

MCU IN REVIEW: A LOOK BACK AT 2022

Official Newsletter for the Midwives College of Utah Community



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EST. 1980
**MIDWIVES COLLEGE
OF UTAH**
MIDWIFING MIDWIVES

September 6, 2022

Dear MCU Staff & Faculty,

As you are likely aware, after 17 years as President of Midwives College of Utah, Kristi Ridd-Young is planning to retire. Over the last few years, the Board of Directors have strategized the best course of action. All options have been up for discussion - the future of MCU depends on a solid succession plan.

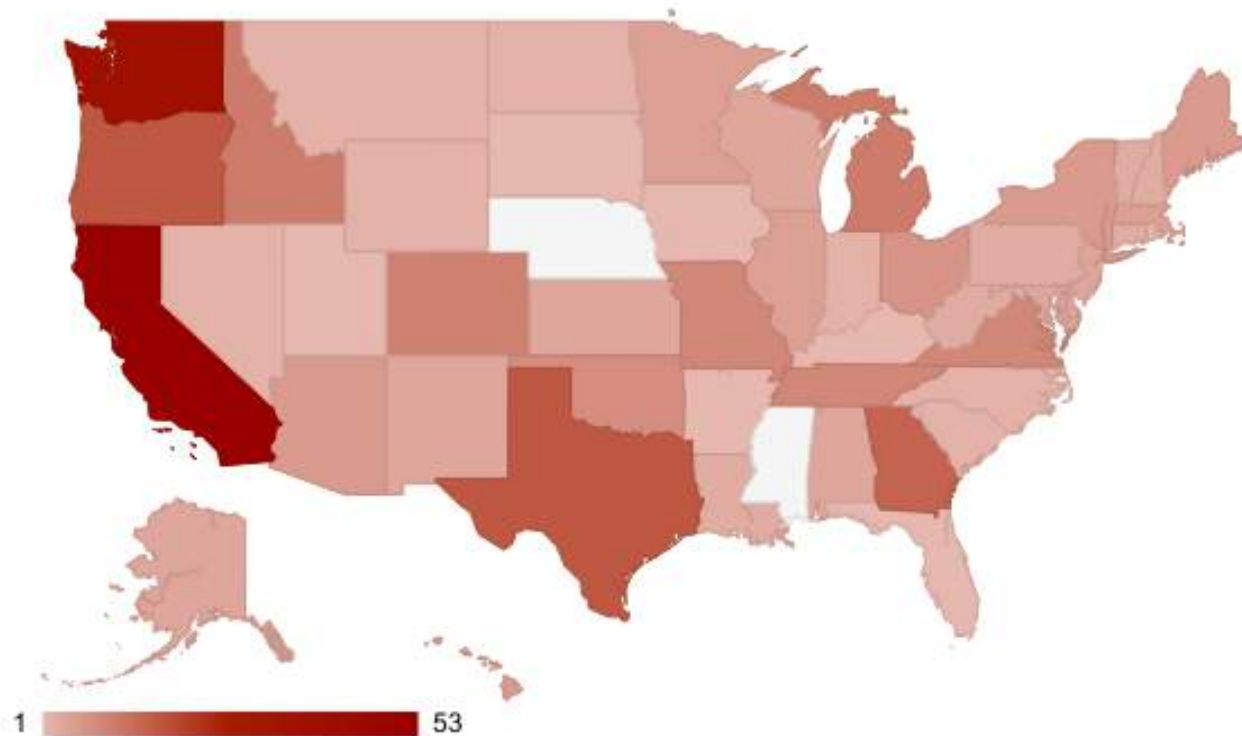
We determined the best course of action was to, first of all, consider appointing someone from within the organization who might meet or exceed the position's minimum and preferred qualifications. Over the last six months, the BOD along with the help of Human Resources created a modified search advocate process for an internal appointment. After multiple interviews and board discussions, we have appointed one of MCU's own.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, please join us in celebrating and congratulating Whitney Mesyef on her humble acceptance of our offer to become the next President of MCU!

During Whitney's ten years at MCU, and throughout the board interviewing process, she has impressed us with her grace, enthusiasm, and loyalty to MCU. She is dedicated to the mission and vision, has an obvious passion for the work of educating midwives of excellence, and has a solid grasp of the future of MCU. We feel strongly that Whitney has the foundational knowledge and the management skills required to lead and grow MCU.

The next six months will be a time of training and transition, with Whitney officially taking the helm of MCU in March of 2023. Please know that the board is here to support Whitney, Kristi, and the entire MCU community throughout this transition. Whitney - you have our sincere & heartfelt congratulations!

Jennifer Rabins, MBA, CPM, LM
President, Board of Directors, MCU



A Map of MCU

of students attending MCU in 2022

Three hundred sixty-one

of graduated students in 2022

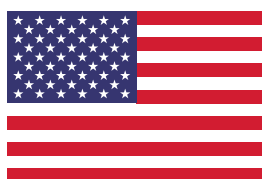
Twenty-nine

States with highest density of MCU students

Washington and California

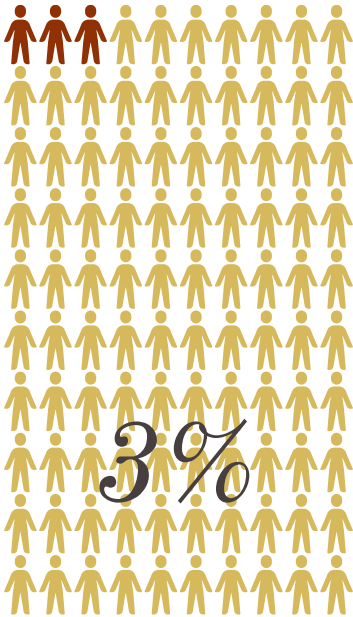
of countries populated by MCU students in 2022

Three



Ages of MCU Students

18-21



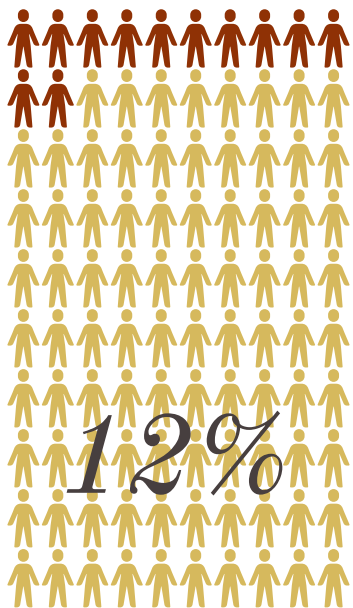
22-29



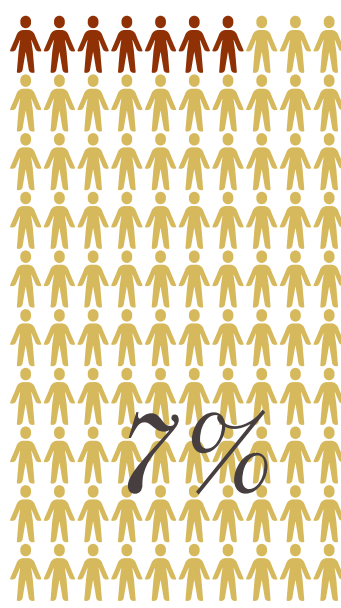
30-39



40-49



50+



MCU's currently enrolled students span continents and generations. Here is a breakdown of MCU students by age.

