Representing an historic collaboration between twelve (12) independent USC schools with a collective mission. Directed by social worker Brenda Viewel, DSW.

INITIATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR EACH SCHOOL
I’d like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Deans of the USC Initiative to Eliminate Homelessness for their outstanding leadership and collaboration during the last five years. Together with faculty, staff, and students from each of the twelve schools, we have demonstrated powerful levels of compassion and widespread involvement. Early on, the Deans prioritized our own students, wanting to make sure the university had a response in place for those with food and housing insecurity. After progress was made with added infrastructure for students, we moved on to create important, sustainable programs and partnerships, which have contributed significantly and will continue to generate ongoing progress on behalf of the regional crisis of homelessness. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with each of you!

Warmest wishes,

Brenda
“Our school joined the initiative to help make a difference because communications plays such a key role in education, advocacy, and promotion for all stakeholders. We hope to help support understanding and craft an effective narrative for success.”
- Dean Willow Bay

Major Projects

- REPORING ON HOMELESSNESS COURSE: Students reported on a range of related stories and published a four-part series in the Huffington Post.

- MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS WITH ANNENBERG AGENCY PROMOTE THE HOMELESS INITIATIVE: The Annenberg Agency, an offshoot of the school’s CMGT 590 Course, is a student consultancy designed to serve local nonprofit organizations, which have included LA Community Action Network and the Downtown Women’s Center as well as the Homeless Initiative. It was designed to give graduate students hands-on experience while promoting key programs. Student teams participated in digital content creation, public relations, crisis communication, brand communication, and marketing and research.

- CONNECTING SKID ROW: RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DESIGN FOR INTERNET ACCESS: Project included community-engaged research with surveys and interviews, followed by co-design with community partner (LA CAN) of off-the-grid charging stations with free WiFi for resident online access, and finally mapping of Skid Row’s communication technology infrastructure.

- IMMERSIVE STORYTELLING: Hosted by the Los Angeles Central Library, USC students created small VR cameras and empowered persons experiencing homelessness by teaching them how to portray their own stories using immersive technology.

- CROSSTOWN LA LOOKS AT HOMELESSNESS THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD DATA: Serving Los Angeles, Crosstown LA organizes and provides analysis and trends from various open source databases, with multiple stories researched and reported by USC students to educate about neighborhood impacts of homelessness.

- ANNENBERG MEDIA AND /DAILY TROJAN: Students report on current news with periodic stories related to the Initiative and issue of homelessness.

- GRASSROOTS HAND-WASHING TO FIGHT COVID-19 FOR THE HOUSELESS: Doctoral students in the graduate seminar course “Research, Practice and Social Change” engaged in a participatory research project with the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN) to deploy DIY hand-washing stations on LA’s Skid Row to help combat COVID.
"Our school joined the initiative to help make a difference because communications plays such a key role in education, advocacy, and promotion for all stakeholders. We hope to help support understanding and craft an effective narrative for success."

Dean Willow Bay

Faculty Experts

- Mary Murphy, Associate Professor of Journalism,
  - Teaches Homelessness reporting courses
  - Long time support of Midnight Mission

- Sandy Tolan, Professor of Journalism, Director of Specialized Journalism Program
  - Teaches Homelessness reporting
  - Current active international reporting

- Frederick Tran Nager, Entrepreneurial Communication Expert In Residence + Lecturer
  - Led Annenberg Agency marketing communication courses to assist Initiative over 4 semesters

- Francois Bar, PhD., Professor of Communication and Spatial Sciences, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
  - Research and community partnerships in Skid Row
  - Expertise with participant co-design

- Hernan Galperin, PhD., Associate Professor of Communication Director,
  Annenberg Research Network on International Communication (ARNIC)
  - Research on digital divide
  - Focus on access to internet for low-income and unhoused persons

- Robert Hernandez, Associate Professor of Professional Practice
  - Teaches JoVRnalism
  - Created special project to help unhoused tell their own stories

- Gabriel Kahn, Professor of Professional Practice of Journalism
  - Launched Crosstown LA
  - Supervises student reporters to address neighborhood stories on homelessness
"Housing design is important as we work to meet population needs within urban environments. Innovative techniques and materials can help with efforts to create affordable housing as well as temporary shelter options."

