



Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions

Our drive to innovate and create a more thriving society comes from deeply embedded **aspirations** that weave through the work of every school and center within the college. The five pillars — equity, community, justice, participation and potential — encompass the issues we hope to address and the outcomes we believe we can achieve. They underscore everything we do.

And so we are proud to introduce ASPIRE e-zine — the means by which we hope to communicate how we are moving the needle on these aspirations.



The 2020-2021 school year will bring new excitement and fresh challenges, but with it we will carry forward the impactful research, prestigious honors and inspiring innovation from our faculty and student change agents to continue our mission to #BeTheSolution.

These stories are a tiny fraction of the work we are doing in the Watts College. There is far more happening than we could ever capture here. For more, **visit our website**. We invite you to enjoy this collection of moments that reflect on where we have been, where we are going and how we are shaping the future of public service.

Equity

We advance fairness, justice, equality and inclusion — individually and as an organization — to help eliminate racism, social disparities, classism and oppression. We strive to create a society that values diversity and a culture that fosters healing, recovery and well-being for all.



ASU alum paving pathways for people with disabilities

Todd Lemay remembers longing for snowless days. Snowy weather constricted the Maine native. Beaches did the same, and steps robbed him of his freedom. Lemay was born with a brittle bone disease that led him to use a wheelchair for most of his life. Through a unique donation to ASU, Lemay is gifting mobility challenged students the ability to participate in outdoor activities.



Redesigning the mindset for girls in STEM

Over a taco truck lunch with the 2018 Mandela Washington fellows visiting from Africa, Arizona State University Lecturer Christina Carrasquilla met her ideal outreach partner, Janet Silantoi. Silantoi is a cybersecurity expert from Kenya, who was at ASU connecting with other professionals as part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.



ASU water policy expert addresses new drought plan for state

The Southwest's long-standing drought has left the state staring down a historic and first-ever Colorado River water cutback in 2020. ASU Now spoke to Sarah Porter, director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at ASU's Morrison Institute, about the cutbacks and what they will mean for Arizona's agriculture and more than 6 million residents.

New book provides research-based strategies for law enforcement

In a new book written by faculty members, alumni and current and former doctoral students in ASU's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, the authors offer fresh, research-based perspectives to help law enforcement officials make better-informed decisions about running their agencies and best apply strategies and tactics.



Community

We cultivate a sense of belonging and connectedness with each other and all living things to help

build healthy communities. We strive to be accountable environmental stewards, creating vibrant places for everyone to live, work and play. We aspire to equip communities with the resources they need to generate solutions to their challenges.



First ever Watts LIVE!

This year our celebrations looked a bit different as we hosted a virtual convocation, and for the first time, launched Watts LIVE!— our live post-graduation event that allowed our administrators, faculty and staff members, and community leaders (including police chiefs, senators and more!) to recognize our students.



ASU college reaches out to students to hear their pandemic-related concerns

Hundreds of ASU's Watts College students recently discovered some unfamiliar numbers appearing on the screens of their ringing phones. But the callers weren't strangers. They were fellow Watts students reaching out on the college's behalf through the Watts Cares Calling Campaign to find out how their fellow students were faring amid challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Watts College names two 'community champions' as liaisons to Maryvale neighborhoods

Two women with strong ties to the Maryvale community in northwest Phoenix will serve as "community champions," working with faculty, staff and students of Arizona State University's Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions to improve the lives of those residing there.

ASU professors to help Gulf Coast communities assess climate risks

Melanie Gall, research professor and co-director of the Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security at ASU, and Natasha Mendoza, associate professor in the School of Social Work, are working with researchers from eight other institutions to create a new information platform that will tell residents the likelihood that they'll face a weather disaster and how much it might cost to avoid it.



Justice

We seek solutions to prevent violence of all kinds and aspire to create a society that breaks down barriers for underrepresented populations. We strive to re-imagine and rebuild unjust systems into ones that are equitable, evidence-based and advance a safe future for all of humanity.