MCU's Commitment:

Competent and culturally sensitive midwives improve maternal health outcomes and ultimately improve access to healthcare. As such, Midwives College of Utah (MCU) is committed to the vision that every family deserves a midwife. The MCU curriculum is firmly grounded in the unique and profound power of the Midwives Model of Care™ as a primary pathway for improving outcomes and eliminating inequities for pregnant

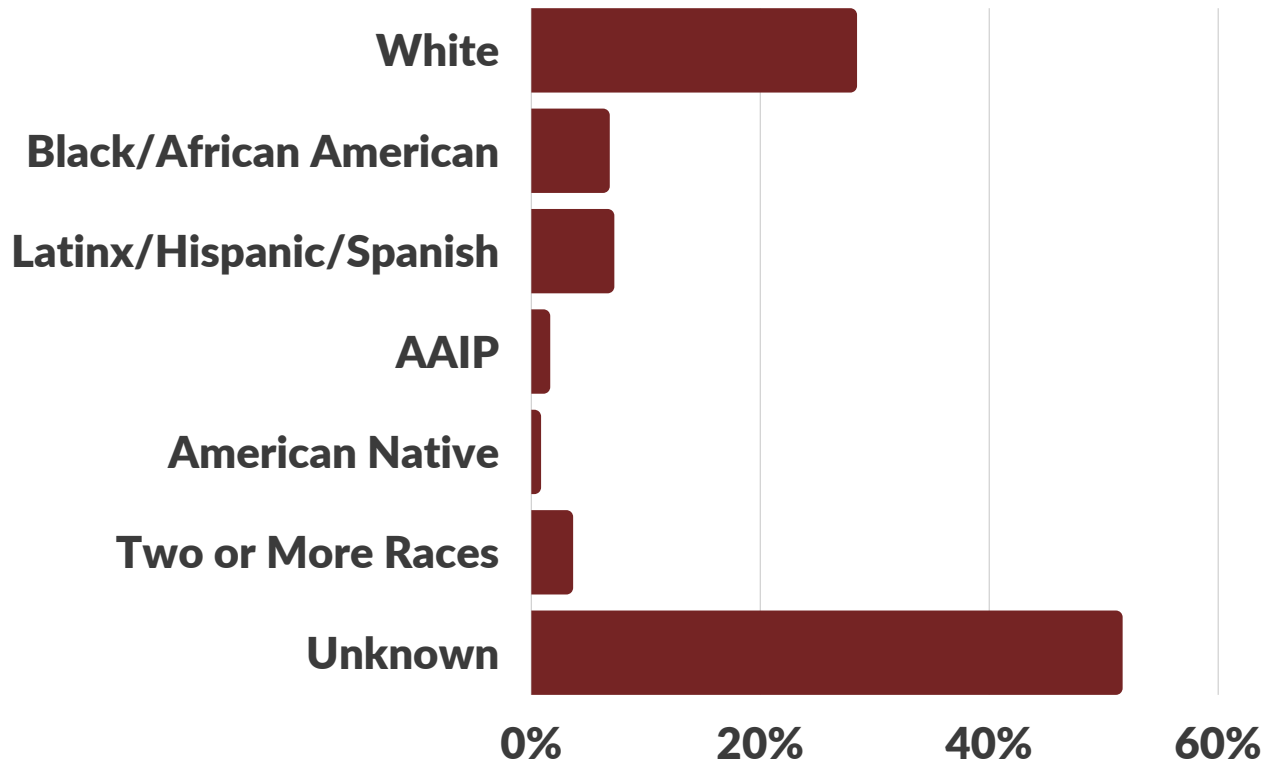
persons and their babies during the childbearing year. In addition to cultivating midwives of technical expertise, MCU's curriculum focuses on cultivating culturally competent midwives with the ability to think outwardly and to be agents of change in their communities. Our graduates are community leaders. They are saving lives, providing options, fighting for change and training future midwives to do the same.



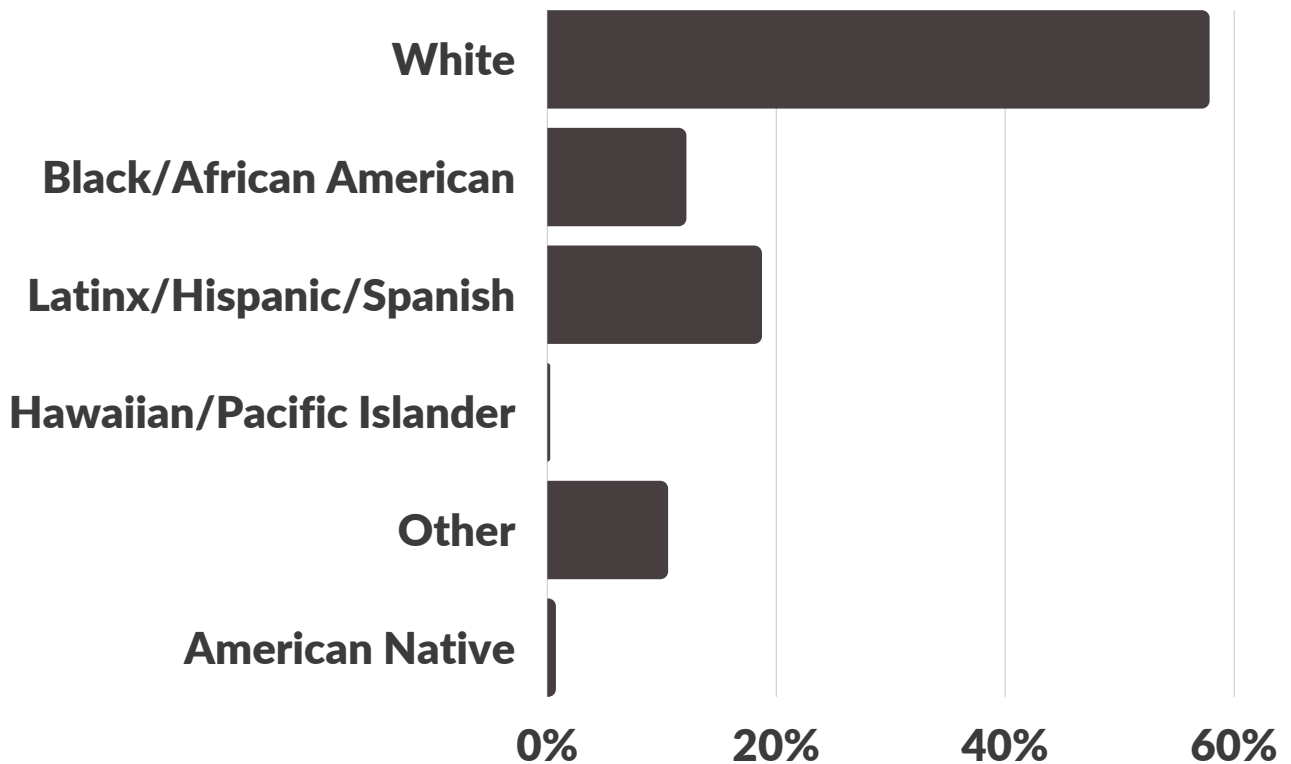
“After a horrible first birth experience at the hospital it was clear that the facility and staff were racist and treated Native Americans poorly. With my second baby I looked into different options and learned about midwifery, I fell in love with the overall care I received, and I want everyone to have the opportunity to experience it. As a midwife I want to help my community eliminate some barriers and to limit the discrimination that they would have to face at the only local hospital in our area.”