-Dean Milton Curry

Major Projects

- **HOMES FOR HOPE**: Martin Architecture and Design Workshop (MADWORKSHOP) sponsored The Homeless Studio at the USC School of Architecture for the Fall 2016 semester, which produced a simple design for temporary housing using found materials in collaboration with the Los Angeles City Planning and Permitting Departments.

- **DEAN ADVISES AND JUDGES LOCAL HOMELESS HOUSING DESIGN COMPETITIONS**: Dean Milton Curry joined Los Angeles City Mayor’s Task Force on Housing Design and the panel of experts who reviewed housing design challenges for both the city and county of Los Angeles.

- **STUDENTS INTERNS TO ADVANCE HOMELESS HOUSING DESIGN**: Architecture students interned with AIA LA’s Design for Dignity project to improve the housing typology tool, with Volunteers of America Los Angeles on design of small homes for veterans, and with ArcSpace to research design elements.

Faculty Experts

- **R. Scott Mitchell**, Associate Professor of Practice
  - Teaches design and has professional practice
  - Led 2016 Homeless Studio and produced design for pods, combined to produce 30 beds, plus kitchen and bathroom facilities

- **Luciana Varkulja**, Lecturer
  - Member of AIA LA Design for Dignity Committee
  - Supervised interns to research housing typologies design elements

- **Lawrence Scarpa**, Adjunct Professor,
  - Leader in sustainable design
  - Firm (Brooks & Scarpa) one of the winners of LA County Competition for the NEST Toolkit, a new scalable affordable housing solution using modula
"A strong academic framework in the sciences and humanities must include an understanding of the complexities in the world around us, including the challenges presented by homelessness, which have presented many opportunities for study and service."

-Dean Amber Miller

Major Projects

- **LARGE SCALE SURVEYS:** USC’s Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) has engaged in research to better understand student housing insecurity along with the impact of housing insecurity on residents of LA County (via The LA Barometer, a quarterly, internet-based survey of approximately 1,800 county residents to monitor social conditions and attitudes that help policymakers address issues such as homelessness).

- **LINKING WRITING TO SERVICE EXPERIENCE:** Writing programs have helped both undergraduate and graduate students engage in community projects to serve and learn, including partnering with agencies to write about and create videos, such as helping reconnect unhoused persons with family through the Miracle Messages Program, teaching computer skills to Midnight Mission residents, building an urban garden for Pathways to Home, highlighting Chrysalis’s bridge to employment, and educating about Abundant Housing LA’s affordable housing efforts.

- **LEADING POLICY DISCUSSIONS:** Using Third LA to host conversations with local leaders and experts, including expanded affordable housing in DTLA.

- **USING DATA TO UNDERSTAND HOUSING ISSUES:** Generating data on equity indicators that generate insight on eviction, debt, and housing insecurity through the Equity Research Institute’s PolicyLink Equity Atlas connection.

- **STRUCTURED SERVICE LEARNING WITHIN HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEMS:** Created the Understanding Homelessness Through Service, as part of the Joint Education Project (JEP), which gives students a chance to volunteer at schools and nonprofit organizations over 8 weeks, be involved in community events that provide services to the homeless population, go on site visits to nonprofits, and discuss these giant problems with USC peers (see the program in action). In addition, in 2019 through the unique cooperative venture between JEP and the Thematic Option Honors Program as part of the FIX (Frameworks for Interdisciplinary Exchange), a course was offered to focus on interdisciplinary service-based approaches to "wicked" problems.
"A strong academic framework in the sciences and humanities must include an understanding of the complexities in the world around us, including the challenges presented by homelessness, which have presented many opportunities for study and service."

-Dean Amber Miller

Major Projects

- **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS:** JEP hosted, six students from Hong Kong Polytechnic University who studied homelessness and served at several Skid Row services with three USC students in June 2019.

- **STUDENT VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** Students became actively involved with projects to serve unhoused persons, including starting the Water Drop Project, actively volunteering with the Share a Meal Club, joining PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) upon graduation to provide leadership for services, and creating The Skid Row Reader, as an alum to improve literacy, share written word, and inspire unhoused persons.

- **GEOMAPPING RESOURCES FOR LA CITY:** The Spacial Sciences Institute has consulted with city of Los Angeles planners and students have conducted key research such as a study of water sources in downtown LA. SCMappers Club (a Youthmapappers project) used GIS data to conduct a community scan and provide recommendations to improve community health.

