

## Curriculum Vitae

### Brenda Sweeten, MSSW, LCSW

Department of Social Work, College of Public Affairs and Health Sciences  
University of North Texas  
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#### EDUCATION

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| 1996 | Master of Science in Social Work<br>University of Texas at Austin                        |
| 1995 | Bachelor of Arts in Social Work<br>Minor in Business Administration<br>Baylor University |

#### EMPLOYMENT

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| 2024 - present | <b>Clinical Professor   Director of Field Education (UNT BSW &amp; MSW programs)   UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer</b><br>University of North Texas, Denton, Texas   |
| 2022 - 2024    | <b>Clinical Professor   Director of Field Education (Texas Woman's University-University of North Texas Joint MSW &amp; UNT BSW)   UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer</b><br>University of North Texas, Denton, Texas           |
| 2019 - 2022    | <b>Clinical Associate Professor   Director of Field Education (Texas Woman's University-University of North Texas Joint MSW &amp; UNT BSW)   UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer</b><br>University of North Texas, Denton, Texas |
| 2018 - 2019    | <b>Clinical Associate Professor   Director of Field Education   UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer</b><br>University of North Texas, Denton, Texas  |
| 2016 - 2018    | <b>Clinical Assistant Professor   Director of Field Education   UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer</b><br>University of North Texas, Denton, Texas  |
| 2014 - 2016    | <b>Continuing Lecturer   Director of Field Education   UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer</b><br>University of North Texas, Denton, Texas   |
| 2013 - 2014    | <b>Visiting Lecturer   Director of Field Education</b><br>University of North Texas, Denton, Texas   |

2010 - 2013

**Title IV-E Child Welfare Project Coordinator**

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

- Performed multifaceted administrative tasks including program planning, implementation, and monitoring of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Project in the Social Work Program.
- Promoted the IV-E program to meet required contract mandates and to adhere to policies and procedures. Facilitated effective relationships and professional interface with students, community partners, sponsors and others to meet project goals.
- Recruited BSW students who completed final practicum at Child Protective Services and accepted employment upon graduation.
- Developed trainings and annual conference for Region 3 TDFPS child welfare staff.
- Hired and supervised program staff.
- Served as classroom instructor for Child Welfare Policy and Practice, Human Behavior and the Social Environment I, Ethics and Professionalism, and Integrative Seminar courses.

Spring 2010

**Adjunct Instructor**

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

- Child Welfare Policy and Practice (SOWK 4700)

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**PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

January 2002 – January 2023

**Social Study Evaluator-Private Practitioner**

- Conducted court-ordered social studies in private adoption and disputed custody cases. Completed 200+ evaluations and filed with State District Courts.

September 1999 - July 2010

**Program Director**

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County, Inc. (CASA), Denton, Texas

- Managed all program activities for the Court Appointed Guardian ad Litem Program serving over 450 children per year in the custody of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.
- Supervised six casework staff responsible for 100+ volunteers working over 220 cases a year.
- Coordinated 30-hour training for new court appointed volunteer advocates.
- Organized biennial training for Attorneys ad Litem representing children in abuse and neglect cases.
- Maintained and submitted program statistical reporting for local, state and federal funding sources as well as for internal agency purposes.
- Participated in public speaking/community education on behalf of CASA.
- Supervised undergraduate student interns from various degree programs and served as agency liaison with local universities.

September 1998 - September 1999

**Diligent Search Casework Supervisor**

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County, Inc. (CASA), Denton, Texas

- Developed and initiated CASA's Diligent Search Program locating missing parents and relatives of children living in foster care and in the custody of the State of Texas.
- Developed procedures and manual for program.

September 1997 - August 1998

**District Coordinator**

State of Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Orlando, Florida

- Managed a 30-member Ombudsman Council made up of gubernatorially appointed volunteers.
- Assigned and supervised ombudsmen responsible for investigating complaints regarding care and service received in over 200 long-term care facilities in a four-county area in Central Florida.
- Coordinated annual inspections of all long-term care facilities in the District Council's jurisdiction.
- Provided information and referral services to the public, agency staff, ombudsmen and facility staff.
- Recruited new Council members and provided initial orientation, certification and continuing education training for ombudsmen.
- Supervised administrative staff.

