

April Ely-Black, MSW, LCSW

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Summary of Qualifications

6+ years teaching in higher education

20 years working as a clinical social worker

Experience with the following learning management platforms: Canvas, Blackboard, Sonia

Education

Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA

MSW 2000

Master's Thesis- Exploration of Body Image Among Preadolescent African American Girls

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

BA, Psychology, 1996

Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Honor's Thesis – Mutuality Among Same-Sex Twins

Licensure

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Arizona (2006 – present)

Academic Appointments

Northern Arizona University – School of Social Work

Assistant Clinical Professor, 2021 – present

- Have taught all areas of field education, included BSW, MSW foundation year and MSW Advanced Standing
- In addition to teaching field education, I have taught the following courses: Crisis Intervention Methods, Direct Practice in Mental and Behavioral Health I: Children and Adolescents, and Foundation Practice II with Groups and Families
- Facilitate monthly seminars for field students, by Zoom
- Meet 3 times a year with field students and supervisors to provide support and review progress and growth
- Have served on multiple committees including MSW Admissions Committee, MSW Curriculum Committee, Annual Review/Faculty Status Committee (full list under Service Experience)
- Have been the chair and co-chair of the Social Work Month Committee
- Served on the Field Education Symposium Committee for 4 years and helped to put on this annual event

Northern Arizona University – Department of Social Work, Flagstaff, AZ

Adjunct Faculty (part-time), 2020 - 2021

Instructor and Field Liaison for Foundation Field Education

- Supported students and field supervisors in having a successful field internship

- Met with students and supervisors 3x a year to help monitor, support, and evaluate students' progress
- Provided monthly field seminars to bridge academic material and internship experience
- Offered feedback on student assignments
- Attended regular MSW workgroup and Field Education meetings

Clinical and Practice Experience

Blue Sky Counseling, PLLC, Private Practice, Flagstaff, AZ

Psychotherapist (2012 – 2014 and 2018 – 2021)

- Provided counseling to children and adults, particularly around issues of trauma
- Facilitated assessment and created treatment plans
- Collaborated with local mental health professionals
- Utilized EMDR, play therapy, and sandtray therapy

Mindfulness Instructor, Flagstaff

Instructor - 2016 – 2019

- Using the Mindful Schools curriculum, I have taught mindfulness to students in 1st – 4th grade at a local elementary school

Sedona Women's Institute, Sedona, AZ

Trainer and Mentor, 2015 – 2020

- Mentored women throughout a 6-month online Facilitator Training Program, helping with insights, challenges, support and accountability
- Helped to develop curriculum for online Facilitator Training Program
- Trainer at Facilitator Training Practicum as well as workshop presenter
- Co-Facilitated Nourish Your Soul Retreat – Spring, 2019

Fit Kids, Northern Arizona Healthcare, Flagstaff, AZ

Therapist, 2012

- Part of a multi-disciplinary group working with children and their parents to address issues of health and childhood obesity
- Provided psychosocial support to kids and families and helped with community events

Child and Family Support Services, Flagstaff, AZ

Clinical Coordinator, 2010 – 2011

- Provided counseling to children and families within the agency, schools and community
- Completed assessments and created individualized treatment plans
- Collaborated with multiple systems of care including schools, juvenile probation, and child protective services in effort to coordinate care for families
- Leader of Child and Family Meetings
- Managed crisis line and facilitated risk assessments

Verde Valley Sanctuary, Cottonwood, AZ

Clinical Social Worker, 2003 - 2010

- Provided individual counseling to children and women living at the domestic violence shelter and within the community

- Developed a child safety plan that was implemented with children at the shelter and within local schools
- Oversaw children's program, including supervision of children's program coordinator
- Co-created copyrighted children's empowerment curriculum which was incorporated into over a hundred classrooms. Presented the curriculum at the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2008 State Conference
- Co-facilitated the Youth Empowerment Services Program in the schools and community, providing presentations on issues such as self-esteem, healthy relationships, and compassion
- Active member of planning committee and event coordinator for Teen Maze 2008 – 2010, an event that hosted thousands of students in 7th – 10th grade, designed to help teens learn about making positive choices in an interactive, fun environment
- Workshop presenter at the 2008 Intertribal Circle of Caring and Sharing Training Conference

The Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Newton, MA

Clinical Social Worker/Bereavement Coordinator, 2001 - 2003

- Provided counseling to terminally ill individuals and their families
- Managed and expanded existing bereavement program - helped to change format of care, created and organized community support groups and events
- Designed and facilitated two first-time community events - communicating grief through artistic expression and a community forum for shared experience of loss
- Facilitated a six-week support group for adults who were grieving the loss of a parent; co-led a group for individuals who had experienced the death of a spouse
- Conducted community presentations on hospice and grief
- Engaged in interdisciplinary work within and outside the agency, collaborating with hospital, nursing home, assisted-living social workers, nurses and other direct care staff

The Home for Little Wanderers – Family and Children's Connection, Boston, MA

Clinical Social Worker, 2000 – 2001

- Worked as a school social worker at the elementary and middle school levels and provided home-based and outpatient services to children, adolescents, and their families
- Collaborated with parents, teachers, psychologists, and Department of Social Services to provide quality support for children and their families
- Served on two student support teams, comprised of school professionals and parents, meeting to determine and review student support needs
- Engaged in cross-cultural work with children and families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds

Service Experience

- MSW Curriculum Committee
- MSW Admissions Committee
- Field Symposium Planning Committee
- Social Work Month Committee
- Field Supervisor Learning Academy Committee (chair)
- ARC/FSC Committee
- Co-facilitator of School of Social Work Teaching Circle
- Faculty Mentor – AY 2025/2026

- Multiple search committees

Awards/Honors:

Runner up for SBS teacher of the year – AY 2024/2025

ACUE teaching Fellow

Professional Affiliations:

National Association of Social Workers

Presentations/Workshops**Faculty at Feast for the Soul, 2013**

Coordinated, as well as, facilitated meditations for the Stillness for Young Children Series as part of the Feast for the Soul – a 40-day online, global meditation event

Retreats, Sedona Women's Institute

Co-facilitator of "Nourish Your Soul" retreat, Sedona, April 2019

Presented, "Tending to the Garden of our Souls: Creating Safe and Meaningful Retreats," Facilitator Training Program Practicum, Sedona, March 2019

Presented at "Born to Be Me" retreat, April 2018

Co-facilitated "My Mother – My Daughter – My Self" retreat, Cape Cod – October 2012

Presentations/Workshops on Mindfulness

"Living Well in the Moment," part of the "Living Large When Your Life Feels Small" series, August 2020

Virtual workshop through the Sedona Women's Institute

"Mindfulness, Heartfulness, and Meditation: Finding Peace and Connection During Unsettling Times," April, 2020

Virtual workshop through the Sedona Women's Institute

"Incorporating Mindfulness and Heartfulness Into Your Life" part of "Heart Retreat for Difficult Times" series, March 2020

Virtual workshop through the Sedona Women's Institute

"Mindfulness: Reclaiming the Present Moment," February, 2014

At a Sedona Women's Institute retreat, Sedona, AZ

"Presentation on Mindfulness," /July 2012

At Flagstaff Holistic Connection meeting

"Raising Compassionate Children: Tips and Tools for Mindful Parenting," November, 2012

Community presentation at New Leaf Wellness Center, Flagstaff, AZ

“Foundations of Mindfulness with Children,” April, 2012
Workshop with Pediatric Neuropsychology Interns at Phoenix Children’s Hospital

“Mindfulness and Education: Calming the Mind and Opening the Heart,” April, 2012
Presentation with school counselors at District Office of Flagstaff Unified Schools

“Calm Down: Mindfulness for You and Your Kids,” April 2012
Community presentation at New Frontiers, Flagstaff, AZ