

REGINA R. LESTER-HARRIAT, LMSW

Phone: (959) 200-3677
regina.lester-harriat@uconn.edu

38 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06103

EDUCATION

- MSW** University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT May 2008
Focus Area of Study: Women and Children
in Families
- BBA** Howard University, Washington D.C. May 1998
Major: Marketing

FACULTY APPOINTMENT

2020 – Present Assistant Professor-in-Residence,
School of Social Work University of Connecticut

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bloomfield Public Schools Bloomfield, CT 2013-2020

School Social Worker/District Student and Family Assistance Center Team Leader

- Facilitate counseling sessions based on a Scientifically Researched Based Intervention model.
- Supervise teams of graduate level social work interns.
- Developed and annually updated the intern training scope and sequence.
- Supervise district intern training.
- Collect data, assess, and analyze student intervention outcomes.
- Chair of the District Data Team School Climate Subcommittee.
- Collaborate with students, families, and colleagues.
- Conduct Functional Behavioral Assessments and develop Behavioral Intervention Plans.
- Draft and manage goals and aims for Individualized Education Programs.
- Complete social developmental history assessments.
- Find and connect students and families with community resources.
- 504 building coordinator.
- School leadership team member.

University of Saint Joseph

West Hartford, CT

2016-2020

Master of Social Work Clinical Preceptor

- Provide weekly group and individual intern supervision.
- Evaluate intern performance each semester.
- Review and offer feedback on field assignments.
- Collaborate with task supervisors and field department staff.
- Attend monthly adjunct training sessions.

Jumoke Academy Charter Schools

Hartford, CT

2012-2013

Dean of Students and Enrichment

- Provided administrative support to the principal, faculty, and staff.
- Co-coach of the school-based Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support team.
- Coordinated the School's enrichment class offerings.
- Published communications (school newsletter, local newspapers) on behalf of the School.
- School climate specialist.
- Authored the District's school climate executive summary.
- Identified and pursued grant opportunities.
- Facilitated *Second Step* social skills lessons.
- Developed and facilitated the Dean's Advisory Council.
- Developed relationships with community organizations.

Renbrook School West Hartford, CT 2001-2012

Administrative Assistant to the Head of School (2008-2012)

- Provided administrative support to the Board of Trustees, Head of School, faculty, and staff.
- Functioned as the liaison between the Head of School and school constituencies.
- Published communication on behalf of the Head of School.
- Produced reports for the Board of Trustees' monthly and annual meetings.
- Co-facilitated the Upper School multi-cultural club.

Human Growth and Development Teacher (2011-2012)

- Developed curriculum and units of study.
- Encouraged the development of healthy lifestyles.
- Coordinated annual Freedom from Chemical Dependency programming for families.
- Drafted student assessments to evaluate learning outcomes.
- Maintained student grades and drafted progress and grade reports.

Intern/Associate Teacher (2001- 2003)

Aided a second-grade classroom teacher with daily activities.

Team-taught middle school math (grades 6-9) with three teachers.

Planned lessons and provided instruction for sixth grade math, pre-algebra, and algebra courses.

Developed assessments and homework assignments.

Maintained student grades and contributed to progress and grade reports.

AWARDS AND FUNDING

100 Women of Color Award

2022

This award, given by Eleven28 Entertainment, recognizes women of color's contributions in areas such as business, education, entrepreneurship, entertainment, government, and public service. It also recognizes the impact these women have on the lives of people in Connecticut, Western Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Anita Award for Outstanding Excellence in Education

2019

Awarded by The Anita, Ava House for Women, Inc. to recognize educational efforts to educate, train and nurture future generations within the community.

The University of Connecticut School of Social Work

2019

Certificate of appreciation for chairing the Field Advisory Committee and serving the Field Education Department as a long-term Field Instructor.

Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Award

2018

The Grasso Award is given by Eastern Connecticut State University annually and was established to recognize people who show courage, perseverance, and leadership by promoting justice and peace.

