

**Awards**

**Outstanding FW mentor/supervisor**

**Nick Askins and Michelle Glanville** consistently welcome our occupational therapy students at Solnit with openness and dedication. They provide comprehensive education, individualized guidance, and support to ensure each student develops the skills and confidence needed to succeed in a pediatric mental health setting.

**Tracey Strelczuk** consistently demonstrates enthusiasm, approachability, and a strong commitment to student learning. She goes above and beyond to provide a supportive and engaging fieldwork experience, fostering both professional growth and confidence in her students.

**Grace Garies** has consistently welcomed fieldwork students from the OTA program at NEIT—her alma mater—and often shares how much she enjoys mentoring them. She is responsive, passionate about occupational therapy, and an excellent leader.

**Maggie Flynn** has served as Fieldwork Educator providing level I and II experiences for OT students at McLean Southeast where she initiated Occupational Therapy programming and has supported the collaborative model of supervision in fieldwork. She continues her scholarship in educating occupational therapists in mental health practice through pre-requisite courses at Stonehill College, serving as Lab Instructor and guest lecturer at MGH Institute of Health Professions EL OTD program and presented at AOTA Inspire, MH Specialty Conference and numerous workshops in support of MH advocacy and OT interventions.

**Christine Parks** works tirelessly behind the scenes—securing school-based placements across the city of Cambridge for both Level I and Level II Fieldwork, tailoring orientation materials, and troubleshooting every logistical hurdle—so that each OT student arrives welcomed, well-supported, and inspired to embrace pediatric school-based practice. She is undoubtedly an outstanding fieldwork educator.

**Sarah Won** is the “go-to” problem-solver for student placements across the entire Boston Medical Center network—she routinely juggles multiple Level I and Level II slots, and when a site cancels at the eleventh hour, she still finds a placement for every student, ensuring no fieldwork experience is interrupted. It would be an honor and a privilege to nominate her for the “Outstanding Fieldwork Educator Award.”

We are honored to nominate **Dara Spezial** for her exceptional contributions to fieldwork education. Dara has supported numerous Level I and Level II students at Empower Rehab, providing outstanding supervision and enriching clinical experiences in geriatric care. Her passion for teaching and advocacy for occupational therapy services is evident in every aspect of her mentorship.

**Elizabeth Stevens-Nafai** is a dedicated advocate for fieldwork students in Worcester Public Schools. She has provided outstanding supervision to numerous Level I and II students, offering strong clinical support and mentorship. Thanks to her guidance, our students gain valuable knowledge and a solid foundation in school-based occupational therapy. We truly appreciate her ongoing commitment to their growth and success.

**Olivia Longley** has been a constant contributor to our occupational therapy students’ professional growth and development into competent and caring entry-level practitioners. Olivia seeks out opportunities to build quality Level II learning experiences, even amidst job and job role changes, and corporate transitions; Olivia is always there to stand by and with our students, to deliver excellent student learning experiences. Thanks Olivia!

**Sheila Bennett** is an occupational therapist who has mentored, supervised, and cultivated exceptional learning experiences for countless occupational therapy students. Sheila creates excellent learning opportunities and collaborates with students to foster entry-level competence toward the goal of kind, caring, and quality occupational therapy service delivery. Thank you Sheila!

**Adrianne Smith** constantly shows up for OT students by showing them compassion, understanding, and patience as she guides them through an intense and rich level II fieldwork experience. She is always willing to take students on and is flexible with scheduling. We appreciate her dedication to fieldwork education and look forward to future partnerships.

**Kim Mirer** is an enthusiastic, dedicated and hardworking educator managing a district wide team, FW student program, and a growing school-based caseload. She communicates proactively and effectively and is able to create a just right challenge and well-rounded experience for students.

**Irene Allard Award**

**Laura Lane** skillfully and consistently serves as a fieldwork educator and as a mentor for members of her team who are new to the fieldwork education process. Laura supports and sustains a scaffolded and supportive fieldwork education program for level I and level II students. Laura is adept at meeting the needs of a range of learners. As a mentor for her newer colleagues, Laura supports therapists on her team in developing their skills as fieldwork educators. Laura provides consistent fieldwork reservations for a number of local schools annually.

**Allison Sullivan** is a scholar and educator who has dedicated her career as an OT mentoring students. She is a research coordinator as a board member of the Mental Health Special Interest Section, as well as a board member of the Martin Luther King Jr Family Services in Springfield, MA, the Allen Cognitive Network, and The Lighthouse, which is a psychosocial clubhouse also in Springfield. She is the president of the Human Rights Committee for Viability, Inc which is an organization that provides day habilitation services and programs across the nation. Through her strong advocacy and articulate leadership, Allison provides all students who cross her path multiple opportunities for participation in community practice to build legacies and grow their own leadership. Thank you, Allison, for all that you do for our students and the future of our profession.

**FW Innovation**

**Emily Briggs** is breaking new ground for Occupational Therapy at Middlesex Jail and House of Correction. She has been instrumental in launching a new unit dedicated to supporting incarcerated older adults as they prepare for reintegration into the community. In this unique and non-traditional setting, Emily has demonstrated the value of OT through a range of group and individual interventions. She has guided capstone and level 1 Occupational Therapy students, deepening their understand of the needs of this population while promoting an evidence-based approach to support successful reentry. Emily has made a lasting impact within the multidisciplinary team, providing training to correctional officers about typical aging and the vital role of occupational therapy.

**Retired**

**Deborah Rochman** retired from her position as and Advanced Clinical Specialist and Clinical Coordinator at Spaulding Outpatient Center in Medford, MA this year. She has supported her team and students through clinical placements and has been a pleasure to work with.

For more than three decades, **Cynthia “Cindy” Barrows** has embodied the very spirit of occupational therapy education—combining clinical excellence with an unwavering commitment to mentoring the next generation. Her clinical expertise in mental health, warm guidance, and tireless advocacy in behavioral and mental health have shaped countless students into compassionate, evidence-based practitioners who carry her influence into every setting they serve. She received the Irene Allard Award in 1988, which is a testament to her outstanding contribution to the field of occupational therapy. As Cindy retires later this year, we honor her extraordinary legacy of teaching, leadership, and service, which has illuminated the path for both learners and colleagues alike. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we nominate her for the Retired Educator Award.

**Dr. Mary Alicia Barnes** 30+ years and hundreds (maybe thousands?) of students later, Dr. Mary Alicia Barnes, is stepping back from her full-time role in higher education. For 25 years Mary served as the fieldwork coordinator at Tufts University, before becoming the department’s inaugural Doctoral Capstone Coordinator in 2018. Through both experiential roles as well as her classroom teaching, Mary has contributed not only to the development and mentoring of students, but also her colleagues. Mary brings an unparalleled devotion to her work and a commitment to her role and the people she connects with. Mary knows everyone and it seems everyone knows and loves Mary. She will be deeply missed in her academic role, but we know she will never be far away! We look forward to continuing collaborations with Mary in her next steps.

**New Fieldwork Educator**

Cal Williams

Loghan Nace

Morgan Levy

Mary Duranleau

Catherine Linehan

Amanda Cantrell

Tiffany Collins

Rosemary Rose

Lizzie Fisher

Victoria Lehr

Stefania Flavo