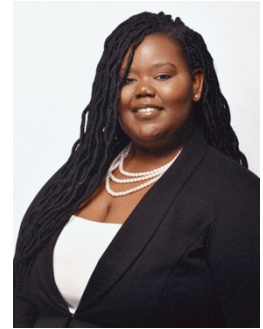


SUAPP 2021 Outstanding Student Engagement Awardee
Ricki Martin, Master of Social Work

Ricki Martin embodies the essence of the outstanding student engagement award with her commitment to community engagement and student leadership across seven organizations. As a Master of Social Work student, Ricki has interned with Life Choices and CHOICES Memphis Reproductive Health. Ricki brought her passion and enthusiasm for helping end racial disparities in maternal-infant health through the development and implementation of childbirth education and support groups, securing grant funding for the CHOICES midwifery program, and connecting at-risk expecting families to community-based resources.



Ricki's drive for social and reproductive justice and equity extends to her involvement with community and student leadership roles. As board member for the Tennessee Health Care Campaign and pregnancy, birth, and postpartum doula at Birth Strides, Ricki helps to advocate for all Tennesseans to have access to high quality, affordable, and equitable healthcare while seeking to develop a space for Black social work students to engage, connect, and empower each other and the Memphis community as president of the newly chartered Coalition of Black Social Workers-UM Chapter. Additionally, Ricki is a dedicated member of the National Association of Social Workers, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the NAACP-Memphis chapter.

Ricki's community and student engagement exemplifies SUAPP's mission and vision of enhancing the quality of life, well-being, and prosperity of metropolitan settings. As one of her support letters noted, "Ricki embraces the responsibilities of leadership and mentoring other professionals on their journey to self-awareness. Her passion for reproductive justice guides her work and motivates her to continue supporting people through the most challenging times in life. Ricki's community engagement has enhanced her academic experience by helping her recognize the importance of advocacy and activism through macro social work. Reflecting on her experiences, Ricki notes, "The most important beneficiaries would be the Memphis community members that I am able to reach with my engagement activities. Be it a social work student, an expecting mother, or a fellow professional I believe that I impact people with my activities by providing avenues that were not there before."