May 1996 - September 1997

**Therapist**

Health and Wellness Centers of America, Inc., Waco, Texas

- Conducted individual and family therapy with adult clients diagnosed with myriad psychological and physical disorders.
- Facilitated process, cognitive, and experiential group therapy sessions.
- Participated in biweekly multidisciplinary treatment teams. Completed diagnostic and discharge summaries, psychosocial assessments, referrals, discharge planning, home visits and conducted outpatient follow-up and re-evaluation.
- Supervised undergraduate social work student interns.

**CONTRACT WORK**

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- Contracted with Texas CASA, Inc. Provided Volunteer Management training to new Executive Directors in the 69 member Texas network. (2010, 2011)
- Contracted with Texas CASA, Inc. Authored articles for on-line volunteer newsletters. "Mitigating Grief and Loss in Children" (2010) and "Overcoming Challenges to Adoption: What CASA's Can Do" (2010)
- Contracted with CASA of the Permian Basin, Odessa, Texas. Conducted a comprehensive case file audit and made recommendations to bring program into compliance with National and Texas CASA standards. (August 2012)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, LICENSURE & CERTIFICATIONS

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- Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Texas, License #27208
- Fostering Success Coaching Institute Foundations Level I Coaching Certification
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Texas Practicum Educator's Consortium (TPEC)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- University of North Texas Foundation Community Engagement Award, UNT Foundation. (2024-2025)
- Audacity of Hope Award, Greater Than Expectations, Dallas, Texas. (2025)
- University of North Texas on Campus Friend of the Division of Student Affairs Award. UNT Division of Student Affairs. (2021)
- National Foster Care Month Change Maker Award, Open Hearts Children & Family Services, Dallas, Texas. (2021)
- University of North Texas Bob Rogers Service and Community Engagement Award, UNT Office of the President. (2019)
- University of North Texas 'Fessor Graham Award, UNT Student Government Association. (2017)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County, Inc. 15 Year Service Award. (2017)
- University of North Texas Honor's Day Faculty Recognition. (2013, 2015, 2019)
- University of North Texas College of Public Affairs and Community Service Staff Award for Community Service. (2012)
- University of North Texas Nonprofit Leadership Student Association Outstanding Faculty Award. (2012)
- Kerrville Tivy High School Athletic Hall of Fame. (Inducted 2012)
- 2010 Leadership Denton Alumni. Denton Chamber of Commerce. (2010)
- Baylor "B" (Letterwinner) Association—NCAA Division I Scholarship Athlete
- Golden Key National Honor Society
- Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society
- GTE/Southwest Conference Academic Honor Team
- Dean's List, Baylor University

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

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### Invited Conferences, Workshops, and Presentations

Baker, C. A. & Sweeten, B. L. (October 2025), UNT University Research Day 2025, *Leading at UNT: Exploring intersecting stories in social work practice and academic leadership through co/autoethnography*, UNT Division of Research and Innovation, Denton, Texas, United States of America.

Sweeten, B. (September 2025). *Ethics and professionalism: Building your professional reputation*. University of North Texas G. Brint Ryan College of Business. Professional Leadership Program. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. L. (September 2025). Denton Noon Kiwanis Club Meeting, *Supporting Students with Experience in Foster Care*, Denton Noon Kiwanis Club, Denton, Texas, United States of America.

Sweeten, B. L. (August 2025) Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County Board of Directors Annual Retreat, *Changing the Narrative on Foster Care Outcomes: A Community Response*, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County, Inc., Denton, Texas, United States of America.

Sweeten, B. L. (June 2025). Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) IY Monthly Meeting, *Supporting Students with Experience in Foster Care*, Philanthropic Educational Organization-Collin County, Scottish Rite Hospital; Frisco, Texas, United States of America.

Sweeten, B, Serpico, Todd. (January & March 2025). Education Reach for Texans Webinar Series. *Texas Higher Education Liaison 101 Parts 1 & 2*. Austin, Texas.

Serpico, T., Sweeten, B & Davis, J. (November 2024). Achieving Success Conference, *Supporting Transition Aged Youth's Educational Achievement: Lessons from Texas*. Youth Villages. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Baker, C. & Sweeten, B. (October 2024) Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, "Exploring intersecting stories in social work practice and academic leadership through co/autoethnography." Poster. CSWE, Kansas City, MO, United States of America.

