



COMMUNITY-BASED
LEARNING PROGRAM

PSY 456

Research in Psychology



Faculty Member

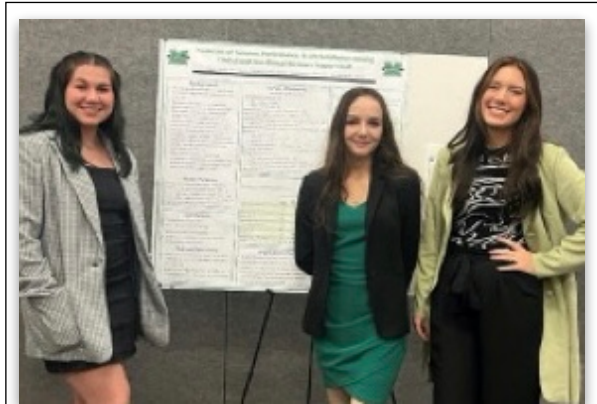
Dr. Wendi L. Benson

Department

Psychology

Student Purpose

- Develop a survey with empirically validated questions and response scales to measure attitudes, perceptions, experiences, and concerns among staff and clients at Shawnee Counseling Center
- Create reports of findings to help drive improvements to the program and become accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- Present findings at conferences to help the recovery community understand best practices



Emily Cadd, Ella Wilburn, & Megan-Elizabeth Smith presented findings at the Western Psychological Association Conference in Fall 2023.

Student Quote

"I believe that this community-based learning experience helped me to feel that the work I was helping to complete was for a great cause. It aided in motivation when the work was challenging to know that it was to help Shawnee Counseling gain accreditation. As far as professional goals, seeing the completed client survey was largely beneficial as this is something that I aim to focus on later in my career. Being able to practice research skills, most specifically skills in identifying reliable and relevant journals and articles and finding survey methods has been an enormous help and confidence booster for me. This experience will continue to be valuable to me as I move ahead into graduate school and my career with interests in surveying employee engagement within an organization."

- Mary Sargent-Spears, Senior Psychology Major

Community Partner

Shawnee Counseling Center



Community Impact

To provide free research and consulting for local non-profits focused on helping the recovery community.

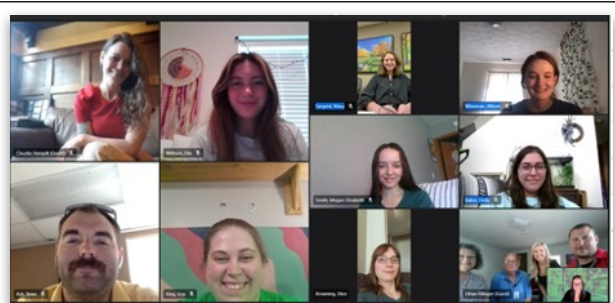
Community Partner Quote

"Dr. Benson and her students created measures that were much needed. They took time to meet both clients and staff to understand the population we serve and the dynamics of behavioral health treatment in our small community. Their work will have a direct impact, as insights gathered from the surveys will offer direction for performance improvement."

- Claudia L. Hempill, M.Ed., LPCC-S (Clinical Director of Shawnee Counseling Center)

Faculty Quote

"Students get meaningful practical experience from a class that gives them experiential learning aimed at helping their community. It requires more effort for faculty to center a class around a community-based project, but the rewards are worth it."



Students met with Shawnee Counseling Center in Summer 2023

For more information about the Community-Based Learning Program, visit www.marshall.edu/cbl or email cbl@marshall.edu.