

CAROLYN WARD

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan Masters in Social Work Community Change Pathway	May 2026
Carleton College Bachelor of Arts in Religion	June 2019

SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Contractual Helpline Staff (Part-Time) <i>Student Advocacy Center of Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI</i>	May 2026 - July 2026
Helpline Program Intern <i>Student Advocacy Center of Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI</i>	January 2025 - May 2026

- Obtained school records for, connected with school staff on behalf of, and managed a 15 client caseload.
- Attended in-school meetings (such as IEP check-ins) alongside clients and their family.
- Connected families who called the Helpline with resources, including navigating: student long term suspension and expulsion procedures: special education service initiation and maintenance: school-based discrimination based on Civil Rights law.
- Introduced and implemented the Helpline Audit, performing it monthly to keep our 400+ Helpline cases up to date.
- Collaborated across programs with Educational Advocates and Check and Connect Mentors.

TORCH Coordinator Middle and High School Program <i>Healthy Community Initiative, Northfield, MN</i>	March 2023 - June 2024
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TORCH – Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes – supports students of color, future first-generation college students, and low-income youth in Northfield’s middle and high school communities by encouraging students to envision continued education post-secondary in a form that fits the individual student best.

- Assisted 24 upperclassmen who took PSEO – Post Secondary Enrollment Option – classes. Met with young people to take quizzes together, work in small groups on class materials, edit essays, and scaffolded student interactions with professors.
- Tutored ~50 6-8 grade students and identified areas of intervention, goals, and future aspirations. Interacted daily with students in skill building and power-sharing.
- Helped HS young folks access mental health support by finding therapists together.
- Communicated with parents to discuss outside of school opportunities for youth.
- Across both HS and MS, imagined, planned, and implemented a partnership between TORCH and the RAVE – Reduction and Awareness of Vaping and E-Cigarette – initiative, putting on a Speaker Series where community members came to talk with young people about life skills. A highlight was inviting a young person from our non-traditional HS to come share his experience with substance misuse disorder.

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Project Manager

March 2022 - May 2023

Healthy Community Initiative, Northfield, MN

- Worked in Youth Substance Invention and Prevention in Rice County with the Youth E-Cigarette Minnesota Department of Health grant.
- Created and facilitated a Queer Rice County youth leadership team for the RAVE initiative. The 12 youth met 2x/month to explore root causes for why young people vape, built leadership skills, and created space to support one another.
- Managed the RAVE grant budget (\$125K spending allowance/year), work plan, and paid students for their time.
- Acted as point-person at HCI for communicating with MDH.
- Managed a caseload of 17 students in NHS TORCH who were taking a variety of PSEO classes.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellow

September 2019 - August 2021

Minnesota Alliance with Youth, Minneapolis, MN

Host Sight: Northfield Middle School TORCH Program, Northfield, MN

- Tutored MS students both in-person and on zoom. Collaborated with students on self-advocating about schoolwork with teachers.
- Met and discussed student progress with school counselors, administration, and other Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).
- Planned and led 6-8th graders during after-school programming.
- Acted as point-person on staff for communication with the local Food Shelf.
- October 2020 - February 2021: Provided solutions during Distance Learning, including connecting families with Wi-Fi Hotspots, dropping off headphones to students to promote quiet working space, and distributed meals/snack-packs to family homes.

Student Wellness Advocate

September 2017 - May 2018

Carleton College Office of Health Promotion, Northfield MN

- Dialogued with campus community about complex issues (suicide, disordered eating).
- Facilitated discussion around competitive stress-talk with college freshmen.
- Presented on classroom impacts from gender-based discrimination.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Relational Somatics Experiential Consultation Group

August 2026 - Present

- Meet 1x/month with practitioners, spend first half learning and then receive case support.

Certified Yoga Instructor (200 hours)

March 2023

Colorado School of Public Health

September - November 2022

- Participated in *Social Justice Youth Engagement*, a 7-week, 10.5 hour online course.
- Learned how to establish and sustain equitable relationships with young people.

Minnesota Prevention Program Sharing Conference Attendee

October 2022

Duluth, MN

The National Conference on Tobacco or Health Attendee

June 2022

New Orleans, LA