- **HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH PROJECTS:** The Jess Unruh Institute of Politics led several student projects to study and communicate potential solutions to homelessness and housing development with local political leadership.

- **WEINGART RESEARCH LAB:** The Weingart Center in Skid Row partnered with USC to host student learning including sociology, psychology, and writing.

- **NEW ANTHROPOLOGY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INTERNSHIPS:** Student learning about a community through participant observation internships were arranged with key homeless service shelters.
"A strong academic framework in the sciences and humanities must include an understanding of the complexities in the world around us, including the challenges presented by homelessness, which have presented many opportunities for study and service."

-Dean Amber Miller

Faculty Experts

- Arie Kepteyn, PhD, Professor of Economics, Director of CESR
  - Student Basic Needs Survey
  - LA County resident survey

- Writing Instruction Faculty who have used community engagement on homelessness programs to enhance learning:
  - Mark Marino, PhD, Professor Writing with Advanced Writing Courses
  - Ben Pack, Assistant Professor of Writing, Undergraduate Writing Courses ( Miracle Messages)
  - Emily Artiano, Associate Professor of Writing, Undergraduate Writing Courses ( Miracle Messages)
  - Stephanie Lore Bower, PhD., Professor of Writing, Graduate Writing Courses
  - John R Murray, EdD, Associate Professor of Writing, Graduate Writing Courses

- Susan Corbin Harris, PhD, Executive Director Joint Educational Project
  - Coordinated design of homelessness service option, FIX course, and international exchange with Hong Kong students.

- Reverend Dr. Najuma Smith Pollard, Program Manager, Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement
  - Leadership for USC Faith Summit
  - Consultation, capacity building through churches to prevent homelessness.

- Brie Loskota, Executive Director of the Center for Religion and Civic Culture
  - Leadership on Faith Summit
  - Documentation for unique religious-initiated services for homeless neighbors.
  - Support for community capacity building leveraging faith communities.

- John P Wilson, PhD, Director of the Spacial Sciences Institute
  - Conducted geospatial research and consultation for city of LA.
  - Worked with PhD students on Skid Row studies.
"A strong academic framework in the sciences and humanities must include an understanding of the complexities in the world around us, including the challenges presented by homelessness, which have presented many opportunities for study and service."

-Dean Amber Miller

Faculty Experts

- **Arthur Auerbach, PhD, Professor of Political Science and Internship Coordinator for the Jess Unruh Institute on Politics.**
  - Directed student research studies on housing and homelessness.

- **Ange-Marie Hancock Alfaro, PhD, Dean's Professor and Chair of Political Science and International Relations.**
  - Co-Chair, Department of Public Safety Oversight Committee including focus on homelessness around campuses.
  - Published study on housing access for women of color.
  - Leading LAHSA project to implement recommendations for the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness.

- **Manuel Pastor, PhD, Distinguished Professor and Director of Equity Research Institute.**
  - Multiple studies and books about urban poverty and equity.
  - Co-author of report entitled *No Going Back: Together for an Equitable and Inclusive Los Angeles*, including recommendations for housing and homelessness.

- **Ashlesha Datar, PhD., Senior Economist and Director of Program on Children and Families at the Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR).**
  - Jordan Downs public housing project, studying newly built homeless housing and social environments on obesity.

- **Emily Zeamer, PhD, Assistant Professor**
  - Set up anthropology observation internship to learn about homelessness in homeless shelters.
"We have long recognized that dental disease and tooth loss are major problems for people without housing, impacting their nutrition, systemic health, social skills, self-esteem and employability. We were proud to play a role in USC’s efforts to collectively address homelessness."

- Dean Avishai Sadan

Major Projects

- **DENTAL CARE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS**: Ostrow has been working with persons experiencing homelessness since 1994, through both the Dental Public Health and Pediatric Dentistry Division (DPHPD) and Office of Community Oral Health Programs (COHP). We started with oral health screenings at Health Fairs for the homeless population, then developed 2 dental clinics on skid row in 1999 and in 2000, and continue to provide comprehensive dental care at our Union Rescue Mission dental clinic to this day. These services are dedicated to restoring oral health and smiles for Skid Row residents. Specific accomplishments included: provided comprehensive Oral Health care through 2 USC operated clinics on Skid Row serving 14,680 individuals experiencing homelessness, over 1,300 full and partial dentures to persons experiencing homelessness, oral health care valued, in usual and customary fees, at $8.7 million dollars at no charge to the patients, telehealth to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic including education on maintaining oral health and COVID-19 prevention measures, and comprehensive dental care using mobile dental vehicles during the pandemic with care valued at $53,185 to 59 veterans experiencing homelessness.