Quick thinking keeps instruction going for incarcerated students in ASU's 'Inside-Out' class

The logistical challenges of teaching a class inside a state prison are complicated enough during a typical semester, let alone during a pandemic. This spring, an ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice professor and a doctoral student were instructing 10 campus-based students, plus 10 individuals serving time at the Arizona State Prison Complex-Florence.



Giving aid to African human trafficking victims sharpens student's career focus toward helping others to be heard

Karla Chicuate was intellectually acquainted with human trafficking when she traveled in January to west Africa. But, upon arriving, the Criminology and Criminal Justice junior and AmeriCorps member discovered just how much she had to learn about the realities of human trafficking and how deeply ingrained it is in the region's culture.

ASU study: Exposure to violence means less access to health care for Somali women in AZ

Migrant women and girls who experienced violent crime are more likely than non-victims to have health problems and face barriers to vital health care here in Arizona, a new ASU study has found. The study is a first-of-its-kind, large-scale survey of Somali women and girls in Arizona that shows the health effects of victimization.



Want to Reform the Police? Look to Social Work for Lessons

Jon Gould, director of the ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and James



Herbert Williams, director of the ASU School of Social Work, co-authored an op-ed discussing what the relationship should be between policing and social work.

Participation

We aspire to create a society shaped by community and civic participation — characterized by trust in public institutions, value for public goods and thriving democracy. We work to create conditions where everyone's voice is heard, institutions evolve as society changes and community members are valued partners.



ASU student team engages nearly 900 voters with software reminding people to cast ballots

A team of Arizona State University students engaged nearly 900 fellow students in the voting process with an online tool, placing ASU in the top 15 among 131 U.S. colleges and universities, the nonpartisan organization Democracy Works announced. The tool, called TurboVote, employs easier ways to register and to get an early ballot, and sends students online reminders that elections are near to help them remember to cast ballots.



ASU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to provide Peace Corps experience for members

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at ASU has enlisted faculty to teach short, high-level, noncredit courses to adults over 50 for more than a decade. And now, beyond classroom learning, Osher members have a chance to make a difference in the world through the new OLLI Corps — a partnership with the National Peace Corps Association and Discover Corps.



Devils in the Details: Responding to a pandemic

This installment of the ASU Now video series interviewing experts from across ASU explores the role of the Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

School of Community Resources and Development celebrates 15 years

In the 15 years since ASU's School of Community Resources and Development was created, it has blossomed from its origins as a recreation program into a fully sustainable community that equips students with the tools necessary to create meaningful community partnerships. In 2004, a new school was approved to combine several disciplines including parks and recreation, tourism, and nonprofit leadership and management.



Potential

We nurture public service leaders to learn, generate new knowledge and apply their skills to co-create solutions with communities. We work to ensure that everyone has the resources they need to achieve their optimal life and well-being.

Outstanding Graduates share high hopes, far-reaching plans, milestones achieved

Hundreds of students crossed the threshold into their professional futures as graduates of the Watts College in 2019-20. The following stories of 11 students, honored as the fall 2019 and spring 2020 Outstanding Graduates of each of the Watts College's four schools and its interdisciplinary programs, tell of many milestones achieved and challenges overcome.

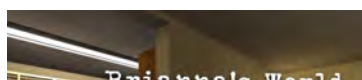


3 mothers and classmates wrap up work on their online master's degrees

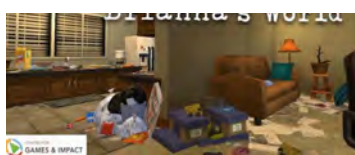
Three women were all near the end of their journeys toward a Master of Nonprofit Leadership and Management degree from the School of Community Resources and Development. Above the pressures most any graduate student must face, they share a rare common experience. The day before commencement, each one celebrated Mother's Day as the mother of five children.

'Brianna's World' teaches ASU social work students real-life experience

How can students get real world experience



without leaving the classroom? "Brianna's World" is a 3D game that allows students to conduct a simulated home visit with a client. KTAR was among local news agencies to interview ASU Center for Child Well-Being Director Judy Krysik about the innovative tool.



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