Sweeten, B. (September 2024). *Ethics and professionalism: Building your professional reputation*. University of North Texas G. Brint Ryan College of Business. Professional Leadership Program. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & McClendon, R. (July 2024). *When the village unites: changing the life trajectory of former foster youth*. Voices United, Robson Ranch. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Bernstein, J. (June 2024). *Texas higher education foster care liaisons pre-conference workshop: foster care 101 liaison training*. Listen, Learn and Lead: Staying Student Focused. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Texas Woman's University. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Davis, J. (June 2024). *From PUSH to Reach: Supporting the journey of connected youth*. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Local Permanency Specialist Statewide Summit. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Barrett M., & Karlsen, S. (May 2024). *Education benefits and resources for youth*. Region 3 Foster Care Consortium. Rees Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence. Panel Presentation. Virtual Webinar. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & McClendon, R. (April 2024). *Supporting students with lived experience in foster care: UNT Persevere UNTil Success Happens*. Denton Area Retired School Personnel Association, Denton ISD CH Collins. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (April 2024). *The UNT PUSH program: supporting students with lived experience in foster care*. Denton Evening Rotary Club presentation. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (March 2024). *The UNT PUSH program: supporting students with lived experience in foster care*. Direction 61:3 presentation to youth and mentors. Serve Denton. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (February 2024). *Ethics and professionalism: Building your professional reputation*. University of North Texas G. Brint Ryan College of Business. Professional Leadership Program. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (November 2023). *Transitioning to college and engaging with campus support programs*. Bexar County College Bound Docket. Virtual presentation. San Antonio, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (November 2023). *The UNT PUSH program: supporting students with lived experience in foster care*. UNT College of Science Academic Advisors. University of North Texas. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (October 2023). *Understanding the role of a higher education liaison*. Education Reach for Texans Region 3 Collaboration Meeting. Tarrant County College-Northeast Campus. Hurst, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (October 2023). *Ethics and professionalism: building your professional reputation*. University of North Texas G. Brint Ryan College of Business. Professional Leadership Program. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B., McClendon, R. Gray, E., & Rees, S. (October 2023). *Documentary film screening of "21 and Done."* Panel Presentation. National Association of Social Workers Texas State Conference. Galveston, Texas.

Frey, J. Baker, C., Evans, R. & Sweeten, B. (October 2023). *Breaking down barriers for transgender & gender non-conforming (TGNC) social work students*. National Association of Social Workers Texas State Conference. Galveston, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Davis, J. (August 2023). *From PUSH to Reach: Supporting the journey of connected youth*. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services State Leadership Retreat. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & McClendon, R. (April 2023). *When the village unites: changing the life trajectory of former foster youth*. Debbie and Neal Smatresk OLLI After Five Series. Robson Ranch. University of North Texas Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Norton, C. (April 2023). *Using a community support model on campus: A peers support model*. Reaching Past Red Tape: 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Texas State University. San Marcos, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Norton, C. (April 2023). *Texas higher education foster care liaisons pre-conference workshop: foster care 101 liaison training*. Reaching Past Red Tape: 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Texas State University. San Marcos, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & O'Keefe A. (June 2022). *Texas higher education foster care liaisons pre-conference workshop*. Better Together: 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Virtual conference.

Sweeten, B. (May 2022). *Supporting youth with lived experience in foster care: The UNT PUSH program*. Lewisville Women's Club Meeting. Lewisville, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (March 2022). *Ethics and professionalism: building your professional reputation*. University of North Texas G. Brint Ryan College of Business. Professional Leadership Program. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (January 2022). *Campus support programs for students with experience in foster care*. Court Appointed Special Advocates of Tarrant County (Texas) Lunch and Learn. Fort Worth, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (July 2021). *Supporting youth with lived experience in foster care: The UNT PUSH program*. Cross Timbers Rotary Club Membership Meeting. Flower Mound, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (July 2021). *Supporting youth with lived experience in foster care: campus support programs*. Rees Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence. Children's Medical Center. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (June 2021). *Life after foster care: Is college for me?* Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 Preparation for Adult Living Virtual Conference. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Burleson, F., Choyce, T., Beasley, R. (June 2021). *Foster care alumni panel*. Panel Presentation. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Annual Statewide Teen Virtual Conference. Texas Woman's University. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & O'Keefe A. (June 2021). *Texas higher education foster care liaisons pre-conference workshop*. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Virtual conference.

