Curriculum Vitae

Dianne Davis-Wagner, PhD, MSW, ACSW, CEAP, HS-BCP

Associate Professor | School of Social Work | Norfolk State University

Professional Summary

Accomplished social work scholar, educator, and practitioner with over 30 years of leadership in higher education, research, community engagement, and executive consulting. Expertise spans mental health, social policy, human trafficking, veterans' well-being, and intersectionality in higher education. Published author and peer reviewer for leading journals, with extensive experience in curriculum design, grant acquisition, and mentoring doctoral candidates. Recognized for building cross-disciplinary collaborations, advancing diversity and equity initiatives, and training future social workers to meet the challenges of practice, policy, and community empowerment.

Education

- Ph.D., Social Work, Norfolk State University, 2000
- Doctor of Social Work (DSW), Norfolk State University, 2000
- Master of Social Work (MSW), Norfolk State University, 1977
- Bachelor of Arts (BA), Sociology, Norfolk State University, 1969

Academic Appointments

- Associate Professor, The Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work(2024-present),
- Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Norfolk State University (2018–Present)
- Adjunct Professor, Tidewater Community College (2007–2020)
- Adjunct Professor, Norfolk State University (2001–2014)
- Adjunct Professor, Paul D. Camp Community College (1985–1986)

Professional Experience

- President & CEO, JRON Associates, Inc. (1985–2014)
- Executive Director (Part-Time), Contact Tidewater 24-Hour Crisis Counseling (1986–1990)
- Social Work Membership Consultant, NASW Virginia (1985–1986)
- Vice President of Operations, Computron (1981–1985)
- Community Planning Analyst & Federal Grants Manager, City of Portsmouth, VA (1977–1981)
- Academic Consultant, Hampton University – Black Family Institute (1987–1988)

Scholarship

Peer-Reviewed Publications (Selected)

- NEVELS, B. J., Ericksen, K., DAVIS-WAGNER, D. L., Brown-Meredith, E., Riddick, P., Holley, P. D. (2025). The sweeping reach of COVID 19: From public health emergencies and psychological turbulence to upheaval and environmental transformation.
- DAVIS-WAGNER, D. L., LIVINGSTON, V., CHUNG, I. (2025). The therapeutic accord: The impact of subjective religiosity on the utilization of mental health services among college students. Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 35(4), 552-567. DOI=10.1080/10911359.2024.2318446
- NEVELS, B. J., Ericksen, K., DAVIS-WAGNER, D. L., Brown-Meredith, E., Riddick, P., Holley, P. D. (2025). Behind the Frontlines: Black Male Social Workers and the Weight of Structural Bias. Journal of Medical Inventions and Clinical Case Reports, 1(2).
- NEVELS, B. J., Ericksen, K., DAVIS-WAGNER, D. L., Brown-Meredith, E., Riddick, P., Holley, P. D. (2025). The Sweeping Reach of COVID-19: from Public Health Emergencies and Psychological Turbulence to Upheaval and Environmental Transformation. Journal of Medical Inventions and Clinical Case Reports, 1(2).
- Davis-Wagner, D., Jackson Nevels, B., Livingston, V., Chung, I., & Ericksen, K. S. (2024). The Intersectionality of Race, Gender, and Low-Wage Workers. Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work.
- Livingston, V., Jackson-Nevels, B., Davis-Wagner, D., Chung, I., & Greene, G. (2024). Flourishing and Psychological Well-Being of HBCU Students During a Pandemic. Social Work in Mental Health.
- Livingston, V., Jackson-Nevels, B., Davis-Wagner, D., Chung, I., & Manley, C. K. (2024). Religiosity and Mental Health Service Utilization Among College Students. Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment.
- Livingston, V., Chung, I., Davis-Wagner, D., Ericksen, K., Jenkins, V., & Neely, S. (2021). Help-Seeking Behaviors of HBCU Students. Journal of Social Work in Mental Health.
- Livingston, V. & Davis-Wagner, D. (2020). Two Sides of the Same Coin: The Pros and Cons of Continuing Education. Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping.