Hope Mayotte, MCU Student

Racial Makeup of Students in 2022



Racial Makeup of the USA in 2020



MCU cordially invites you to
our annual



Graduation Gala

04 | 25 | 23  6:30 PM

*benefitting The Briana Blackwelder
Equal Access Scholarship Fund*

Celebrating the classes of
2021-2023

110 South Fort Douglas Blvd.
Salt Lake City, UT 84113

Midwives of Excellence

2021 COHORT

ASM

Averee Chifamba
Felicia Mc Mullen
Rachel Snow

MSM

Sarah Butterfly

BSM

Amber Adams
Angela Hotz
Ashleigh Taylor
Bethel Belisle
Christina May
Cristy Solomon

Emily Coates
Holly Graff
Lindsey Hughes
Melissa Burgess
Melanie Hansen
Olga Gadomskiy

2022 COHORT



ASM

Cristy D'Aquila
Kamie Dangerfield
Vanessa Williams

MSM

Sarah Hinton

BSM

Aisling Lynch
Anne Lara Kuntz
Ashley Baxter
Brandy Stuart
Desiree Leal
Charlette Bright
Chelsea Rice
Hannah Payseno
Heather Barrett
Hope Henderson
Janet Akremi
Julie Rauschenplat
Kari Riley

Krista Wurlitzer
Lindsey Hughes
Margaret Byrne
Mary Betsellie
Paige Heslen
Paige White
Rebecca Greene
Sara Edwards
Shayleen Sammons
Stephanie Sibert
Taylor Rackey
Whitney Herrelson

2023 COHORT

ASM

Michelle New

BSM

Clover Brown
Hannah Young
Heather Prestridge
Lauren Hake
Joanne Estmalek
Stephanie Kerwin



RSVP, Tickets and additional information

For the first time in what feels like forever, MCU is back to doing a live, in-person Gala. This year's event will take place at the University of Utah Douglas Ballroom East located at:

110 South Fort Douglas Blvd.
Salt Lake City, UT 84113.

The event will be live-streamed as well. To RSVP, please visit:
midwifery.edu/gala-rsvp

Sign up today to stay updated on the event!

All MCU students, faculty, and staff are entitled to a Gala ticket. Graduates being honored will receive four additional tickets in the mail in anticipation of the event.

To request additional tickets, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mr37wrnk>

Proceeds fund the Briana Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund. Please consider donating today. With your help, we can remove barriers to midwifery education for midwives serving medically underserved communities.

Are you attending the Gala or otherwise local AND a photographer? If so, contact Masha Mesyef about a paid opportunity for Gala and conference photography!

JOIN THE FUN, WIN CASH AND SAVE LIVES ONE BIRTH AT A TIME!

SPLIT *The Pot!* FUNDRAISER

Help us save lives one birth at a time while participating in an exciting fundraiser! To support the scholarship fund, we are running a Split the Pot fundraiser. All proceeds raised will be split between the scholarship and up to three lucky winners. You'll have up to three chances to win cash!

How to Participate:

When you purchase a bookmark for \$5 you will be granted one entry to the Split the Pot fundraiser; if you purchase a sticker for \$20 you will be granted five entries to Split the Pot; and a notebook purchased for \$50 will grant you 15 entries to Split the Pot. Scan the QR Code below or visit: midwives-college.square.site/shop/fundraising/9

In addition to your purchase and the entries to win a cash prize, you will be helping MCU spread midwifery care to communities in the US that need it the most. MCU's Briana Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund provides tuition relief for midwives for midwives serving medically underserved communities, extending culturally congruent, quality midwifery care services to families who would otherwise not have access to perinatal care.

How to win:

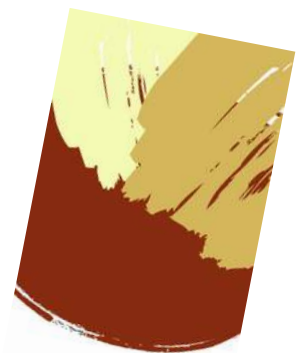
There will be three chances to win: 1st prize will receive 25% of all Split the Pot proceeds, 2nd prize will receive 15% and the 3rd prize will win 10%

If we sell \$1000, one drawing will yield \$250; one will yield \$150; and one will yield \$100. Winning one drawing does not preclude you from winning another drawing!

Purchase to enter any number of these limited edition items to increase your chances to win:

- Bookmark: \$5 and one entry to the split the pot
- Sticker: \$20 and five entries to split the pot
- Split the Pot Notebook: \$50 and 15 entries to split the pot

The winning tickets will be drawn on Tuesday, April 25th at our Graduation Gala. You do not need to be present to win and purchasing any or all of these listed items is a great way to help us celebrate our grads while also supporting our mission of cultivating midwives of excellence!



KEEP BEING
CURIOUS



bookmark

March 4 - April 10

visit midwifery.edu/skill-suites for more information!

SKILL SUITES '23

MON, APRIL 24 - SAT, APRIL 29TH

DAY 1:

- Assessments
- NRP & NRPOOHM
- Suturing
- Labor & Birth Complications

DAY 2:

- Assessments
- NRP
- Cultural Awareness
- Ultrasound Basics
- Urinalysis & Catheterization
- Healthy Newborn
- Immediate Newborn

DAY 3:

- Assessments
- NRP
- CPR
- IV Skills
- IV Medications
- Midwife's Assistant
- Advanced NRP Out of Hospital Skills

DAY 4:

- Birth Doula Training
- Pelvic Skill Suite
- Intrapartum Heart Monitoring
- Basic Pharmacology

DAY 5:

- Birth Doula Training
- Herbology
- Suturing
- Advanced IV Skills: venipuncture, pokes and medicines

DAY 6:

- Birth Doula Training
- Physical Exams
- Breeches and Twins
- Healthy Birth

**REGISTRATION
CLOSES: 4/10**

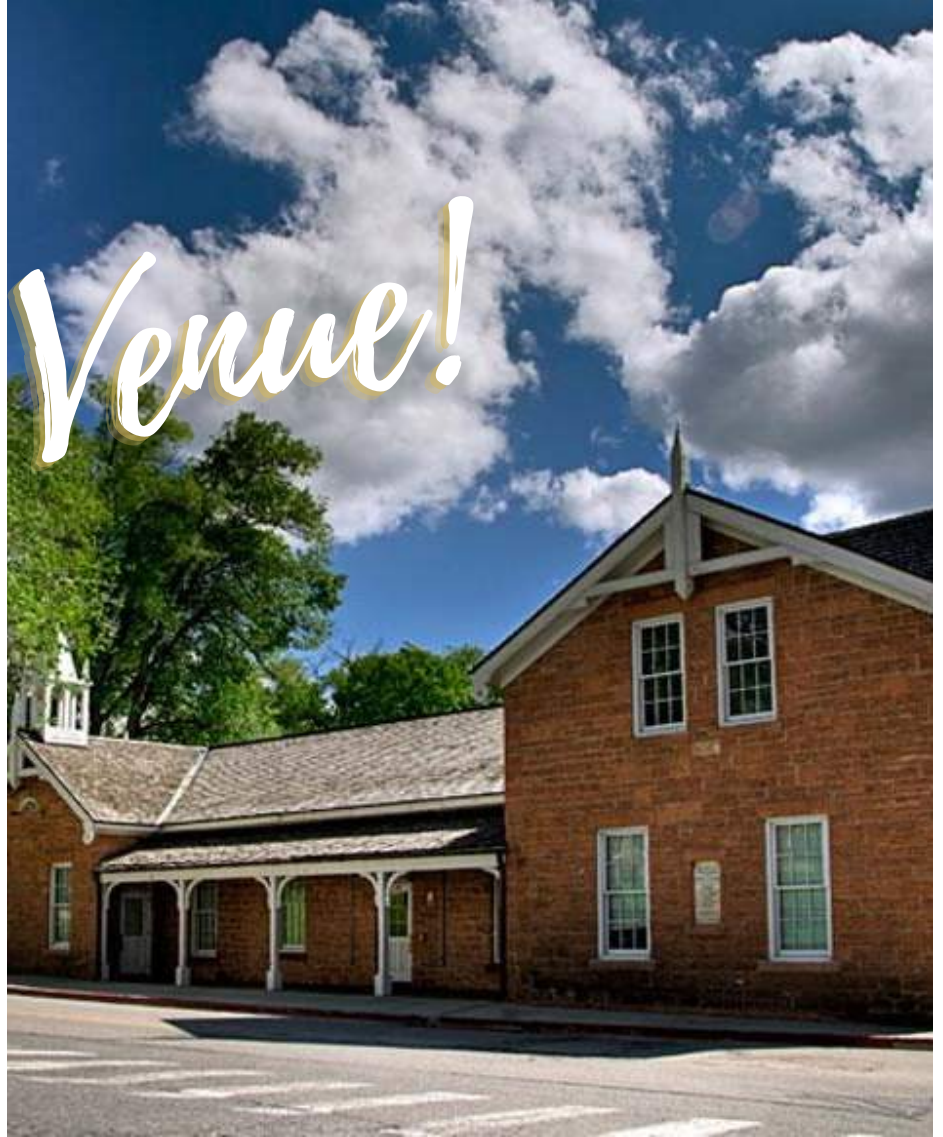
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**50+ midwifery skills
sign off opportunities!**

New Venue!

Skill Suites 2023

University of Utah
Officer's Club



We are moving skill suites to a new location in a new city. We will now be meeting in **Salt Lake City, Utah** at the University of Utah's Officer's Club. Please keep this in mind as you make your travel plans, and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Insta to get tips on fun activities and food options nearby.



Community Spotlight: Dr. Jermain Cooper

Written by: Jean Hiefner
Marketing and Fundraising Assistant

The Midwives College of Utah has long been committed to addressing systemic racism and inequalities within our communities. Care has been taken in the development of each course to include information on the pervasiveness of these issues and how midwives can help address them at national, state, and local levels. We would be remiss, however, if we did not take a long hard look internally to see how our own community may be upholding and contributing to these harmful systems.

Over the course of the past few years, there has been a concerted effort made to address areas of inequality within MCU. In a further step towards equity, MCU hired Dr. Jermain Cooper as Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity & Opportunity this past year. More recently he has moved into the role of Vice President of Student Success & Institutional Equity. We invite you now to learn more about Dr Cooper and to take a peek behind the curtain at some of the innovative and necessary changes he is implementing throughout our community.

Meet Dr Cooper

Dr Jermain Cooper is a seasoned executive and innovator in the areas of global operations,

diversity, program management, government relations, external affairs, corporate social responsibility/sustainability, and engagement. He is committed to social justice and is an avid believer in Fredrick Douglass' quote, "it's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." It is with that mindset that Jermain leads the fight to achieving education equity as well as eliminating disparities for people of color.

An impressive academic resume is only one of the things that initially recommended Dr Cooper for this position. A graduate of a Historically Black College University (HBCU), he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from Johnson C. Smith University. In addition to this, he holds a Doctor of Education degree (EdD) from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, where he also served as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Business and Technology graduate program. Dr Cooper also holds a Master of Science in Human Behavior degree from Capella University.

After spending most of his career in the corporate world, ten years ago Jermain made the conscious effort to leave corporate America and the money driven environment he found there to pursue his lifelong commitment to social justice. Since leaving the corporate world, Jermain has served as the Executive Director of Independent School District (ISD) 4248, a charter school in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Special Assistant to the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Charlotte, and as a Constituent Advocate in the office of then United States Senator and former Governor of Minnesota, Mark Dayton.

In the fall of 2015, Jermain was nominated by Mayor Chris Coleman and confirmed by the City Council to serve as a Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commissioner for the City of Saint Paul. In addition, his philanthropic

continued from the last page

leadership appointments include serving on the Advisory Council for Capella University; Board of Directors for Saint Paul Neighborhood Network; and previously serving as the President of Black Veterans of America, Incorporated and Vice Chairman of Youth Services Community Institute.

2022 Accomplishments at MCU

In his first year at MCU, Jermain has stayed busy reviewing and revamping various policies, procedures, and programs within MCU. In addition to updating the EEO statement, he also completely revamped the Title VI process. For those of you who may not be familiar, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the Federal law that protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of their race, color, or national origin in programs such as Midwives College of Utah which receive Federal financial assistance. To learn more about the new Title VI process, submit a complaint, or dive deeper into our current goals for justice, equity and diversity visit <https://www.midwifery.edu/title-vi/>.

Another important change that Dr Cooper has implemented in his time here at MCU is the creation of Student Affinity Groups (SAG). There are four “official” SAG which are moderated by the College. These include: Black Student Union (BSU), LGBTQIA+ Association, Organization for Underrepresented Students (OURS), and Better Together Interfaith Affiliates. Student affinity groups are a chance for students to share their experiences and opinions with each other in a safe environment. Groups exist to intentionally create space for the typically marginalized communities that exist within MCU so that these students can more easily find each other and then have a place where they don’t feel the need to code switch or hamper their expression.

