

SPOTLIGHTING THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND CALENIA DUMAS

MSW Student | Eastside Indy Native | Aspiring Social Worker



Meet **Calenia Dumas**, a proud Eastside Indianapolis native and MSW student with a heart for service and a passion for people. One of six siblings, Calenia draws strength from her close-knit family, a lifelong love of volleyball and reading, and a growing spirit of adventure—most recently sparked by receiving her first passport.

Originally pursuing a path in criminal justice, Calenia was ultimately drawn to social work by her parents' example and the emotional and mental rewards of helping others. Her practicum placement, recommended by her Ball State University field coordinator, aligned perfectly with her values and past experiences—including her work with the Department of Child Services. This background helped her transition smoothly into casework while expanding her understanding of child welfare.

Throughout her practicum, Calenia embraced every opportunity to grow—whether contributing to an agency-wide research project, building a case management resource library, or attending a professional conference alongside Dr. Tichenor and other leaders in the field. These experiences have shaped her practice and directly influenced her full-time role as a **school social worker**.

Calenia shares that she's grown in time management, empathy, and self-awareness, while also sharpening her public speaking and networking skills. To manage the emotional demands of the work, she leans on journaling, self-care, and regular check-ins with her field instructor.

Her advice to fellow interns?

"Stay open, stay honest, and know the NASW Code of Ethics. Don't be afraid to advocate for yourself and ask for help."

Calenia's journey reminds us that social work isn't just a career—it's a calling. She's committed to expanding what's possible in the field and leaving a positive impact on every life she touches.

Family Links
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