Manuscript Reviewer

- Families in Society (Sage Publications), 2020–Present
- American Public Health Association

Conference Presentations (Selected)

- Phillip Riddick, Ahfiya Howard, Dianne Davis-Wagner, Marilyn Lewis, Kirsten S. Ericksen, Ti'onna Thomas, Emmauel Drugale, Brock Pettaway, Taysha Kee, Jeton McClinton, and Isiah Marshall Jr. " Understanding and Addressing Suicide Risk Among African American Veterans: Barriers, Belonging, and Community-Based Solutions Post 190 (May 2026)

- Empowering Resilience: Using Group Work to Foster Collective Healing and Social Change. IASWG, June 2025. Dianne Davis-Wagner, Breshell Nevels, and Kirsten Swedenburg-Ericksen
- Imposter Syndrome: Undermining Female Professionals. CNU Global Women's Conference, March 2025. Breshell Nevels, Dianne Davis-Wagner, Kirsten-Swedenburg-Ericksen, Erica Brown-Meridith, and Paris Holley,
- Navigating Leadership Anxiety: Intersectional Challenges Faced by Women of Color and International Women, International Nurses Conference, Breshell Nevels, Dianne Davis-Wagner, Kirsten Ericksen, Erica Brown-Meredith, and Paris Holley, October 2024

- African American Veterans, "Dealing with the Past While Coping with Today" Presentation Post 190, Phillip Riddick and Dianne Davis-Wagner, May, 2024
- Imposter Syndrome: Myth or Reality Among Social Workers, National Association of Social Workers, Virginia Chapter Conference, March 2024. Breshell Nevels, and Dianne Davis-Wagner,
- The Black Superwoman and Opportunities for Allostatic Overload. Dianne Davis-Wagner and Valjean Livingston—Global Status of Women and Girls Conference, Christopher Newport University, March 2023
- Global Social Problems and the Role of Social Work, Presentation for International Social Work Conference, March 24, 2022 Norfolk State University
- Grief and COVID, Eastern Virginia Medical School GRAND Rounds, April 8, 2021, Webinar
- HBCU Institute for the Study of Modern-Day Slavery Training Workshop Human Trafficking October 16, 2021 Tugaloo College, Mississippi

Grants & Fellowships

- Co-Investigator, Veterans Suicide Grant (2024–Present)
- Principal Investigator, Human Trafficking Awareness Grant, NSU & Tugaloo Institute (2020–Present)
- Minority Fellowship Award for Doctoral Study, Council on Social Work Education (1997–2000)

University Service

- Ph.D. Program Committee (2020–Present)
- Curriculum Committee (2018–Present)
- MSW Graduate Committee (2018–Present)
- Admissions Committee (2018–Present)
- Chair, Macro Committee (2020–2021)
- Chair, Marketing & Program Committee (2021–2022)

Dissertation Committees

- Renita Jamison (2021–Present). Resilience in Women with Post-Sex Trafficking Experiences.
- Tracy Johnson (2017–2020). Racial Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System.

Awards & Honors

- Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellow
- Outstanding Adjunct Teaching Award, Tidewater Community College (2016)
- Commonwealth of Virginia 'Best of the Best' Small Business Award (2001)
- Outstanding Community Leaders Award, YWCA (1992)
- Outstanding Citizens Award, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (1991)
- Outstanding Community Service Award, Portsmouth Central Civic Forum (1977, 1998)
- All-American City Award Citation, City of Portsmouth (1976)

Certifications

- Certified Online Professor (ACUE)
- Quality Matters Online Teaching Certification
- Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP)
- Certified Critical Incident Debriefer & Peer Support Counselor
- ACSW – Academy of Certified Social Workers
- HS-BCP – Human Services Board Certified Practitioner

Professional & Community Memberships

- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- International Association of Social Work with Groups (IASWG)
- Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA)
- Association for Community Organization and Social Action (ACOSA)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Social Action Committee)
- City of Chesapeake's Clarence Cuffee Scholarship Committee
- Portsmouth Police Chief's Community Relations Advisory Committee
- Alumni Member, The Links, Inc.