- **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOR HOMELESS PERSONS**: Chan Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Division (CHAN) has been active in providing services to the unhoused within the Los Angeles area for several years, collaborating with community partners through student entry-level as well as post-professional level practicum experiences at sites including Skid Row Housing Trust, Downtown Women’s Center, and JWCH Center for Community Health, as well as recent expansion with Los Angeles County Dept of Health’s Housing for Health programs. During the tenure of the Initiative, CHAN secured a workforce development grant from California’s Office of State Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to support professional workforce training opportunities associated with permanent supportive housing, interim housing, and primary care, which led to newly created positions for occupational therapists within our community partner agencies. Specific accomplishments included: providing stipend support to over 25 students, Occupational Therapy practicum experiences for over 50 OT students, and demonstrating the value of OT services which led to creation of jobs at three homeless service sites.
"We have long recognized that dental disease and tooth loss are major problems for people without housing, impacting their nutrition, systemic health, social skills, self-esteem and employability. We were proud to play a role in USC’s efforts to collectively address homelessness."

-Dean Avishai Sadan

Faculty Experts

- Roseann Mulligan, DDS, MA, Professor and Associate Dean Community Health Programs
  - Special dental care for homeless patients
  - Mobile dental clinics for families

- Deborah Pitts, PhD, OTR/L, Associate Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy
  - Research on needs of homeless patients
  - Established numerous fellowships and student training opportunities within homeless services
"The crisis of homelessness is complex, pervasive and a growing issue. The Academy is deeply invested in lifting up homeless communities and frontline workers through solutions rooted in human-centered design strategy and interdisciplinary collaboration"

-Dean Erica Muhl

Major Projects

- **SEMESTER DESIGN COURSE**: *In Fall 2019, six student teams led by Academy faculty, researched homelessness from key stakeholder perspectives, including government, business, consumer, people experiencing homelessness, nonprofits and philanthropies, yielding unique solutions with immediate practical benefits for frontline workers.*

- **PERSONAL SELF-DIRECTED STUDENT PROJECT**: Resident, a socially responsible clothing company aimed at fighting homelessness by donating 10% of every sale to various LA-based homelessness organizations.

- **STUDENT-DESIGNED HOUSING COMMUNITY**: Now running for Mayor, Alum Joseph May (IYA, ’19) designed an affordable housing community in DTLA.

- **ONGOING COMMITMENT TO GENERATE NEW SOLUTIONS**: Will continue to incorporate the vast and complex issue of homelessness, in order to generate new, powerful solutions.

- **SHELTER HELPER APP**: Student-project to help case managers find beds for unhoused persons.

Faculty Experts

- **Matthew Manos**, Assistant Professor of Teaching and Design
  - Founder of verynice, a design strategy practice that gives half of its work away for free to nonprofit organizations.
  - Extensive consultation with the Downtown Women’s Center resulting in a wide-range of design support including annual reports, web design, photography, workshop facilitation, & illustration.
  - Designed course to study homelessness and create unique projects.

- **Davina Wolter**, Assistant Professor of Design, Diversity Liaison
  - Support for Shelter Helper App, designed by students to guide workers to shelter bed openings for their clients.
"We welcomed the opportunity to join with other schools at USC and work on an issue that we care about so deeply."

-Former Dean Laura Mosqueda

Major Projects

- **STREET MEDICINE PROGRAM**: Department of Family Medicine Street Medicine created and expanded a unique program, now a local/national model to serve people who are unsheltered, with medical care wherever they are
  - Includes academic component with research and training, publications, and a special track in the Family Medicine Residency Program.

- **MEDICAL STUDENT COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS AWARENESS**: A student organization arranges annual events to share information on homelessness with peers as well as engage with community activities for service learning.

- **PREVENTIVE MEDICINE RESEARCH RE: HOMELESSNESS**: Several research and professional education public health activities are conducted including focus on HIV, equity, intersectional issues, socioeconomic conditions, healthcare policy, and access to housing.

- **STUDENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ADDRESS COVID, HEALTH EQUITY, AND POVERTY**: Coordinate Masters of Public Health Student Practicum with CRSSLA (Community Response System of South Los Angeles) to conduct research, communication, and infrastructure support for south LA.

