

**Name:** *Caitlin Carey*

**Home Town:** *Quincy, MA*

**College/Degree Program:** *McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, PhD in Public Policy*

**What drew you to the Center for Social Policy Werby internship program?**

I was a graduate research assistant at the Center for Social Policy during my first year in the public policy PhD program, and my research supervisor told me about the Werby Internship. I was excited at the opportunity to continue working with CSP over the summer.

**What unique work or life experiences did you bring to the internship?**

During my time as a Werby Intern, I worked as a researcher for the On Solid Ground project, which focuses on increasing access to public assistance benefits for low-income families in Massachusetts. I think I brought a unique perspective to the research team given my background in direct service working with homeless and formerly homeless women in Portland, Maine. This experience allowed me to better understand the perspective of the individuals affected by the policies that I was researching. My prior knowledge of public assistance benefits for low-income individuals allowed me to compare and contrast the experiences of low-income individuals to that of low-income families, with particular emphasis on relative successes and failures on each side; this allowed me to better understand what works for one group that might not work for another group.

**What did you learn from being a Werby intern?**

I further developed my skills as a member of a research team as opposed to my more typical role as an individual researcher. The Werby Internship also allowed me to delve deeper into my work with the On Solid Ground project.

**What did the internship allow you to do that you otherwise could not do?**

The Werby Internship allowed me to continue my work with the Center for Social Policy over the summer. This allowed me to keep up to date with the work for the On Solid Ground project instead of falling behind. Furthermore, the Werby Internship allowed me to deepen connections with colleagues and mentors at CSP.

**What difference did it make that the Werby internship was paid internship?**

To be completely honest, I would not have been able to pursue the Werby Internship if it had not been a paid internship. Graduate assistants are only paid during the school year, so I was planning to find a summer job until I learned about the Werby Internship. It allowed me to continue participating in important cliff effects research over the summer without falling out of touch with the On Solid Ground project.

**What have you been doing/will you do post-graduation?**

Post-graduation, I plan to pursue a career in academia. My research will continue to focus broadly on issues of poverty and inequality, and specifically on homelessness and housing policies. The research being done at the Center for Social Policy and particularly in the On Solid Ground project aligns very well with my own research and has broadened my base of knowledge in the subject area.

**What, if any, impact did it have on your career?**

The mentorship that I received and the skills that I developed have certainly contributed to my professional development. Furthermore, I received course credit for the internship, which has been extremely beneficial to me as a student.

**Why should a funder/donor support the Werby internship program?**

The Werby Internship allows students to get involved with important research being done at the Center for Social Policy on issues of poverty and inequality. This allows students to become involved with the work at CSP or deepen their connections the Center. Without funding, the Werby Internship could ultimately exclude an entire socioeconomic class of students who are interested in getting involved with the research at CSP but are reliant on funding. Funders and donors should continue supporting the Werby Internship so that CSP can continue to train the next generation of poverty researchers.

**Name:** *Tatiana Mesa*

**Home Town:** *Revere, MA*

**College/Degree Program:** College of Nursing and Health Science/ Exercise and Health Sciences (MS)

**What drew you to the Center for Social Policy Werby internship program?**

- What drew me to CSP's internship program was the mission of the internship. The opportunity for research experience related to the eradication of poverty caught my attention and its openness for students from different academic disciplines. Also, my interest in health and social disparities.

**What unique work or life experiences did you bring to the internship?**

- Work experience in healthcare/social services
- Research experience at UMass Boston

**What did you learn from being a Werby intern?**

- I was able to learn more about the workforce development system within the city of Boston. This was definitely new for me and allowed me to step out of my comfort zone.
- Able to improve my research administrative skills (e.g. scheduling interviews)

**What did the internship allow you to do that you otherwise could not do?**

- Learned about workforce development system and new terminology (read previous literature)
- Helped create descriptive documents (list of agencies and stakeholders)
- Provided support during interviews with community stakeholders and focus groups (e.g. taking notes)

**What difference did it make that the Werby internship was paid internship?**

- Able to help cover transportation expenses to off-site activities (interviews, focus groups)

**What have you been doing/will you do post-graduation?**

- Grow within my organization/employer (looking into program/project management within healthcare)

**What, if any, impact did it have on your career?**

- Strengthen qualitative research skills
- Increase my interest in public services
- Would like to learn more about social and economic policy related to population health

**Any additional comments?**

The Werby internship was a great learning opportunity and hope it continues to grow for future students.

**Name:** *Elizabeth (Moniz) Miller*

**Home Town:** *Boston (Roslindale), Ma*

**College/Degree Program:** **Masters in Public Administration**

**What drew you to the Center for Social Policy Werby internship program?** Opportunity to gain hands on experience in research that supports community programs in Boston, as I felt at the time (and still do!) that this kind of policy work is a key leverage point for ensuring effective implementation of programs with an important social impact. But I didn't know how it all worked and fit together, and Werby/CSP helped me see those connections.

**What did you learn from being a Werby intern?**

Gained tangible qualitative research skills...interviewing, data analysis.

**What, if any, impact did it have on your career?**

I am now a Food Security Fellow in the City of Boston. I believe my experience with Werby helped to qualify me to take on this role that involves establishing a baseline understanding of food insecurity in Boston from both and quantitative and qualitative perspective.

**What difference did it make that the Werby internship was paid internship?**

Made a big difference for me. I left my job to explore career and learning opportunities but really needed some income to maintain and pay the bills!

**What have you been doing/will you do post-graduation?**

Working as Food Security Fellow (3-year fellowship) in City of Boston Mayor's Office of Food Initiatives, with brief stint at MA Department of Public Health prior to that.

**Why should a funder/donor support the Werby internship program?**

This program provides invaluable exposure to students considering research and policy work, exposure that is difficult to get mid-career if you don't already have your "foot in the door" at an agency doing or benefitting from this kind of work.

**Any additional comments?**

Thank you so much for the Werby internship opportunity. It was fantastic working with and learning from Mary