

# Lakesha Knatt, MSW

[knattl@seattleu.edu](mailto:knattl@seattleu.edu)

[www.linkedin.com/lakeshaknatt/](http://www.linkedin.com/lakeshaknatt/)  
Seattle, WA

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## EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, WA Sept. 2003-June 2006  
Master of Social Work (MSW)

Study Abroad: Cuba March 2004  
*Research areas: Cuban Race Relations, Afro-Cuban Spirituality,  
Universal Health/Education Systems*

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ Aug. 1998-May 2002  
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology  
Minor: African-American Studies

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## RELEVANT SKILLS

- Presentation/facilitation skills (large and small group)
  - Counseling/career advising skills
  - Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (with emphasis on serving minoritized communities: low income, people of color, LGBTQ veterans, people with disabilities, immigrant/refugees, undocumented, etc.)
  - Staff supervision and development
  - Curriculum development for career education and youth development courses and workshops
  - Research interests related to the African Diaspora, including African identity formation, African faith traditions in the West, and Pan-African community leadership and development
  - 10+ years of experience as a Social Worker in Seattle, working primarily with communities of color addressing issues of education, housing and healthcare
  - Multimedia approach to teaching and learning to accommodate diverse learning styles
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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Police and Society- Winter 2014, Spring 2014 (3 credit)
  - Poverty in America- Winter 2014, Spring 2014 (3 credit)
  - African-American Models of Success- Fall 2015, Winter 2015 (3 credit UCOR)
  - Senior Seminar (Social Work)- 2017-2018 (1 credit)
  - Senior Seminar (Social Work)-2018- current (1 credit)
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## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Regional Program Manager, College Success Foundation Sept. 2017-current  
Seattle, WA

- Supported 9 professional school-based advisers and three AmeriCorps members in ten schools within the Auburn and Highline School Districts
- Provided ongoing staff development trainings and coaching to staff to improve the quality of services to students while also supporting the unique professional interests of staff.
- Collaborated with school districts to promote college access work and increase high school graduation rates and student persistence in college.
- Partnered with other external partners working in the schools, and in surrounding communities to provide additional support and resources to staff and students.
- Participate in agency-wide systems change work, strategic planning and implementation of processes to improve overall efficiencies.

**Assistant Director**, Seattle University  
Seattle, WA

Oct. 2013-Nov. 2016

- Advised students on their career development and exploration, utilizing NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) core competencies and culturally appropriate practices
- Facilitated and developed curriculum for career education workshops and assessments for on-campus partners including faculty, staff and student clubs
- Led department in integrating cultural consciousness in our team as well as in our work with students and partners
- Implemented industry-focused model with employers, alumni and students with interest in the following industries: Arts & Media, Government, Human Services, Education
- Managed a career mentoring program for students and alumni to support students in building their professional network
- Developed targeted and customized programming for minoritized students in partnership with employers, faculty and staff
- Collaborated across divisions and departments with student affairs offices as well as academic departments and academic advising to integrate career education into student experience
- Coordinated career development events with and for academic departments (ex. Social Work Professional Development Night, etc.)

**Family Services Director**, Habitat for Humanity  
Renton, WA

Apr. 2011-Aug. 2012

- Managed the selection process for low income families seeking first-time homeownership in the Seattle and South King County areas
- Developed and facilitated culturally appropriate homeowner education courses for families to support their homeownership preparation
- Wrote policy briefs and lobbied in Olympia for housing laws to increase equity and access for low income homebuyers
- Collaborated with external partners (community leaders, educational and financial institutions and advocacy organizations) and internal partners to provide resources and support services to families
- Coordinated across departmental teams to organize community events to celebrate homeowners, volunteers and donors participating in building Habitat homes
- Tracked the ongoing success of Habitat homeowners in a longitudinal study, showing a success rate of over 80%.
- Managed department budget and grant reporting for Family Services programs

