Strock, MSN, RN** is a first year DNP Student at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Denver, Colorado. For more than a decade, Audrey has worked concurrently in psychiatry

and critical care and is board certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) as an Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner as well as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Her clinical practice area will focus on integrative medicine and will build on her current program involving mental health providers in the system as primary care providers.

Audrey has worked with and developed many programs that have adopted the integrative model and currently works as a nurse practitioner in an integrative care system that seamlessly integrates mental and physical health. Additionally, she is conducting research on the association of substance abuse in minority children and adolescents as a result of bullying and how this may also attribute to gun violence in schools. She plans to develop preventative tools and early screenings for parents and



care providers, primary care providers, and schools during her doctoral program.

Audrey received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Colorado State University and in 2011 graduated Magna cum Laude with a BSN in Nursing from Regis University and in 2016 received her Master's Degree in Nursing as both an Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner from the University of Colorado where she is a Student Ambassador.

Audrey was appointed a Fellow among the inaugural cohort of SAMHSA Now is the Time: Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (NITT: MFP-Y) during the academic FY 2015-2016 and is an active member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, National Association of Hispanic Nurses, International Association of Clinical Research Nurses, Colorado Society of Clinical Specialists in Psychiatric Nursing, American Nurses Association, American Association of Critical Care Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She also volunteers at the Prairie View High School- Bully Prevention Groups and the Lutheran Medical Center- Stigma Reducing Training.



**Udaya Thomas, MSN, MPH, ARNP**, is a PhD in Nursing student at Walden University in the Interdisciplinary Health track. Udaya is working as a Nurse Practitioner at South Broward Community Health Services with a

focus on innovative group health initiatives. Udaya also holds certificates in integrative health coaching, yoga, and is a master trainer. She is a Johns Hopkins University Master's prepared and Board Certified Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Public Health Specialist. Udaya works with individuals and groups, utilizing preventative health and movement solutions to assist others in obtaining and maintaining optimal health. Udaya has worked in community development, hospital and community health nursing, domestic and international public health programs, research studies, HIV, prison health, managed care, primary care, and hospice. In Nursing education, she has been a clinical instructor, created curriculum and contributed to educational policy. Working alongside her colleagues, Udaya looks forward to integrating her various experiences to influence the uptake of behavioral health in primary care in her current health system and perhaps beyond.



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# \*SAVE THE DATE

## MFP Doctoral Fellows Virtual Orientation

October 18, 2018  
8-9pm/ET

\*Login instructions forthcoming