In addition to the groups that MCU has created, students have the option to create their own SAG communities. Any interested student, faculty, or staff member is welcome to begin this process through the Create button on the SAG page. Two groups, Homeschooling Midwives and Phase 1 Students, have already been created in this manner.

Students will also be familiar with Jermain’s work in

revamping the SJEC to the Journey Team. When asked about the reasons behind the name change Jermain stated, “we use the name “Journey” team, because the work of justice and equity is a journey, essentially it's a marathon, not a sprint”. The focus of the team is to review and create policies with an equity lens that assists in removing barriers for all students, staff, and faculty at MCU. In 2023 the Journey Team will work with JEDO to conduct a policy audit, which will examine all MCU policies and procedures as well as a review of courses.

When asked if there was anything that he was surprised to learn about MCU in the past year, Jermain mentioned that he was impressed with the amount of education around systemic racism and racial bias that was provided not only to students, but also to faculty and staff. As we all know, however, we each have areas of implicit bias and the work of recognizing and addressing these biases is never done. In light of this, Dr Cooper has instituted Community of Practice Training for faculty and staff. These monthly chats center around topics such as interrupting racism, conflict resolution, and classroom management.



Looking Forward

Dr Cooper admits that while this is a promising start there is still plenty of work to be done in addressing issues of justice, equity, and diversity. One area that needs particular attention is the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community both within MCU and in the birthing community at large. Dr Cooper is advocating for increased training across MCU on LGBTQIA+ community needs and ways of incorporating inclusive language.

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In addition to increasing training and increased community awareness, Dr Cooper is working to secure grants and other sources of funding for projects such as a think tank for black students around the health of black birthing people. He is also hoping to work with the National Birth Equity Coalition (NBEC) to teach students how to properly advocate for their community. With each of these initiatives attention will be given to both internal growth and increased impact in our local communities.

Jermain hopes that JEDO can be seen as a safety net for the school. He has already begun working on ways to address attrition. His goal for 2023 and beyond is to see an increase in the number of students of color who graduate each year and a lower number of vulnerable populations withdrawing. MCU is committed to increasing care to vulnerable populations in our community and we know that this begins with increasing the number of midwives who come directly from those communities.

At the end of our interview I asked Dr Cooper if there was any advice he could give to students. His reply was, "Don't feel shy. You have a voice in this community and we welcome student input." He encourages students to join the Journey Team and make their voices heard on where MCU needs to direct more focus. He also encourages students who are beginning to feel overwhelmed, overlooked, or under-valued to reach out sooner than later. "Don't be afraid to reach out to your house mentor or the Director of Student Success for help and support. We are here to help you succeed."

“

We are here to
help you succeed

”



TAKE ACTION!

Dr Jermain Cooper Article Continued

STUDENT AFFINITY GROUPS

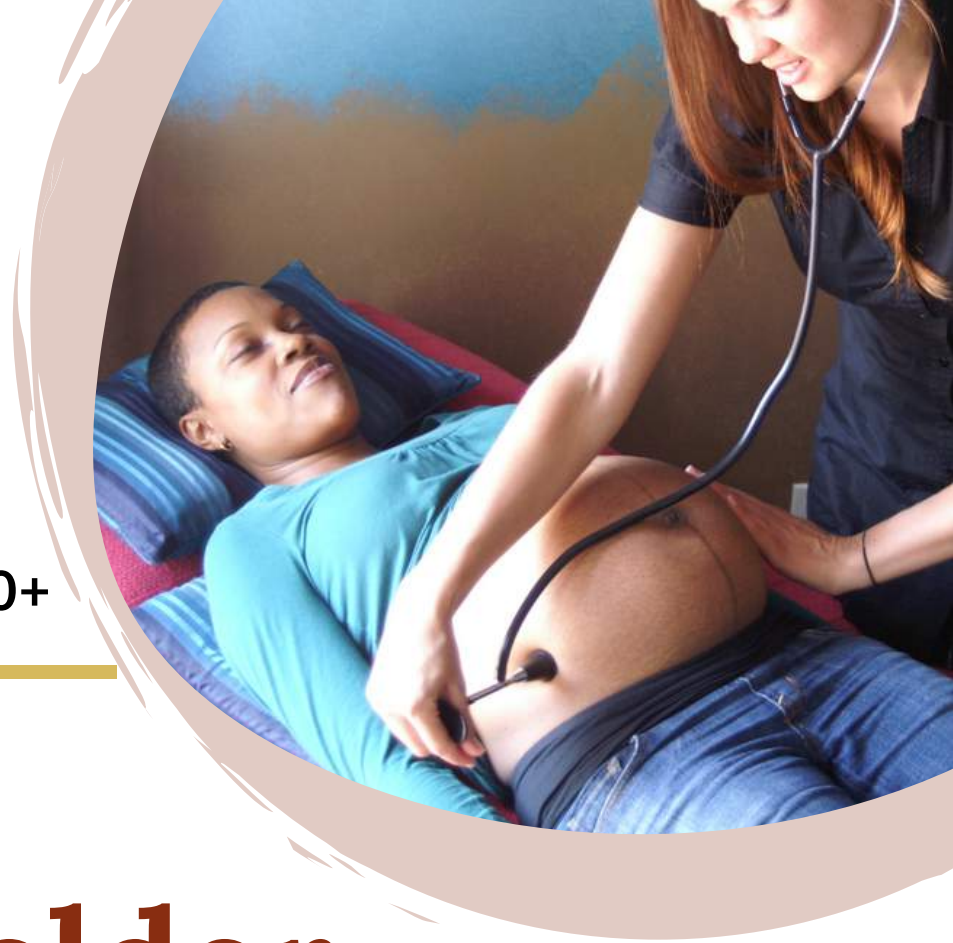
Have you joined a student affinity group yet? These groups are a great way to connect with similar members of the MCU community. They are meant to provide a safe environment for vulnerable populations to express themselves and can be a great source of support and encouragement throughout your journey as a student midwife.

Current Groups

- Black Student Union (BSU)
- LGBTQIA+ Organization
- Organization for Underrepresented Students (OURS)
- Better Together Interfaith Affiliates

How to Join

Groups can be found in Populi on your home page. In addition to joining an existing group, students are welcome to walk through the process of creating new groups. You can learn more about this process in Populi.



Annual Goal: \$50,000+

Briana Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund

Providing tuition relief for midwives serving medically underserved communities

SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

36

TO DATE

TUITION RELIEF
PROVIDED

\$212,543.66+

TO DATE

Help us save lives one birth at a time. Visit midwifery.edu/donate today!

Fundraising Efforts

\$4,563.62 raised in 2022

International Day of the Midwife



Birth Rights are Human Rights T-shirt Fundraiser:
\$420 raised

of T-shirts Sold: 51

Facebook Fundraiser:
\$25 raised

Video Views: 500

Facebook Birthday Fundraisers:

\$20 raised by Valery Salgado-Ramirez

\$35 raised by Shyllynn Alger



Game Night

of attendees: 8

Total Raised: \$123

Donations

\$30 - Whitney and Ramsey Mesyef

\$100 - Louisa Cohen

\$50 - Jennifer Rabbins

\$100 - Varden Hadfield

\$100 - Anonymous

Total Raised: \$380

\$330 Raised

Giving Tuesday

Swag Store

of Items Sold - 56

\$1,242.50 Raised



Amazon Smile:
\$1,278.09

Total raised through 2022.