Springfield College School of Social Work

2017

The intern organization of the year award was given to the Bloomfield Public Schools' social work team for providing outstanding training to MSW interns.

Connecticut State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)

2013

Grant written on behalf of Jumoke Academy Charter Schools to take part in the five-year SPDG initiative to boost literacy skills and foster a positive school climate for all students, particularly students with disabilities, students of color, and English language learners.

Submitted Not Funded

Regina Lester-Harriat (Co-PI) & Mogro-Wilson (Co-PI). Federal Grant, US Department of Education, CDFA 84.325M, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Personnel development to increase trained underrepresented school social workers to improve services and results for children with disabilities from underserved populations, 5-year grant \$1,250, 000, 30% FTE in year 1, submitted July 2023.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Panelists, “Parts of a Whole: Embracing Intersectionality in the Black Identity,” Yale University Black Solidarity Conference, February 3, 2023. The BSC is the largest undergraduate conference held at Yale University. Over 500 students of various backgrounds unite to discuss issues pertaining to the African Diaspora.

Presenter, “Recognizing Signs and Effects of Trauma,” Bloomfield Public Schools, August 28, 2018.

This presentation defined trauma; explored the impact of trauma on brain development and learning; and described how Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS) can aid educators in dealing with trauma. Participants received detailed action steps and learned important self-care strategies.

Presenter, “Breaking the Behavior Code,” Bloomfield Public Schools, February 2018. Defined misbehavior as a symptom of an underlying cause and described in detail the important components of behavior – behavior serves as communication, has a function, occurs in patterns, and can be changed. Provided specific skills to support educator interactions with children showing anxiety, oppositional, withdrawn and/or sexualized behaviors.

Panelist, “Symposium on Violence Prevention: *Schools and Communities Working Together: Intervening and Preventing Violence*,” UConn School of Social Work, November 3, 2017.

Detailed a three-tiered early intervention framework for teaching social/behavioral strategies to children and adolescents to reduce incidents of violence in schools.

Presenter, “Student and Family Assistance Center Model of Intervention,” CT State Department of Education Alliance District Symposium, October 17, 2016.

Detailed a three-tiered early intervention framework for teaching social/behavioral strategies to children and adolescents attending turnaround schools in CT.

Panelist, “Social Work Career Planning Program,” UConn School of Social Work, November 20, 2015.

Assisted students in planning for a career in social work.

Presenter, “Building Emotional Resilience in Children and Adolescents” Bloomfield Public Schools, Created September 2015.

The workshop informed participants about the shift in thinking taking place in education (risk to resilience). Presented evidence-based research and data that recognizes resilience and its positive role in youth and human development.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATION

Licensed Master Social Worker – Connecticut (#2473) (September 2015 – Present)

The Governor’s Prevention Partnership – Improve School Climate for Students with Disabilities Facilitator Certification (September 2015)

CT State Department of Education – Improving School Climate Facilitator Certification (Spring 2013)

CT State Department of Education –Educator Certification (social work) (#8681491203) (January 2011 – Present)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

School Social Work Association of America, 2023-Present

This is a professional organization dedicated to empowering school social workers and enhancing the social and emotional growth and academic outcomes of students across the globe.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 2017-Present

A community service organization focused on the constructive development of its members with a primary emphasis on the Black community.

Connecticut Education Association, 2013-Present

Advocate for teachers and public education.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The role of religion in building resiliency in women
Building emotional resilience in children and adolescents
Trauma-informed practice with children and adolescents
Attachment Theory and its relevance within families of Color

TEACHING INTERESTS

Direct Practice in Schools
Practice with Individuals, Groups, and Families
Core Components and Skills for Trauma-Informed Practice
Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents

PUBLICATION

Lester-Harriat, R., Feely, M., Okpych, N. J., Berthold, S. M., & Urcinas, N. (2021). Triumphs and travails of building a fully online social work field evaluation system. *Field Educator*, 11(2), 1-22. <https://fielddeducator.simmons.edu/article/triumphs-and-travails-of-building-afully-online-social-work-field-evaluation-system/>