*Barriers to employment, housing, healthcare, education and legal support for foster youth in the Dallas-Fort Worth region*. (December 2020). Region 3 Foster Care Consortium Meeting. Invited Virtual Panel Presentation. Dallas, Texas.

*Non-tenure track mentoring network (NTMN) promotion and evaluation*. UNT Non-Tenure Track Faculty Meeting. (November 2020). Invited Virtual Panel Presentation. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. *Life after foster care: Is college for me?* (August 2020). Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 Preparation for Adult Living Virtual Conference. Arlington, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & O'Keefe A (June 2020). *Texas higher education foster care liaisons pre-conference workshop*. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. San Angelo, Texas. Postponed to June 2, 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Sweeten, B., Rogers-Mize, K., Baker, T., & O'Keefe, A. (April 2020). *Identifying and serving an invisible student population: foster care alumni*. Texas Association of College & University Student Personnel Administrators. TACUSPA Annual Conference 2020. Virtual Webinar.

Vickery, J., Heard, M., Sweeten, B. (February 2020). *Coalition-building in foster care focus groups*. National Conference for Engaged Scholarship on Foster Alumni. Washington, DC. United States of America.

*Texas tour: voices from foster care*. (October 2019). Invited Panel Moderator. Foster Care Film Community Engagement Project. Texas Woman's University. Denton, Texas.

*What's next for foster care alumni seeking postsecondary education?* (October 2019). Invited Presenter. Denton Noon Kiwanis Club. Denton, Texas.

*The UNT PUSH Program*. (September 2019). Invited Presenter. Denton Noon Lion's Club. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Matteson, S. (June 2019). *Texas higher education foster care liaison pre-conference Workshop*. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. University of Texas at Austin. Austin, Texas.

*Dallas County Community College District 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Foster Care Alumni Panel*. (May 9, 2019). Invited Panelist. Dallas County Community College District. Mountain View College. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Landau, B., Dyke, V. (May 2019). *PUSHing foster care alumni towards success*. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual University of North Texas Student Portrait Symposium. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Mukherjee, D. (October 2018). *Social work's role in helping foster care alumni transition to college*. National Association of Social Workers-Texas 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. Arlington, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Rogers, Keri (June 2018). *Collaborating with the community village: engaging resources to recruit and support foster care alumni*. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Denton, Texas.



Sweeten, B., Williams, E., Choate, A., Davis J., Hernandez, P., Adams, D. (June 2018). *Nothing about us without us: discovering what foster care alumni want and need from you*. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & O’Keefe, A. (June 2018). *Texas higher education foster care liaisons pre-conference workshop*. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Haniah, J., Murillo, A., Schmidt, S., Penate, R. (May 2018). 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dallas County Community College District Alumni Awareness Panel. Invited Foster Care Alumni Panel Discussion.

Sweeten, B., O’Keefe, A. & Haflich, B. (November 2017). *Efforts for youth in foster care: ensuring educational success*. Dallas Bar Association and SMU Dedman School of Law Caruth Institute for Children’s Right Education Symposium. Dallas, Texas.

Gamez, S., O’Keefe, A., Head, R., & Sweeten, B., (October 2017). *Finding funding for invisible students: resources to support homeless and foster care alumni success*. California College Pathways. 2017 Blueprint Conference. Los Angeles, California.

Sweeten, B. & O’Keefe, A. (June 2017). *Texas higher education foster care liaisons pre-conference workshop*. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Texas A&M University-Commerce. Commerce, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Vasquez, M., Evans-Durham, I., & Hernandez, P. (June 2017). *Building momentum on campus: establishing and supporting foster care alumni student organizations*. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Texas A&M University-Commerce. Commerce, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Matteson, S. (May 2017). *The role and function of the university foster care liaison officer: identifying and serving an invisible student group*. Texas Council of Chief Student Affairs Officers Annual Retreat. Austin, Texas.

