

# Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award for Instruction

---

*Staci B. Martin, Ed.D.*



STACI B. MARTIN is an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Social Work. Professor Martin works in the field of refugee education, specifically psychosocial and social-emotional learning. She is a community-based action researcher who conducts research with vulnerable populations, in particular, refugee youth, often following their lead in her work.

Professor Martin has lived and worked alongside vulnerable communities in over 15 countries. Her experiences include designing, implementing, and evaluating sustainable psychosocial peace-building educational programs in four countries: Dieplsoot Informal Settlement, South Africa; Vishwa Shanti Vihara Vishwa Monastery, Nepal; Jamaica; and Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. She has presented at over 20 conferences and authored five papers. She received her Ed.D. in the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program: Curriculum and Instruction from Portland State University in 2018.

Professor Martin's research and teaching interests include critical hope and despair, pedagogy of hope, refugee education, psychosocial, peace-building, participants as co-researchers, and community-based action projects. By applying critical hope in the classroom,

she brings forward the authentic and lived experiences of students while co-creating spaces for students to be heard, seen, and valued. This pedagogical stance also asks teachers and learners to co-create spaces to engage in their critical thinking and self-reflexivity in the hopes that they will have the ability, knowledge, and skills to defend themselves and resist systematic oppression. Her hope in using this conceptual framework is to find a space where teachers and learners can move beyond just being critical and offer steps of action and hope with the vulnerable communities, families, and individuals they work alongside.

"With each student she encounters, Staci seeks deep relationships and authentic engagement," says Ben Anderson-Nathe, associate professor and director of PSU's Child and Family Studies program. "Her support helps students articulate their professional interests, and she works collaboratively with students to build a plan to facilitate meeting those goals."

The Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award for Instruction recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions of Portland State University adjunct faculty and their excellence as instructors.