- **PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNOLOGY- D- HEALTH LAB**: The Digital Health lab developed innovative technology to allow real time communication groups with a focus on homelessness. Created an innovative app for first responders and homeless services providers, also able to track/evaluate services, gather and report data for the homeless count, and other activities to use technology for human and systemic benefit (now closed and continuing as Akido Labs).
"We welcomed the opportunity to join with other schools at USC and work on an issue that we care about so deeply."

- Former Dean Laura Mosqueda

Faculty Experts

- Karthik Murali, PhD, former Director, now Director, Future Communities Institute at Akido Labs
  - Research and collaboration using real time communication and data collection.

- Street Medicine Program/Department of Family Medicine:
  - Jehni Robinson, MD, Chair Department of Family Medicine;
  - Brett Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C, Director of Street Medicine, Vice Chair of the Street Medicine Institute;
  - Corinne Feldman, MMS, PA-C, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Primary Care Physician Assistant Program.

- Department of Preventive Medicine:
  - Ricky Bluthenthal, PhD, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Associate Dean of Social Justice, Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
  - Michael Cousineau, Dr.PH, Professor of Preventive Medicine
  - Jane Steinberg, PhD, Director of Public Health Practice, student engagement/practicum placement
"We participated in the initiative so that all members of our community can participate in the learning and growth that thrive in our libraries. For people experiencing homelessness--including our students--the personal, economic, and civic opportunities that libraries represent, remain remote when basic needs of shelter and food are unmet."

Dean Catherine Quinlan

Major Projects

- **SUITES OF RESOURCES FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INTO HOMELESSNESS:**
  - Libguide on homelessness resources.
  - Historical archives regarding local community.

- **CONNECTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH VITAL INFORMATION ON SUPPORT SERVICES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
  - Resource cards for students
  - Referrals for students using the 24 hour library.

- **PROVIDING DATA DOCUMENTING IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS IN GREATER LOS ANGELES**
  - Co-sponsored USC Student Basic Needs Study.
  - Maintained up to date literature on research.

Faculty Experts

Library Guide on Homelessness Resources:

- **Christal Young**, Reference and Instruction Librarian
- **Jade Winn**, EdD. Systemic Review Librarian
"It was unusual and impressive for a university to take on homelessness in a manner that was both deep and broad. We were glad to be part of the Initiative because homelessness is an issue about which we care deeply."

-Senior Associate Dean Jim Burklo

Major Projects

- **LEADERSHIP WITH UNITED WAY “EVERYONE IN” CAMPAIGN and MAYOR’S FAITH TASK FORCE**: Worked to mobilize church participation to support housing development and educated faith community members about the nature and scope of homelessness in Los Angeles.

- **STUDENT SUPPORT**: Offered special support for students with basic need challenges.

- **HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK (2017 & 2018)**: Helped lead student committee.

Faculty Experts

- **Reverend Jim Burklo**, Senior Associate Dean for Religious Life.

- **Varun Soni**, Vice Provost for Campus Wellness and Crisis Intervention, Dean of Religious Life.
"Widespread homeless is one of the most challenging current public policy issues. We care about ending it and can provide expertise as a partner to find innovative solutions."

-Former Dean Jack Knott

Major Projects

- **HOMELESSNESS POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (HPRI):** Established with support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Home For Good Funders Collaborative, HPRI, in partnership with the UCLA California Policy Lab, brings together over seventy researchers and policymakers to accelerate equitable and culturally informed solutions to homelessness in L.A County.

- **LUSK CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE:** Focusing on advancement of real estate knowledge, the Lusk Real Estate Center addresses timely issues that affect the real estate industry, the urban economy, and public policy. It produces research and convenes professional forums. Recent work has focused on real estate trends around affordable housing and housing rental burden in order to guide public policy strategies. Past forums have gathered housing development professionals to brainstorm new approaches.

- **ROSS MINORITY FELLOWS PROGRAM IN REAL ESTATE:** This program enables women and members of minority groups to establish and expand knowledge in real estate finance and development, building a pool of talented professionals. There are many prominent alumni of the program, whose curriculum includes affordable housing development to address the housing gap.

- **ANALYSIS OF HOMELESS COUNT DATA:** The Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics Data Core has played a key role on the USC team collaborating with LAHSA on the Los Angeles County Homeless Count.

