

2020 SUAPP Outstanding Student Engagement Awardee

Nikeisha Bass, Master of Social Work

Nikeisha's community engagement spans two organizations and multiple roles. She worked with Restore Corp, a non-profit organization dedicated to the eradication of human trafficking, where she provided support for staff of various projects which benefitted survivors who attend the program and as well as educated the community on the impact of human trafficking. She also worked with Project Launch, a partnership between the UofM and LeBoneur Children's Hospital that provides infant mental health consultation and training.



Nikeisha's connection with Restore Corp began as part of a class project to develop a grant proposal for a local non-profit and she continues to share expertise as a volunteer. Nikeisha says her goal "was to engage with others and share my knowledge and insight about trauma and learning different interventions and ways to help people affected by sex trafficking." During her field-placement with Project Launch, Nikeisha has served as a pediatric mental health consultant and provided preventative care and interventions to over 100 families at LeBonheur and collaborated with staff to identify opportunities for formal and informal education on best practices in infant mental health. Her letters of support describe Nikeisha as "passionate and enthusiastic about her work," "a great asset to our clinic," and "committed to the Memphis community and cherished advocate and partner."

Nikeisha's community engagement exemplifies SUAPP's mission and vision of actively connecting learning and practice to crucial community issues. Reflecting on the connections between her educational and community experiences, she notes, "because I plan to work in macro social work, working on policy, in advocacy, and program evaluation, the knowledge learned while in [the Master of Social Work] program will be invaluable. Working with real community agencies, such as Restore Corps, to implement class assignments allowed me time to refine my craft with the support of highly qualified and competent professors who cared whether I succeeded."