



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S

COLLEGE of HUMANITIES *and* SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER *of*
SOCIAL WORK

CONVOCATION

84

TWENTY EIGHTH OF APRIL, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX



MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Utah Valley University

12:00 pm, Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Grand Ballroom, Sorensen Student Center

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Introduction and Welcoming Remarks.....Kristin Lambert, Ph.D.
Program Director, Master of Social Work

Student Speaker Emilee Hastings
President, MSW Student Association

Keynote Speaker.....Angelea Panos, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Director, SUDC Program

Presentation and Hooding of Graduates

Closing Remarks Steven C. Clark, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

MSW cohort photo, celebration, and reception for graduates and guests will immediately follow the ceremony in Center Stage.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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DEAR 2026 GRADUATES OF THE MSW PROGRAM,

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone! As the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, I am honored to celebrate this moment with you and to recognize the dedication, hard work, and perseverance that has brought you to this day.



Through your coursework, clinical training, and community engagement, you have learned to listen deeply, think critically, respond ethically, and advocate for those whose voices are too often unheard. We live in a time when there is an increasing need for people with your skill set. I am deeply grateful for your dedication to this work and am excited about the impact that you will have on our community.

To the families, friends, supervisors, and supporters who have walked alongside these graduates – thank you for the essential role you have played in this achievement!

Class of 2026, you will always be part of the UVU and College of Humanities and Social Sciences community. I look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments and hope you will stay connected with the university and with each other.

Congratulations on your remarkable achievement. I wish you the best in your careers and in your personal lives.

Sincerely,

STEVEN C. CLARK, PH.D.

Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

MESSAGE FROM THE MSW FACULTY

DEAR MSW CLASS OF 2026,

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Congratulations on your incredible achievement! Completing the Master of Social Work program is no small feat, and we commend you for your dedication, perseverance, and hard work. You have navigated challenges, sacrificed sleep and time with loved ones, and balanced coursework, practicum hours, jobs, and countless other commitments – all in pursuit of a greater purpose. As seasoned social workers, we assure you that every sacrifice was worth it.

You are entering the field at a time when compassionate, skilled professionals are needed more than ever. You have gained the knowledge, expertise, and passion to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. As you step into this next chapter, we are excited for you to explore the vast opportunities ahead and embrace the profound impact you can make.

As you celebrate this milestone, take a moment to reflect on your resilience and growth. This is just the beginning. Believe in yourselves as much as we believe in you. You have the strength to overcome challenges, the heart to uplift others, and the ability to create lasting change. We are incredibly proud of you – go forth and do good in the world!

Please stay connected – we want to continue celebrating your successes and supporting you on your journey.

