University of Memphis gets grant for social work

BY: The Commercial Appeal POSTED: 9:32 PM, Oct 13, 2014

UPDATED: 58 mins ago **TAG:** local news (/topic/local+news)

Three University of Memphis professors have been awarded a new grant, officials said Monday.

Dr. Susan Neely-Barnes, associate professor in the department of Social Work, and assistant professors Dr. Elena Delavega and Dr. Susan Elswick have been awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals grant. The award is \$473,892 during the first year, with a possible \$1.4 million over a three-year period.

The grant will fund the establishment of the Mid-South Social Work Professional Development Initiative, which plans to train 102 students seeking a masters in social work. Students participating in the program will receive training while providing direct services to children, adolescents or transition-age adults.

The grant is part of a White House "Now is the Time" initiative. The goal is to train more behavioral-health professionals with a commitment to serve populations who are at risk or have developed a behavioral health disorder.

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