

FAMILY SCIENCE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Department Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

The Ongoing Fight against Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the greatest atrocities of the 21st century, with millions of women, men and children forced into prostitution, domestic servitude and other forms of labor around the globe. In the U.S., the National Human Trafficking Hotline has received 463,000 calls and tips - including 7,500 from New Jersey - in the past seventeen years.

The good news? Here at Montclair, the [Global Center on Human Trafficking](#) is a leading advocacy hub focused on preventing trafficking, supporting survivors, and driving policy change by harnessing the expertise of scholars, practitioners, and survivor leaders. The center engages with the campus and local community through awareness campaigns, training programs, and partnerships with government and non-governmental organizations – all working together to create a world free from exploitation.

Organizations across the country are also raising awareness to combat this heinous crime, even from angles we might not readily connect to trafficking:

Financial Institutions: A webinar series hosted by the [Association of Certified Financial Crimes Specialists](#) provides valuable insights into the evolving methods traffickers use to finance and conceal their operations. The goal is to equip compliance professionals worldwide with the knowledge to detect, report, and disrupt suspicious activity, and strengthen their institutions' anti-money laundering frameworks as they relate to human trafficking.

Transportation: Although we don't often think of human trafficking in the context of transportation issues, the [Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance](#) says the traffickers are using our roadways, side-by-side with commercial vehicles and the general population. That's why awareness and knowledge are critical. The alliance hosts an annual outreach and prevention initiative to educate commercial vehicle drivers, motor carriers, law enforcement officers and the general public about the crime of human trafficking, the signs to look for, and what to do if you suspect someone is being trafficked.

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NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

888-373-7888

Happy New Year!



from the FSHD faculty & staff

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 16

Spring semester begins on a Monday schedule

January 19

MLK Day - no classes

January 26

Last day to add/drop

February 1

Deadline to apply for Teacher Education Program

Happy New Year!

Our Achievements

Dr. Soyoung Lee was a plenary speaker at the inaugural International Forum on Family Development, hosted by the National Coalition for Family Development of Indonesia. The conference theme was “Investing in Family Resilience to Face Contemporary Megatrends.” Dr. Lee’s session was titled “Cross-Cultural Insights on Helicopter Parenting and Family Resilience.”



The College for Community Health’s Staff Advisory Council sponsored a Food & More Drive, collecting 377 items for the Red Hawk Pantry which serves the campus community from its location in Blanton Hall Room 1200. FSHD Administrative Services Coordinator **Lisa Mills** (second from right), a four-year Council member, celebrated the success of the food drive with (l to r) Angel Cruz, Natalie Duran, Kelly Glowacki and Aneleen Dizon.

The Staff Advisory Council provides a vital platform to build community, foster collaboration, and represent the voices and interests of staff across our college. ■



Social Justice Initiatives

Mentoring Month

Every January, National Mentoring Month spotlights the impact of mentoring, and elevates awareness around the critical need to empower young people through supportive relationships. Having someone to lean on can be a lifeline in an often lonely world. Mentoring builds connection and belonging, yet 1 in 3 young people are growing up without a mentor.

What can you do?

1. [Become a mentor](#). Shaping one person's story can transform many others. Mentors wear multiple hats, acting as delegators, role models, cheerleaders, policy enforcers, advocates, and friends. You can support the youth of today in creating an equitable tomorrow.



2. Make some space for gratitude during National Mentoring Month. Has a teacher, supervisor, or coach helped guide your path and made a positive difference in your life? Take a moment to thank them with a phone call, email or note.

3. Advocate for mentoring. Kickstart the new year with intentionality and a sense of purpose by [supporting legislation for funding and policies](#) that support youth well-being. ■

Source: Mentoring.org

**“Intelligence is not enough.
Intelligence plus
character —
that is the goal
of true education.”**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929—April 4, 1968**



Human Trafficking

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Women's Groups: The [Conference on Crimes Against Women](#) offers more than 250 multidisciplinary sessions that create a platform to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and foster innovation in the fight against human trafficking. From law enforcement and healthcare professionals, to advocates and legal experts, collaboration is key to dismantling trafficking networks and providing comprehensive support to survivors.

Government Employees: The [Department of Defense \(DoD\)](#) combats trafficking in both its domestic and international environments by ensuring all military and civilian personnel take "Combating Trafficking in Persons" training. Awareness materials are distributed, including wallet-sized cards that outline worker's rights and provide information on where to report suspected cases of trafficking. Available in ten languages, the cards are continually shipped to DoD workers overseas.

Nonprofits: [Hope for Justice](#) investigates cases of human trafficking, working closely with law enforcement to rescue victims and ensure evidence is gathered see perpetrators brought to justice. Their investigators represent some of the most prestigious law enforcement agencies in the country, such as the FBI and NCIS. The [Red Sand Project](#) fills sidewalk cracks with red sand, inspiring people to recognize, connect and take action against vulnerabilities that can lead to trafficking, modern slavery, and exploitation. ■

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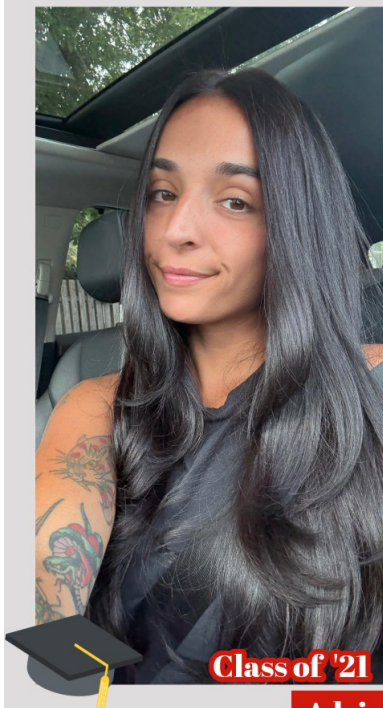


@ Family Science & Human Development at Montclair State University



Meet Our Alumni

Major : Family Science & Human Development / Minor : Psychology



Josie Harrison

About Me

I went back to Montclair after graduating to get my Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I currently work as a crisis counselor for the New York State HOPEline. I provide supportive counseling, crisis intervention, suicide prevention and resources to those who reach out in emotional distress.

Favorite Part

My favorite part of my job is hearing in the moment that callers are being helped from feeling overwhelmed or unsafe to feeling a little calmer and more able to think. That quick, measurable shift is hugely rewarding.

Advice For Students

Stay curious and opened minded while embracing each opportunity that comes your way! The more curious you are about people's stories, cultures, and contexts, the deeper your understanding will be and your ability to help them.

Checklist for a Successful New Year

- ☐ **Reflect on the past year.**
- ☐ **Write down what you're leaving behind.**
- ☐ **Write down what you'll bring into 2026.**
- ☐ **Assess last year's goals.**
- ☐ **Set new goals for 2026.**
- ☐ **Stop a bad habit.**
- ☐ **Start a good habit.**

Source: TheChicLife.com