



Graduate Social Work Department | West Chester University | Reynolds Hall  
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## DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW CHAIR

Dr. Christina Chiarelli-Helminiak will become the next Department Chair and MSW Program Director in May. The department expresses their gratitude to Dr. Stacie Metz for assuming this role during past academic year while Dr. Page Buck served as Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Education and Social Work.

Dr. Chiarelli-Helminiak's social work foundation began as an undergraduate student at Shippensburg University. She earned her MSW from Marywood University and PhD in Social Work from the University of Connecticut. After focusing her practice on survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, which included the development of a Children's Advocacy Center, Dr. Chiarelli-Helminiak returned to Shippensburg University to begin her academic career. Dr. Chiarelli-Helminiak joined West Chester University as an Assistant Professor in the Graduate Social Work Department in 2014 and has served positions in the offices of the Deans of the College of Education and Social Work and the former College of Business and Public Affairs.



Dr. Chiarelli-Helminiak's research focuses on issues related to social justice and human rights. She researches burnout and job satisfaction, most recently conducting a national survey on social work educators. She also researches the integration of human rights into social work curriculum, is a Research Affiliate of UConn's Human Rights Institute's Research Program on Economic and Social Rights and serves as the Associate Editor of [Teaching Human Rights](#), which she also co-founded.

Since arriving at WCU, Dr. Chiarelli-Helminiak has been an active member of the department and university, while maintaining a focus on developing the Philadelphia campus community. She has developed experiential learning opportunities at the State and Federal Capitols, the United Nations, and in the Dominican Republic. At the national level, Dr. Chiarelli-Helminiak serves on CSWE's Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education.