As of February 2023, Amazon has closed this program. Please see below for other ways to donate.

You can help raise money for the Brianna Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund. To create your own Facebook fundraiser, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/fund/MidwivesCollegeofUtah/>

How, Why, and Other Questions

Since the beginning of human beings, midwives have been stepping up, supporting their communities, and providing care during one of the most significant events in a person's history: birth. Too often, individuals who seek midwifery education do not have access to it. As such, the Briana Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund exists to help mitigate some of those barriers to midwifery education, and ultimately to midwives in communities that desperately need them. Each year, MCU raises money to support that scholarship fund. Here is a brief look into this year's fundraising efforts:

This year for the International Day of the Midwife we held a t-shirt fundraiser. The front of the shirt is pictured here and the back of the shirt read "Midwives Save Lives". Over 50 people participated in this fundraiser and we raised \$420 for the Briana Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund. Thank you to everyone who helped spread awareness of the importance of midwifery in our communities.

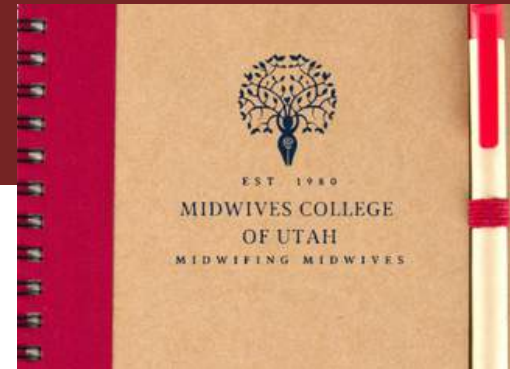


On May 20th we had our first ever virtual game night to kick off the Summer trimester. Participants played games such as Midwife Scattergories and Traveling Pictionary while video chatting. Laughs were had, prizes were won, and money was raised for MCU scholarship recipients. We hope to see you at the next event!

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken the time to share and donate to the various Facebook Fundraisers we ran over the course of 2022. . While it may not seem like much, pressing that share button is the best way to spread the word about MCU and our scholarship fund. That simple act has a ripple effect that will be felt for generations to come!



NEW SWAG



Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback on which new items to add to our store. We greatly appreciate your insights and suggestions!

GOING, GOING, GONE!

Earlier this year we added shirts, sweatshirts, water bottles, mugs, notebooks, and even some bumper stickers to the online store. Many of these items have already sold out! All proceeds from the store go directly to the Briana Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund. This year we raised \$1,242.50!!

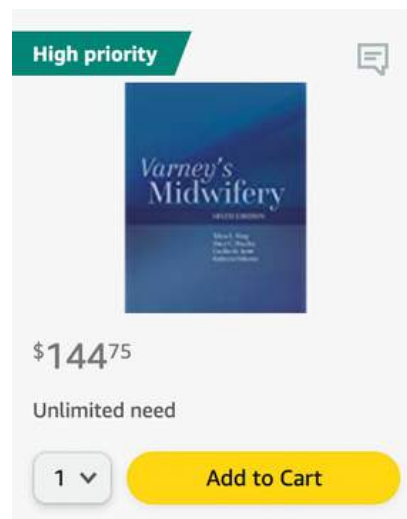


Amazon Wish Lists



Wish Lists

To find the wish lists visit amazon.com/hz/charitylist/homepage. Once there you can easily search for and find Midwives College of Utah. We have created 5 different wish lists that organize items by Phase, books, or midwifery bag items. When someone purchases something from a Wish List the item gets sent to MCU and then delivered to a student who needs a little help.



Have Items Sent Directly to You!

We've done the hard work of creating the wish lists for you. Now you can easily share the wish lists with your friends and family and have the items sent directly to you. After choosing the item, one of the final steps is to choose where to ship the items. The default choice is to send the item to MCU, alternatively they can choose to send items directly to you.



Affiliate Program

MCU is in the process of joining Amazon's Affiliate Program. Once this process is complete, we will begin to provide links to items such as textbooks using an affiliate link. When you use that link, MCU will receive a percentage of the purchase price from that textbook and any other items you purchase during that session. If you do not wish to participate in this program, you can still purchase textbooks through your retailer of choice by searching for the title and author name. All proceeds will go directly to the scholarship fund.

Midwifery News

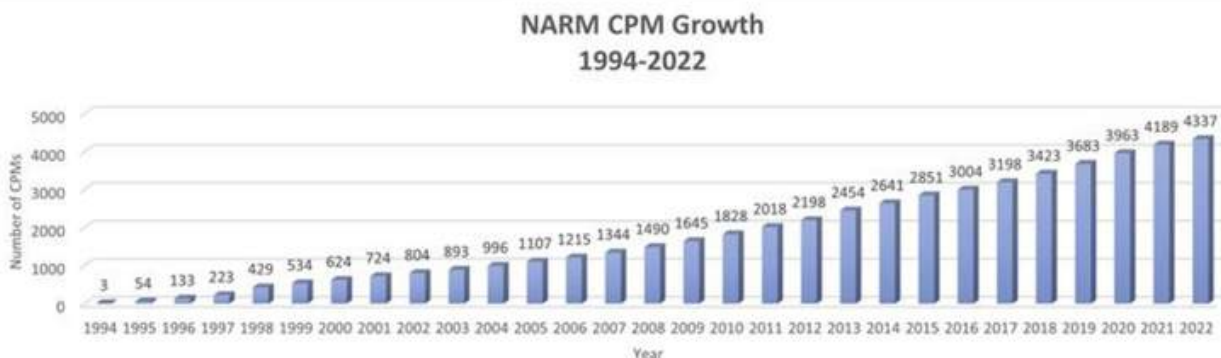
Updates from MCU and throughout the United States

In their latest newsletter, NARM shared some truly inspirational figures on the state of midwifery in the United States. In addition to the news that NARM has issued over 4,337 CPM credentials in the last 29 years (see graphic below), NARM also currently has over 1,700 certified preceptors. MCU is excited to be a part of this continuing growth and is excited for what the future holds for midwifery in the United States.

How Many CPMs?

Every CPM plays an essential role in the development and future of the CPM credential. Every US state that regulates CPMs uses the NARM Examination. This Exam has been co-created by CPMs and continues to be updated through participation in the Test Development process, making the CPM credential the thriving competency-based credential it is today.

- **NARM has issued over 4337 CPM credentials since 1994!**



As we celebrate 29 years of credentialing with recognition of CPMs in 37 states, we look forward to many more years of CPMs in every state with a midwife for every family!