With our warmest wishes for a fulfilling and rewarding career,

**UVU MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
PROGRAM FACULTY AND STAFF**

MSW FACULTY AND STAFF

Karla Arroyo, Ph.D., LCSW

Assistant Professor

Malisa Brooks, Ph.D., CSW

Assistant Professor

Lars Eggertsen, Ph.D., LCSW

Associate Professor

**Kristin M. Lambert,
DSW, LCSW**

Assistant Professor

Director, MSW Program

**Clair Mellenthin,
LCSW, RPT-S**

Assistant Professor

**Angelea Panos,
Ph.D., LCSW, LMFT**

Associate Professor

Director, SUDC Program

Sam Ryland, Ph.D., LCSW

Assistant Professor

Doug Wendt, Ph.D., LCSW

Assistant Professor

**Kendra Blinzinger,
MSW, LCSW**

Director, MSW Field Education

Mariel Balzotti, MSW, LCSW

Associate Director,

MSW Field Education

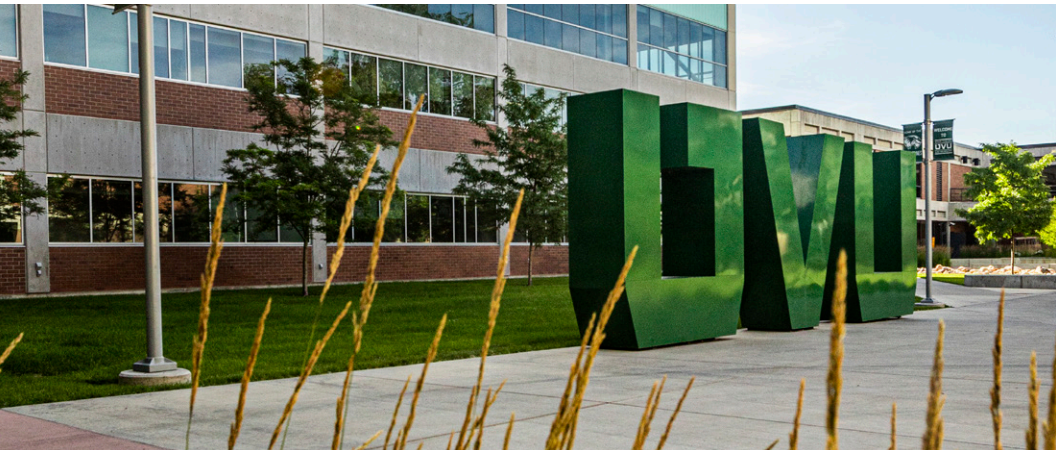
Kyler Wakefield, MPA

MSW Program Manager

Rebecca Sills, BSW

MSW Advisor

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MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

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**The following individuals have earned or
are completing a Master of Social Work:**

Medley Apple	Danielle Gándola
Clark Barrow	Ivy Ghiz
Aidelin Beltran	Hillary Hall
Shaunell Bennett	Whitney Hasler
Emily Bernath	Emilee Hastings
Kayla Bown	Candace Hatfield
Gaby Burnier	Max Heyborne
Keana Casey	Nicole Hill
Adriana Casillas	Garn Hughes
Phil Childs	Jonathan Jensen
Abby Clark	Summer Jensen
Rachael Clements	Emma Johnson
Katie Crofts	Isabel Kumari
Sequoia Day	Tricia Lester
Morgan Dickerson	Jen Lynsky
Abby Espino	Shannon Matos
Rachel Esplin-Slauson	Laura Michaelson
Dallie Fabrizio	Ruth Millet
Rachel Felix	Liz Mismash
Sky Fischer	Jaycee Mitchell

Earned or completing a Master of Social Work, continued:

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	Stephanie Mortensen	Riley Schneiter
	Ashley Nobuhara	Allie Slade
	Aimee O'Brien	Tiffany Sleater
	Jennifer Orellana Paredes	Timothy Smalley
	Nicole Orr	Nikki Smith
	Jacob Pankratz	Angelina Strange
	Kenzie Pence	Jennie Strong
	Lauren Peterson	Tim Temple
	Ana Pizarro Hernández	Oscar Terriquez
	Rocio Ramirez	Illiana Toledo
	Olivia Roberts	Benjamin Tolman
	Jennifer Romero	Haylee Vander Werff
	Sarah Ross	Nicasio Waite Nango
	Kacey Rowe	Noah Weber
	Caleb Ruiz	Derek Wolfgramm
	Savana Sahagun	Stefan Zumbrennen
	Kira Saling	Kimberly Zundel

WITH APPRECIATION

The Master of Social Work Program sincerely thanks the following community partners for supporting our students' learning and growth:

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A New View Counseling and Psychological Services

Alpine Pediatrics

Alpine School District

Apogee Counseling and Wellness

Ardu Recovery

Asian Association of Utah

Aspen Counseling Services

Aspire Counseling

Carbajal Counseling & Consulting

Child and Family Empowerment Services

Department of Veteran Affairs

Dual Immersion Academy

Eagle Mountain Counseling

Family Services

Flourish Therapy

Granite School District

Inner Peace Counseling

Life Stone Counseling

Meadowbrook Counseling

Multicultural Counseling Center

Nebo School District

NeighborWorks

New Beginnings Counseling Group

OASIS Ascent

Provo City School District

Quality Youth Services

Reach Counseling

Red Willow Counseling & Recovery

Redwood Family Therapy

Rocky Mountain Care

Roots & Branches Wellness

Sandstone Psychology

ScenicView Academy

Sego Lily Counseling

Serenity Recovery & Wellness

South Valley Services

Spanish Fork Hospital

Telos

The OCD and Anxiety Treatment Centers

The Refuge

Thrive On Counseling

Utah County Children's Justice Center

Utah Department of Corrections

Utah State Developmental Center

Utah State Hospital

Utah Valley Hospital

UVU Community Mental Health Clinic

Veritas Mental Health

Wasatch Behavioral Health

Watermark Counseling



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