O’Keefe, A., Gamez, S. Head, R., Lee, C. & Sweeten, B., (March 2017). *Finding funding for invisible students: resources to support homeless and foster care alumni success*. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual NASPA Conference (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education). San Antonio, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Dicke, L., Heffner, A. & Ratliff, P. (November 2016). *Expanding community frontiers: PUSHing for success*. 2016 Texas CASA Conference: Amplifying Voices. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. Davis, J. Powell, K. & Hernandez, P. (November 2016). *What permanency means to us: insights from foster care alumni*. 2016 Texas CASA Conference: Amplifying Voices. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Bustillos-Reynolds, S., Valdez, N., Norton, C. & Jagers, T. (June 2016). *Techniques and practices to identify, track and retain foster care alumni students*. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. El Paso Community College. El Paso, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (November 2015). *The incredibly credible social worker*. Communities in Schools of Greater Tarrant County. Fort Worth, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Whitten, J., Haniah, J., Green, F., Mendoza, J. & Vasquez, M. (September 2015). *A journey of transitions: finding our voices and ourselves*. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 Permanency Summit. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Bustillos-Reynolds, S., Valdez, N., & Jagers, T. (June 2015). *Techniques and practices to identify, track and retain foster care alumni students*. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (May 2015). *The incredibly credible social worker*. Buckner International. Dallas, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (March 2015). *The incredibly credible social worker*. Cancer Care Services. Fort Worth, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Gerlach, B., Davis, J. & Gaspar, A. (February 2014). *Normalcy, empowerment and positive mental health outcomes*. Texas CASA Child Welfare Policy Primer. Austin, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Whitten, J., Hicks, X., Greenhagen, R., Murrillo, A. & Rannabargar, A. (June, 2014). *A journey of transitions: finding our voices and ourselves*. National CASA Association Conference: A Better Life for Every Child. Grapevine, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (June 2014). *Effective advocacy efforts: the incredibly credible CASA*. National CASA Association Conference: A Better Life for Every Child. Grapevine, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (June 2014) *The habits of the highly effective CASA*. Webinar for Texas CASA Network.

Sweeten, B. (October 2013). *Effective advocacy efforts: the incredibly credible CASA*. Texas CASA Conference: Improving Outcomes for Children. San Marcos, Texas.

Sweeten, B. & Mendez-Grant, M. (May 2013). *Identifying youth on your campus*. Texas Reach 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Convening: From Foster Care to College. Lonestar College. Houston, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Hicks, X., Greenhagen, R., Odufuwa, M. & Anderson, R. (November 2012). *A journey of transitions: finding our voices and ourselves*. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual University of North Texas/Texas Woman's University Child Welfare Conference: Strengthening Children and Family Connections through Trauma Informed Practice. Denton, Texas.

Sweeten, B. (October 2012). *Effective advocacy efforts: the incredibly credible CASA*. Texas CASA Conference: Improving Outcomes for Children. Frisco, Texas.

Sweeten, B., Davis, J., Hicks, X., Greenhagen, R. & Williams, R. (October 2012). *A journey of transitions: finding our voices and ourselves*. Texas CASA Conference: Improving Outcomes for Children. Frisco, Texas.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ROLES

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- Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute/Dallas College Hand in Hand Program, Steering Committee (2025)
- Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute/University of North Texas-Dallas Center for Socioeconomic Mobility through Education, Core Team and Steering Committee (2023-2024)
- Member, Region 3 (Dallas-Ft. Worth) Foster Care Consortium (2020-present)
- Member, Governance Committee and Advisory Council, CASA of Denton County (2019 to present)
- Member, Denton County Public Health Advisory Council (2019 to present)
- Board Member, Education Reach for Texans Board (2016 to 2025); Secretary (2020 to 2022); President (2023); Programming Chair (2020-2025).
- Education Reach for Texans Annual Conference Planning Committee (2018 to present)
- Member, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 (Dallas-Ft. Worth) Child Death Review Committee (2020)
- Board Member, CASA of Denton County; Co-chair of Teen Taskforce and Policy Committee member (2013 to 2019)
- Texas Woman's University Social Work Program Advisory Council (2008 to 2016)
- Denton County Citizens Review Team Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (2010 to 2019)
- Member, Texas CASA Policy Primer Planning Committee (2018)
- Member, Texas Social Work Student Day at the Legislature Committee (2016 to 2018)
- Education Reach for Texans Advisory Council (2013 to 2015)
- Leadership Denton Steering Committee (2013)
- Founding and steering committee member for Denton County National Adoption Day (2008 to 2013)
- Founding and steering committee member for Denton County Kinship Fair (2007 to 2013)
- Member, Denton County Disproportionality Committee Advisory Council. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (2010 to 2012)
- Conference Coordinator. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Region 3 Conservatorship. *Permanency Day is Every Day*. (August 2012)
- Member, Denton County Child Protective Services Family Group Decision Making Advisory Committee (2007 to 2010)
- Member, Texas CASA State Conference Committees (2009 & 2010)
- Texas CASA Foster Care Redesign Taskforce (2010)
- Member, Denton County Community Resource Coordination Group (2001 to 2010)
- Member, Denton County Crime Victims Coalition Committee (2001 to 2002)

## UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

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### University Service

- UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer. Legislatively required university position. Appointed by Provost (2015 to present)
- Director UNT PUSH Campus Support Program serving students with experience in foster care (Spring 2012 to present)
- Faculty Advisor/Mentor, Persevere UNTil Success Happens (PUSH), founded and advise student organization supporting UNT students with lived experience in foster care (2012 to present)
- Professional Faculty Mentor assigned to Professor Amanda Manchack, Dept. of Social Work (2024-2025)
- Professional Faculty Mentor assigned to Dr. Rosalind Evans, Dept. Social Work (2022-2025)
- UNT Division of Student Affairs Student Service Fee Committee, Faculty Representative (2023 & 2024)
- Professional Faculty Mentor assigned to Dr. Melissa Gaa, Dept. of Rehabilitation and Health Services (2023-2024)
- UNT Division of Student Affairs Coordinator of Special Populations Search Committee, Member (2023)
- UNT Division of Student Affairs Search Committee for Coordinator of Special Projects, member (2020)
- UNT Division of Student Affairs Homeless Student Taskforce, Member (2014-2015)

### College Service

- UNT College of Health and Public Service Administrator Evaluation Committee for Dean Niki Dash, Member (Spring 2024)
- UNT College of Health and Public Service Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Member/Professional Faculty Representative (2023-2024)
- UNT College of Health and Public Service Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Policy Revision Workgroup (Spring 2022)
- UNT College of Health and Public Service Dean's Development Planning Committee, member (2019-2020)
- UNT College of Health and Public Service Dean Search Committee, Member (Spring-Fall 2017)
- UNT College of Health and Public Service Experiential Learning Work Group, Member (Spring 2017)
- UNT College of Public Affairs and Community Service Administrator Evaluation Committee for Dean Tom Evenson, Member (Spring 2016)
- UNT College of Public Affairs and Community Service, Mentor, UNT Serves Living Learning Community (2011, 2012)

### **Departmental Service**

- UNT Department of Social BSW Program Committee (2025-2026)
- UNT Department of Social MSW Program Committee (2025-2026)
- UNT Department of Social Work Peer Evaluation of Teaching for Dr. Sukyung Yoon (September 2025)
- UNT Department of Social Work Field Education Program/Project Coordinator Search Committee. Chair (2024)
- UNT Department of Social Work Master of Social Work Admissions Committee, Member (2024-2025)
- UNT Department of Social Work Promotion and Tenure Document Review Workgroup, Member (2024)
- UNT Department of Social Work BSW Program Director Search Committee, Chair (2023-2024).
- UNT Department of Social Work Personnel Affairs Committee (PAC) member (2019-2025); Professional Faculty PAC Chair (2023, 2024, 2025)
- UNT Department of Social Work Clinical Faculty Search Committee, member (Fall 2022)
- TWU-UNT Joint MSW Curriculum Committee (2019 to 2023)
- TWU-UNT Joint MSW Comprehensive Exam Committee (2019 to 2023)
- TWU-UNT Joint MSW Administrative Committee (2019 to 2023)
- TWU-UNT Joint MSW Admissions Committee (2019 to 2023)
- UNT Department of Social Work BSW Admissions Committee (2010 to 2020)
- UNT Department of Social Work Faculty Search Committee, Co-chair (2019-2020)
- UNT Department of Community and Professional Programs Faculty Search Committees (2014 to 2016)
- UNT Department of Community and Professional Programs Peer Evaluation Committee (2013 to 2016)

### **CONTRACTS, GRANTS, SPONSORED RESEARCH**

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#### **Grants-Research**

- The Moody Foundation (2025). PI. \$100,000, 3-year award granted to the UNT PUSH Program for assistance with the existing Moody M-Pact Fund project or other success initiative related to program support, engagement, retention and increased tuition and fee waiver use by students with experience in foster care. Funded
- The Moody Foundation Education M-Pact Fund (2024). Co-PI. \$1.1 million 3-year collaborative research project partnering with Education Reach for Texans and UNT. "Increasing Retention Rates in Postsecondary Education for Students with Experience in Foster Care." Funded.
- UNT Office of Faculty Success. Mentoring Grant (2018-2019). \$5,000. Received a faculty research mentoring grant to form the UNT Foster Care Research Network with Heard, M., Principal, Sweeten, B., Murrell, A., Vickery, J. and Frith, J. Supporters. Funded.