Washington Midwives Receive Further Prescriptive Authority, Ability to Administer Birth Control

Bill [SSB 5765](#) was passed by the state of Washington this past February. This bill authorizes Licensed Midwives to prescribe contraceptives and manage common conditions of pregnancy. Midwives in the state of Washington will now have the ability to treat common conditions identified by midwives such as breast infections, urinary tract infections, nausea & vomiting. The bill also hopes to reduce costs and barriers to care by eliminating unnecessary

additional visits with another provider.

Other goals of this legislation include increasing midwifery integration into the healthcare system and expanding patient choice of practitioner who can meet their routine perinatal needs, particularly in medically underserved rural and urban areas. There is also hope that this will serve as a blueprint to expand prescriptive authority for midwives throughout the nation.

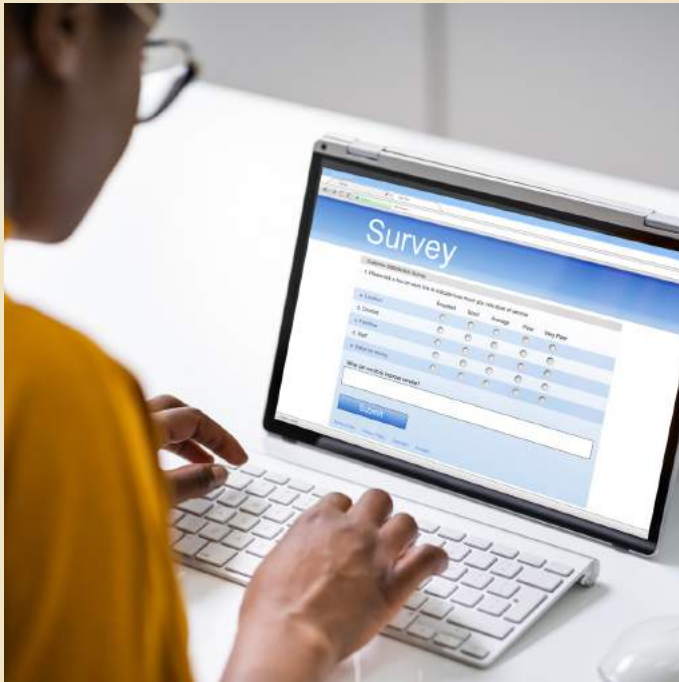
Protections for Pregnant and Nursing Workers Expanded

At the end of 2022 the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and the Pump Act were both passed into law. These acts are meant to help address weaknesses in the previous laws that forced workers to choose between their health and their jobs during and after pregnancy. While still not perfect, the hope is that these updates will provide protections especially for lower wage workers and people in marginalized communities.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, requires that employers provide pregnant workers with "reasonable accommodations", such as access to water, increased bathroom breaks and restrictions on lifting heavy objects.

Separately, the Pump Act expands on legally protected breaks for workers who are nursing babies. Employers are now required to designate specific times and places during the work day for employees to pump. Unfortunately, these protections do not extend to the more than 23 million business in the US that have 50 employees or less.



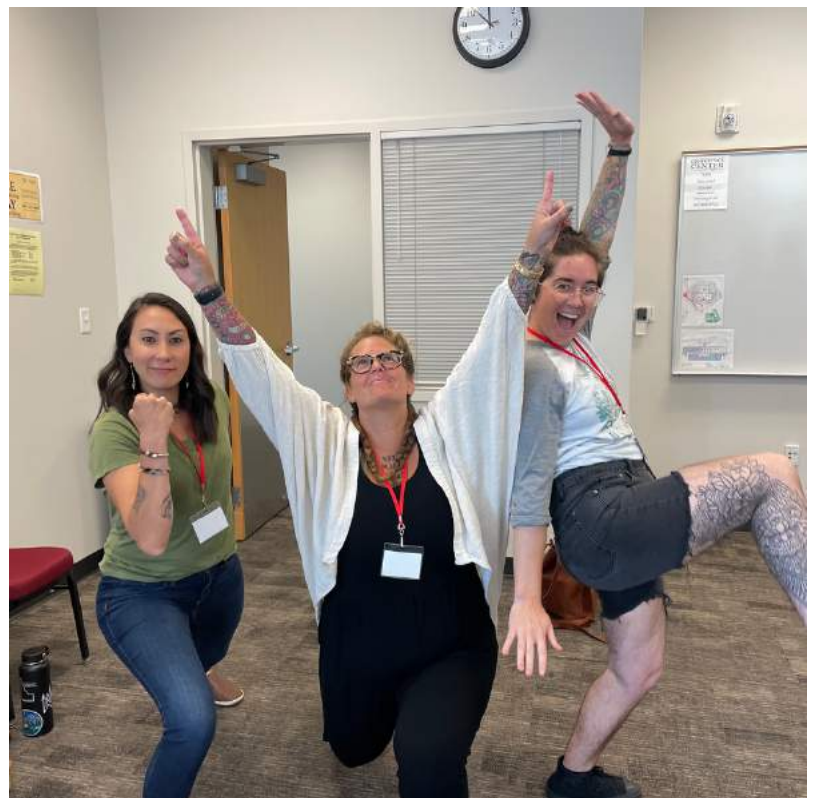


SETs

The Dean of Students has begun the process of reviewing the credit hours assigned to each class to ensure they match with the actual time the average student spends working on that class. You can help with this process by filling out the SETs for each class you take to ensure reality is represented.

In-Person Assessments Return

After several years of performing assessments remotely due to safety concerns during the pandemic, in-person assessments returned at the end of the Summer 2022 trimester. Both summer and fall assessments included a student social that allowed attendees to connect face-to-face and enjoy each other's company in a stress-free environment. We look forward to continuing in-person assessments in 2023 and ramping up student workshops.

