



JOHN AND VALERIE ROWE
ROWE SCHOLARS
VISITING LECTURE

October 9, 2025

Checking In. Checking On.
Checking Out.

Mental Health Education in the Carceral Classroom



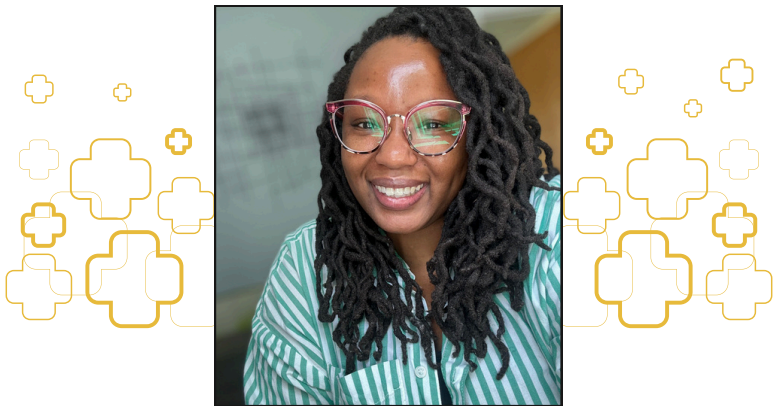
Taylor C Ford, LMSW

Director of Mental Health Education
Second Chance Educational Alliance

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Taylor Ford is a Connecticut native with a passion for addressing mental health and practicing intentional self-care. She is a graduate of UConn's School of Social Work and obtained her licensure with the State of Connecticut. She aspires to help create safe spaces for people to explore their own mental health as well as non-traditional ways to heal.

Having worked in the Children's Behavioral Health system for just shy of a decade, she focused primarily on family and youth engagement, skill and leadership development, training and providing internship supervision to social work students interested in the field. Her work has been presented in CT high school classrooms and System of Care conferences nationally. While still valuing children's behavioral health, she has since pivoted into working primarily in both the Higher Education in Prison world and providing individual therapeutic support by working in a private practice.

Taylor has traveled as a subject matter expert and now an executive member of the Jamii Sisterhood to encourage prison education programs working with Project Freedom to incorporate mental health in wellness into their program infrastructure. As the Director of Mental Health Education at Second Chance Educational Alliance, Inc., she has created three courses that bring psychoeducation directly to maximum security students. As she is creating her place in the HEP field, Taylor continues to create and encourage opportunities for students, educators and program staff to challenge and expand the way they think about mental health in and outside of their classrooms.



2025-2026 ROWE SCHOLARS

Benedict Addae
Amayah Algarin*
Vannesa Arroyo
Molisha Belony
Melanie Burgos Montero
Stephanie Cabrera Dominguez
Naimah Carter
Veronica Castaneda Bueso
Maham Chaudhary
Cameron Costa
Mia Cote
Thu Do
Rebecca Drouillard
Stephanie Flores Aguilar
Chamere Francis

Anousha Hashim
Melody Kettle*
Anzal Khan
Mark Manson
Angelina Morales
Aziz Nazari
James Nguyen*
Angeline Nunez
Samiah Ramos
Maryam Shabazz
Neha Shanavas*
Javel Stewart
Irene Tang
Isaiah Williams
Emerson Zecena-Perez



*Rowe Student Leadership Associate



The John and Valerie Rowe Scholars Visiting Lecture Series brings distinguished health professionals, scholars, and researchers to UConn to speak about relevant topics in health care. This lecture series is a key component of the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program. This program supports underrepresented students in pursuing careers in the health professions.

We are indebted to Drs. John and Valerie Rowe for their generosity and visionary support of these Honors students who are also proud Rowe Scholars.

SUBMIT QUESTIONS: S.UCONN.EDU/ROWELECTURE



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