- UNT Office of Faculty Success. Mentoring Grant (2019-2020). \$5,000. Received a continuing faculty research mentoring grant supporting the UNT Foster Care Research Network with Heard, M., Principal, Sweeten, B. and Vickery, J. Supporters. Funded.
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (2018). \$152,493. "Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program." Sought research and program funding in support of historically underrepresented minority students seeking careers in health fields focusing on students with experience in foster care. Unfunded.
- College of Public Affairs and Community Service Community Renewal Fund Grant (2016). Dicke, L., Sweeten, B., Heffner, A., and Ratliff, P. awarded \$4,498.54 for research project entitled, "Expanding Community Frontiers: PUSHing for Success." Funded.

#### **Grants and Funding-Student Success**

- Denton Benefit League (2025). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$4,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- Sweeten, B. L. (Principal), "PUSH Partners Coaching Program for Students with Experience in Foster Care," Sponsored by Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation, National, \$100,000.00. (2025). Unfunded.
- Sweeten, B. L. (Principal), "PUSH Summer Bridge Program for Students with Experience in Foster Care," Sponsored by Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, Private, \$75,000.00. (2025). Unfunded.
- Denton Benefit League (2024). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$4,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2023). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$6,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation (2023-2024). PI. \$40,000. King Foundation grant funded program support of year-round case management for students with experience in foster care at UNT, awards for housing and dining, and stipend for MSW student interns to help support the UNT PUSH Foster Care Alumni Program. Funded.
- Santander Consumer USA, Inc. Foundation (2022-2024). PI. \$60,000. Santander Consumer Foundation funded the PUSH Summer Bridge Program supporting first time in college or transferring students with experience in foster care admitted to UNT who aged out of foster care. Funded.
- Chris and Kathy Murray Family Foundation (2022). UNT PUSH Initiative Awarded \$1,200 for Summer Bridge Program. Funded.
- Chris and Kathy Murray Family Foundation (2022). UNT PUSH Initiative Awarded \$3,000 for Summer Bridge Program. Funded.

- In-N-Out Burger Foundation (2022). UNT PUSH Initiative Awarded \$2,500 for Summer Bridge Program. Funded.
- Successfully executed a \$150,000 gift agreement with a private donor to establish the Karlow-Robinson Family PUSH Endowment. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2022). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$6,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation (2020-2022). PI. \$50,000. King Foundation grant funded program support of year-round PUSH case management for foster care alumni at UNT, awards for housing and dining, and stipend for MSW student interns to help support the UNT PUSH Foster Care Alumni Program. Funded.
- Cross Timbers Rotary Christmas Luncheon Grant Recipient (2021). Cross Timbers Rotary Club of Flower Mound, Texas award the UNT PUSH Initiative Program \$17,500 to fund case management/program support and stipend for MSW student interns to help support the UNT PUSH Foster Care Alumni Program for the 2022-2023 academic year. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2021). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$4,800 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- UNT Diamond Eagle Excellence Fund (2020). PI. \$71,500. Sought program funding in support of students with experience in foster care at UNT which included dedicated case management, textbook and technology lending library. Unfunded.
- Denton Benefit League (2020). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$4,500 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT Foster Care Alumni. Funded.
- Santander Consumer USA, Inc. Foundation (2019-2020). PI. \$85,000. Santander Consumer Foundation funded the PUSH Summer Bridge Program supporting first time in college or transferring students with experience in foster care admitted to UNT who aged out of foster care. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2019). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation (2018-2019). PI. \$40,000. King Foundation funded the PUSH Summer Bridge Program supporting foster care alumni youth aging out of foster care or transferring to UNT. Funded.
- Executed a \$100,000 Gift agreement with a private foundation to be paid over 10 years to support mental health and medical expenses for university foster care alumni (March 2018- 2028). Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2018). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.