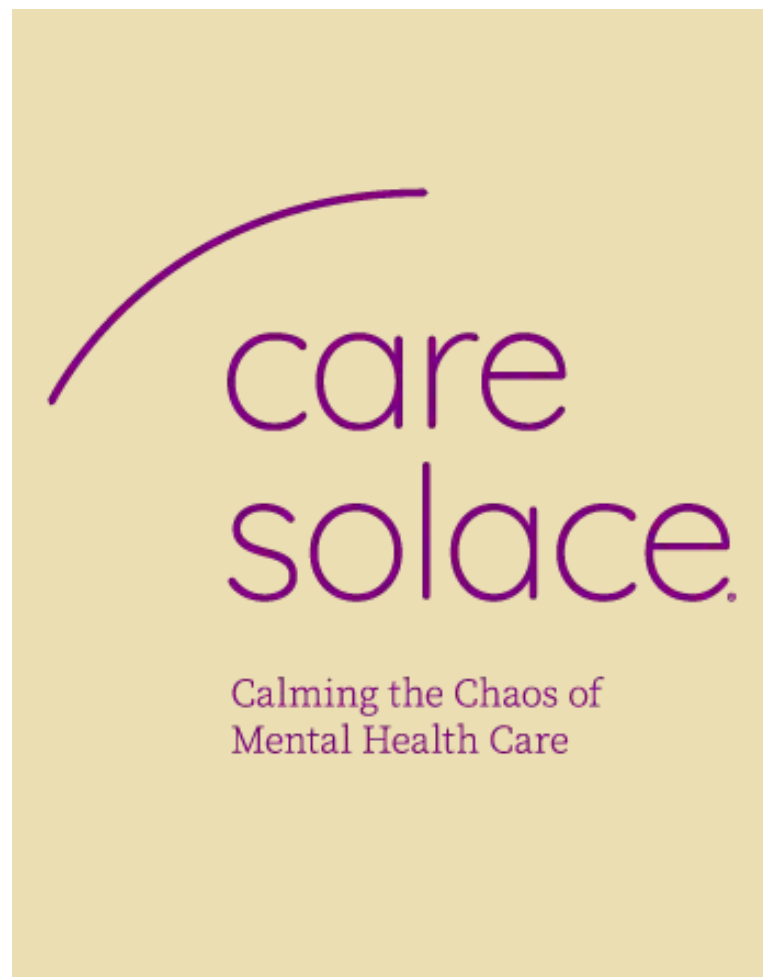


Student Support Hub

This year we made mental health a primary focus. One of the big ways we are centering mental health is through the Student Support Hub. At this hub students can easily find access to a variety of resources. Stressed about your workload and need help finding solutions? This page provides links to student services and a form to request reasonable accommodations.

Also included in the portal are several difference resources for personal counseling. CareSolace is a service provided by MCU which will connect you with mental healthcare resources and providers in your local community. They do the legwork for you to find a provider or services based on your needs including your insurance and financial considerations. In addition to this, students have the option to set up a personal counseling appointment with Tamara Taitt. For students who are experiencing a crisis, the contact information for multiple crisis hotlines is available at the bottom of the page.

We hope that you will all take a moment to review the Student Support Hub. The staff and faculty of MCU are here to support you and help you succeed.



Warmest Welcomes to...



Jermain Cooper
Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity & Opportunity



Tricia Carlisle
Adjunct Faculty Member



Kelly Dean
Adjunct Faculty Member



Rebecca Hazel
Clinical Department Chair Assistant



Jayme Moore
Adjunct Faculty Member



Stefanie Podlog
Adjunct Faculty Member

Warmest Welcomes to...



Marijke von Roojen
Director of Student Services, Adjunct Faculty



Stephanie Sibert
Adjunct Faculty Member



Sadie Sigford
House Mentor



Shavana Talbert
Adjunct Faculty Member



Melady Elifritz
Admissions Counselor

On behalf of the MCU Board of Directors, administration, students, faculty, and staff, we want to welcome each of you to the MCU family. We are excited to work with you further and are grateful for the expertise and unique perspective that you each bring to our community.

Welcome!

Fond Farewells to...



Kim Blue
Staff HR Coordinator



Nicole Croft
Admissions Counselor



Celeste Pegues
House Mentor

thank you!

On behalf of the MCU Board of Directors, administration, students, faculty, and staff, thank you for your service to Midwives College of Utah and all you have done to inspire and support Midwives of Excellence.

Transitions Within MCU



Sarah Carter

Resigned from role as Assessment Specialist, remaining as Adjunct Faculty



Cheryl Furer

Resigned from Director of Student Services; remaining as Adjunct Faculty



Susi Delaney

The New Assessment Specialist



Masha Mesyef

Resigned as Adjunct Faculty Member, still Staff member: Marketing, Fundraising, Compliance, Title IX, and Events



Jennifer Ross

Resigned as Faculty Support Assistant; remaining as a TA



Demetra Seriki

Resigned as an Adjunct Faculty Member; remaining as a house mentor

RECOGNITIONS

GRADUATES

The Saint Louis County Council awarded **Midwife Okunsola** with "Midwife Okunsola Day" every October 26th and designated the month of October as Community Midwife Month, in recognition of the extraordinary work of Jamaa Birth Village in the community.

https://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/the-time-is-now-birth-center-and-postpartum-retreat-to-open-in-ferguson/article_a4443c60-7e59-5ebe-a7e9-b44a4b9268d0.html



MCU alum, **Holly Graff**, opened her new practice, Collective Midwifery Care, in Northern New Jersey this April. Services include full-spectrum well-person care, contraception, and midwifery care throughout the childbearing year. Learn more about her new practice and service offered at www.collectivemidwiferycare.com.



After five months of remodeling and redecorating, MCU grad **Eliza Spears** opened Klamath Birth Center in Oregon this June.

To see more pictures of the beautiful space and follow all the wonderful things Eliza is doing, follow [@klamath_birth_center](https://www.instagram.com/klamath_birth_center) or visit www.klamathbirthcenter.com

RECOGNITIONS

GRADUATES

Midwife Okunsola, founder and CEO of Jamaa Birth Village, received the Chngemaker award at the 2022 National Philanthropy Day Awards Celebration. Okunsola's work in her community to train doulas, increase access to care for birthing persons, and further milk bank donations has made a permanent impact. In addition to these efforts, Okunsola also broke ground on Jamaa's 2nd location and Missouri's first "Black Owned Birth Center & Postpartum Retreat Haven", right in the heart of downtown Ferguson, MO.



STUDENTS

Amariee S. Collins, ARDMS, RDMS-Ab/OB/Gyn, RVT has stayed busy this year helping share her knowledge of sonography with community midwives. In November, Amariee taught at the Midwifery Wisdom Conference on Ultrasound Basics for Midwives. We applaud your tireless efforts at helping your community to learn and grow.



STAFF

A huge shout out to **Louisa Cohen** for working diligently to fill-in while the admissions department has been short staffed. In addition to this, she managed to increase the number of responses received for the Admissions Applicant Survey which allows admissions insight to see how we can better serve future applicants.

RECOGNITIONS

FACULTY

MCU alumna, faculty member, and former Director of Student Services, **Cheryl Furer**, was featured on the Journey to Midwifery podcast in January to discuss how her path led to starting her business of prenatal coaching.

You can hear her interview anywhere you listen to podcasts.



In November, faculty member **Nikkia Grayson** and alum/former adjunct **Tanya Smith-Johnson** joined a distinguished panel of midwives to share their expertise on the many paths towards midwifery with aspiring midwives. The panel, hosted by the National Black Midwives Alliance, is just one of many ways the organization brings visibility to the issues impacting Black midwives and the communities they serve.



Stephanie Podlog, co-authored the publication "Psychological readiness to return to sport following injury: A state-of-the-art review. *International Review of Sport and Exercise Psychology*". This review articulates key conceptual issues and questions regarding the nature of psychological readiness and offers a preliminary nomothetic definition of the construct.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1750984X.2022.2081929>

MCU IN REVIEW IS FOR YOU!

Share your stories, your updates and your ideas with **marketing@midwifery.edu** to include in the next edition of our newsletter. The newsletter is designed to inform and inspire our community. Are you a seasoned student or recent grad with thoughts about your experiences or are you working on a project, internship, speaking engagement we can pat you on the back for? MCU is interested in what's going on with you. Send your updates to **marketing@midwifery.edu**

or use this form:

<https://forms.gle/GmXTrzQjkgJB4Wtg8>



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