

MSW INTERNS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The 2017/2018 academic year has been a year of growth and progress, not only for State University of Albany Masters in Social Work interns, but also for the WAGE Center. Interns serve at the WAGE Center as staff in charge of walk-in participants and create projects to advance the programs and offerings to participants.



This year's Interns, Eden, Amibel and Jackie created the 2018 Albany Human Service Guide. After collecting agency information from various sources, the Interns began to verify and assemble the information into a guide for use by other service providers. The website link has been distributed to hundreds of human service providers in Albany and beyond via the WAGE Center website at www.wagecenters.com. It will be updated annually to allow providers and case managers the information to refer to and partner with other providers to offer the most complete service possible.

Eden, Amibel and Jackie also created and led a Smartphone 101 workshop, based on feedback from WAGE Center users who wanted a better understanding of the tools, capabilities and uses of their Android and Apple products. Application clinics were hosted by the interns this year, as well. Clinics allow drop-in computer users the opportunity to get intensive individualized assistance with applications and job searching mechanics, such as completing an online application and uploading and downloading employment documents.

Among some of the highlights in helping WAGE Center participants achieve goals, was the employment of several participants who came to application clinics with little to no computer experience, little recent work experience and/or a history of incarceration. Through diligent job seeking, resume development and one-to-one assistance using office technology, the interns were able to make a measurable difference in helping job-seekers obtain interviews and present themselves successfully.

The drive and creative passion of this year's interns was an inspiration to WAGE Center participants who received caring and thorough guidance toward goals. In creating the 2018 Human Service Guide, the Eden, Amibel and Jackie discovered resources and services, which they utilized in their own service delivery to very positive effect. Their legacy will live long after their graduation from SUNY, both in the Human Service Guide and in the goals that were achieved by the WAGE Center participants with whom they interacted.