- Denton Benefit League (2017). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- Received \$500 funding from Community Partners of Dallas in support of the UNT PUSH Initiative Program. (Spring 2017)
- Received \$5,000 donation from a private donor in support of the UNT PUSH Initiative Program. (Spring 2017)
- Denton Benefit League (2016). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$5,000 for textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- Denton Benefit League (2015). UNT PUSH Initiative awarded \$6,000 for travel, textbooks and academic supplies for UNT students with experience in foster care. Funded.
- South Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alumni Program Initiatives Award (2014). UNT PUSH Initiative gifted \$12,500 in gift cards to benefit UNT students with experience in foster care.

## **PUBLICATIONS IN REVIEW**

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Bustillos, S., Lord, K., Watts, T., & Sweeten, B. L. "Roots to Reach: Pilot-Testing a Peer Coaching Program to Improve Higher Education Outcomes for Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care." *Child Welfare*. The Child Welfare League of America. (submitted October 2025).

Villagrana, K., Cheung, J., Whittington, C., Meyers, D., Norton, C., & Sweeten, B. L. "Fifteen Years After Casey: Exploring the Resource Needs of Campus-Based Support Program Practitioners Serving Students Who Experienced Foster Care". *Child Welfare*. The Child Welfare League of America. (submitted October 2025).

## **COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING**

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### **Child Welfare Policy and Practice (SOWK 4700)**

Undergraduate, University of North Texas

- Spring 2010
- Fall 2010
- Spring 2011
- Fall 2011
- Spring 2012
- Fall 2012
- Spring 2013

### **Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (SOWK 3500)**

Undergraduate, University of North Texas

- Fall 2010
- Fall 2011



- Summer 2012
- Fall 2012
- Fall 2013

### **Ethics and Professionalism in Social Work (SOWK 4000)**

Undergraduate (developed course), University of North Texas

- Spring 2011
- Spring 2012
- Spring 2013
- Spring 2014

### **Introduction to Social Work (SOWK 1450)**

Undergraduate hybrid & online (developed), University of North Texas

- Fall 2014
- Spring 2015
- Fall 2015
- Spring 2016
- Fall 2016
- Spring 2017
- Summer 2017 (online)
- Fall 2017
- Spring 2018
- Summer 2018 (online)
- Fall 2018
- Spring 2019
- Summer 2019 (online)

### **Social Work Practice II (Groups) (SOWK 4800, 4400 renumbered)**

Undergraduate, University of North Texas

- Fall 2013
- Spring 2014
- Fall 2014
- Spring 2015
- Fall 2015
- Spring 2016
- Fall 2016
- Spring 2017
- Fall 2017
- Spring 2018
- Fall 2018
- Spring 2019

### **Integrative Field Seminar and Field Practicum (SOWK 4870 & SOWK 4875)**

Undergraduate, University of North Texas

- Fall 2010
- Spring 2011
- Summer 2011

- Fall 2011
- Spring 2012
- Summer 2012
- Fall 2012
- Spring 2013
- Summer 2013
- Fall 2013
- Spring 2014
- Fall 2014
- Spring 2015
- Fall 2015
- Spring 2016
- Fall 2016
- Spring 2017
- Fall 2017
- Spring 2018
- Fall 2018
- Spring 2019

#### **Generalist Graduate Field Seminar II (SOWK 5813)**

Graduate (in-person & online), Texas Woman's University | University of North Texas Joint MSW Program

- Summer 2020 (online)
- Summer 2021(online)
- Summer 2022

#### **Advanced Graduate Field Seminar I (SOWK 5833)**

Graduate (in-person & online), Texas Woman's University| University of North Texas Joint MSW Program

- Fall 2019
- Fall 2020 (online)
- Fall 2021 (online)
- Fall 2022
- Fall 2023

#### **Advanced Graduate Field Seminar II (SOWK 5843)**

Graduate (in-person & online), Texas Woman's University| University of North Texas Joint MSW Program

- Spring 2020
- Spring 2021 (online)
- Spring 2022
- Spring 2023
- Spring 2024

#### **Advanced Graduate Field Seminar II (SOWK 5880)**

Graduate, University of North Texas MSW Program

- Fall 2025

#### **Child Maltreatment (SOWK 5543, SOWK 5540-course renumbered)**

Graduate (online-significant revisions made), University of North Texas MSW Program

- Summer 2024
- Fall 2024
- Summer 2025