- **URBAN PLANNING PROJECTS:** Urban planning students interned with the initiative to produce important surveys to promote new models of housing development.
"Widespread homelessness is one of the most challenging current public policy issues. We care about ending it and can provide expertise as a partner to find innovative solutions."
-Former Dean Jack Knott

Faculty Experts

- **Gary Dean Painter**, PhD., Professor, Director of the Center for Social Innovation and the Homeless Research Policy Institute, Chair of Department of Public Policy
  - Expert representative for media.
  - Homelessness research studies, briefs, and literature reviews.

- **Richard K. Green**, PhD., Professor, Director of the Lusk Real Estate Center, Chair for Department of Real Estate Development
  - Expert testimony.
  - New research on affordable housing development/real estate issues.

- **Mary Peralta**, Program Manager, Lusk Real Estate Ross Minority Fellows Program
  - Ensures knowledge and expertise regarding housing development that strengthens affordable housing resources.

- **Patricia St. Clair**, Senior Data Advisor, Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics
  - Data evaluation and management for the L.A. County Homeless Count.

- **Marlon Boarnet**, PhD., Professor, Chair of Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis
  - Consultant for housing typologies and community land trust documents.
  - Facilitation of student research interns for projects.

- **Cara Esposito**, DrPP, Adjunct Associate Professor
  - Courses address homelessness.
  - Advisor for student-generated project to address campus homelessness known as the Trojan Shelter.

- **Elizabeth Falletta**, Professor
  - Courses address nexus of design and policy for homelessness.
  - Recent projects looking at land use in Skid Row for 2040 plan.
"Art and design can play a key role in building bridges between housed and homeless populations, as well as for the unhoused themselves to express their talent and creativity."

-Dean Haven Lin-Kirk

Major Projects

- **SKID ROW ARTS PROJECTS**: In collaboration with USC Arts in Action, several projects incorporating art and design brought together students, arts professionals, and persons with lived experience of homelessness to enliven and uplift Skid Row in Los Angeles. A choral program was co-produced, shade structures were designed and used at events, busk-fests were held to engage the community with music, an arts and culture map was produced to guide residents to arts and cultural community spaces, and arts packages were distributed to maintain connections throughout the COVID pandemic shut down.

- **CAMPUS CONFERENCE ART SHOW**: Curated by a Roski student, a range of art produced by unhoused persons was selected and displayed at the entrance to the Summit on Homelessness in Los Angeles held at USC in April of 2018.

Faculty Experts

- **Jeff Cain**, Former Professor
  - Expertise in community-based design, with special focus on Skid Row
  - Supervised design of shades and arts map for Skid Row residents

- **Suzanne Lacy**, Professor of Art
  - Produces activist and community-driven art
  - Interest in highlighting girls growing up in foster care and intersection with homelessness
  - Consultant regarding art and design ideas for campus Summit
"When the Initiative was formed, it was clear that homelessness was growing and I worried about the impact on children. We needed to be part of the solution and contribute whatever we could."

-Former Dean Karen Gallagher

**Major Projects**

- **RESEARCH STUDY- HELPING HOUSING INSECURE PARENTS AND CHILDREN ADVOCATE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS:** This important initial study on building advocacy and resilience for a vulnerable group of students included focus groups with parents and staff. Findings underlined the importance of empowering parents and their children with support, listening to them, and teaching them how to advocate for their learning needs. The findings have led to increased promotion of individual agency during student educational experiences and been intentionally integrated into teacher training.

- **PULIAS CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION:** This research center focuses on underserved students and complex socioeconomic issues. Faculty conducted a seminal study on Transitions to Adulthood for Homeless Youth and produced comprehensive manuals for school administrators who are serving homeless youth and families, including an understanding of trauma.
"When the Initiative was formed, it was clear that homelessness was growing and I worried about the impact on children. We needed to be part of the solution and contribute whatever we could."

-Former Dean Karen Gallagher

Faculty Experts

- **Margo Pensavalle**, Ph.D. Professor of Clinical Education with **Angela Hasan**, PhD. Associate Professor of Clinical Education and **Shilby Sims**, EdD, Adjunct Faculty, LAUSD School Principal.
  - Designed and implemented key study of homeless students and their families.

- **Ronn Hallett**, PhD, Professor of Education
  - Research on transitions to higher education for housing insecure students and impact of mobility on education for students.
  - Review and consultation for USC Student Basic Needs Survey.
  - Co-author of guidance manuals for school administrators on housing challenged students.