**Program Development Manager**, First Place School  
Seattle, WA

Aug. 2008-Apr. 2011

- Supervised a statewide dropout prevention program targeting low income students of color in grades 5-12.
- Collaborated with community leaders, educators and advocacy organizations to design curriculum to increase self-efficacy, build community networks, and decrease dropout rates for over 200 students across Washington state
- Managed a \$280,000 grant over the course of two years, including budgeting and quarterly grant reporting to OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction)
- Developed a consulting arm for the school to provide training and consultation to partner organizations serving a similar student population
- Coordinated a therapeutic after school program for 60+ students ages 3-12 with focus on arts and recreation, advocacy education and academic tutoring.

**Family Case Manager**, First Place School  
Seattle, WA

Aug. 2006-Aug. 2008

- Managed a caseload of 15 families in transition while offering health, educational and career resources.
  - Collaborated with classroom teachers, health care professionals, parents and housing managers to provide comprehensive care for low income students of color and their families.
  - Developed and facilitated conflict resolution curriculum for students in grades 5 and 6, focused on self-advocacy
  - Coordinated school-wide events for community partners, volunteers, students and families
  - Coordinated lobby efforts in Olympia for students and families to support health care, education and housing bills
  - Provided transportation to and from appointments at community agencies for families and students to increase access to services
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**Program Coordinator**, Atlantic Street Center  
Seattle, WA

Jan. 2004-Aug. 2006

- Coordinated youth programs for 9-18 year olds in the NewHolly Neighborhood of Southeast Seattle (at the time, the most diverse zip code in the country: 98118)
  - Led weekly educational field trips to environmental and cultural sites across the Greater Seattle area
  - Facilitated fundraising efforts with youth, including applying for a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant to cover expenses for community building activities, including an annual Back to School event
  - Partnered with community leaders to coordinate and facilitate first annual African and African-American Community Forum for NewHolly community members to address youth violence and cultural tensions among African-American and East African youth and families
  - Provided transportation for youth attending community service and educational events
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## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Blackpast.org- Ambassador Project working with Dr. Quintard Taylor, Professor of African-American History at University of Washington
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## **PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES:**

- 2015- 2016- Seattle University: Event Coordinator for Annual Africa Day event
  - 2015-2016- Seattle University Veterans Advisory Council Member
  - 2015-2016- Seattle University: College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board Member
  - 2014-2016- Seattle University: Academic and Career Advising Network Member
  - 2014-2016- Seattle University: Regional Representative for AJCU (Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities)
  - 2014- 2015- Seattle University: Teaching Assistant in Global African Studies department
  - 2014-2016- Seattle University: Fulbright Scholarship Review Committee Member
  - 2008-2016- Seattle University: Practicum Instructor
  - 2008-2011- University of Washington: Practicum Instructor
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## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers)
  - NASW (National Association of Social Workers)
  - NABSW (National Association of Black Social Workers)
  - African Diaspora Consortium
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## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 2014- present- Seattle Women's Steel Pan Project: Member
  - 2015- present- [www.blackpast.org](http://www.blackpast.org): Independent Historian
  - 2011-2014- Songea's Kids: Board Member and Education/Industry Workgroup Lead
  - 2011-2013- Austin Foundation: Board Member
  - 2008-2011- University of Washington: Practicum Instructor
  - 2008-2010- Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless: Committee Member
  - 2008-2010- South King County Alliance for Social Services: Committee Member
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## **REFERENCES**

- Dr. Wilson Edward Reed, Adjunct Professor, Seattle University
- Riva Zeff, Clinical Professor, Seattle University
- Angel Asuncion-Reed (OMA/Student Involvement), Seattle University
- Rhonesha Blache, PhD Candidate, Columbia University
- Oriana Estrada, Program Coordinator (OMA), Bellevue College
- Neal Lester, Professor of African-American Literature, Arizona State University
- Quintard Taylor, Professor Emeritus African American History, University of Washington