- **William G. Tierney**, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Founding Director of the Pulias Center for Higher Education
  - Conducted key study on homeless teens.

- **Alan G Green**, PhD, Associate Professor of Clinical Education,
  - Board member of Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN).
  - Helped to design curriculum for Master in Student Counseling, focused on restorative justice and trauma informed care, addressing needs of low-income and housing insecure students.

- **Hattie Mitchell**, EDL ’17, Executive Director of Crete Academy
  - Created a new LAUSD charter school.
  - Focuses on special educational approach with very low income and housing unstable families.
"The profession of social work arose from a desire to join with and uplift impoverished groups. The opportunity to lead local efforts and partner to address homelessness fit our social justice values. The Initiative allowed us to bring compassion along with best practices based in science, to our own community."

-Executive Vice Dean John Clapp

**Major Projects**

- **HOMELESSNESS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH:** The USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society (CAIS) has a diverse portfolio of homelessness related research projects, representing different homeless populations (e.g., youth, single adults), health behaviors (e.g., substance abuse, HIV prevention), and concerns (e.g., housing allocation). Currently, CAIS is leading the evaluation of LA’s system to address assessment and outcomes, developing a fair and efficient algorithm for personalized housing matches for persons/families experiencing homelessness, improving social network maximization via algorithms from previous studies to improve HIV prevention and reduce substance abuse, suicide, and violence in homeless youth, and creating a tool for preference elicitation to help make fair, accountable, and transparent decisions regarding homeless services.

- **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND HOMELESS COUNT RESEARCH:** The Center for Homelessness, Housing, and Health Equity Research (H3E) conducts research to promote the discovery and dissemination of evidence-based solutions to reduce homelessness and health disparities. In addition to the National Institutes of Health, Mental Health, Drug Abuse, and Aging research studies, H3E partners with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to conduct the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count annually, which is the largest unsheltered homeless count in the United States. H3E also leads a training program tied to its research known as the MSW Homeless Services & Supportive Housing Internship Placement Program.

- **BIG DATA AND HOMELESSNESS:** The Children’s Data Network (CDN) is a data and research collaborative focused on the linkage and analysis of administrative records. In partnership with public agencies, philanthropic funders, and community stakeholders, to understand and improve policies for children’s well-being. CDN is currently partnered with LAHSA and LA County CEO to examine administrative records re: housing insecure and homeless families.
"The profession of social work arose from a desire to join with and uplift impoverished groups. The opportunity to lead local efforts and partner to address homelessness fit our social justice values. The Initiative allowed us to bring compassion along with best practices based in science, to our own community."

-Former Interim Dean John Clapp

Faculty Experts

- **Eric Rice**, PhD
  - Associate professor at the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the founding co-director of the USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society.
  - Social work expert, bringing machine learning technology and network science to study of homelessness and housing, with focus on equity.

- **Ben Henwood**, PhD
  - Associate professor at the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the director of the Center for Housing, Homelessness, and Health Equity.
  - Expert on housing and integrative research for health and behavioral health care for homeless individuals, connecting clinical interventions with social policy.
  - Co-author of a book on Housing First published by Oxford University Press.

- **Suzanne Wenzel**, PhD
  - Interdisciplinary research scientist focused on understanding and addressing health-related needs of vulnerable populations, particularly individuals experiencing homelessness in urban communities.
  - Served on study sections for NIH and other national and international health science organizations, participated in National Academies of Sciences panels, and consulted for the White House Office of National AIDS Policy.
"The profession of social work arose from a desire to join with and uplift impoverished groups. The opportunity to lead local efforts and partner to address homelessness fit our social justice values. The Initiative allowed us to bring compassion along with best practices based in science, to our own community."

- Former Interim Dean John Clapp

Faculty Experts

- **Regan Foust**, PhD, Executive Director, CDN, study on Black Families and Homelessness

- **Suh Chen Hsiao**, PPD
  - Clinical Assistant Professor focused on adults and healthy aging.
  - Led field placement division expansion of placements working on homelessness, where 962 students received field internship experience in this area.

- **Renee Smith Maddox**, PhD
  - Clinical professor at the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, diversity and social innovation expert.
  - Designs and teaches courses in MSW and DSW programs that highlight homelessness and include key intersections such as race.