

Page Walker Buck, PhD, LSW

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EDUCATION

Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, PhD, 2008
Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, MSS, 2004
Middlebury College, BA, 1990

TRAINING & LICENSURE

Licensed Social Worker in Pennsylvania, 2009 – Present

University of Tennessee Veterinary Social Work Program
Animal-Assisted Intervention certification Spring 2017
The Link Between Human and Animal Violence certification Fall 2016

Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association
Level I Certification: Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy Summer 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

West Chester University

Assistant Chair: Graduate Social Work Department June 2020 – Present
Graduate Coordinator: Graduate Social Work Department June 2020 – Present
Interim Assistant Dean, College of Education and Social Work May 2016 – December 2016
Department Chair: Graduate Social Work Department May 2013 – May 2016
MSW Program Director May 2013 – May 2016

TEACHING

West Chester University, Graduate Social Work Department

The Theory and Practice of Self-Care in Social Work
The Human-Animal Dynamic
Human Behavior in the Social Environment: The Dialectic of Oppression & Liberation
Social Work Practice I: Introduction to Practice with Individuals & Families
Social Work Practice II: Introduction to Practice with Groups
Field Practicum I: First Semester, Foundation Year
Field Practicum II: Second Semester, Foundation Year
Faculty Field Liaison
Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Groups, Organizations & Communities

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Funded Proposals

Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, Winter 2017

Gateway HorseWorks, a non-profit for which I serve as the research consultant, was awarded \$15,000 for Stable Pathways: Equine Assisted Psychotherapy for Justice-Involved Women. I served as a consultant for the application process and am conducting the program evaluation.

FaSTR Grant, Fall 2016

Awarded \$9,600 to collect pre- and post-test data on the impact of equine-assisted psychotherapy on adolescent females involved in the criminal justice in participation with the Chester County Office of Juvenile Probation and Gateway HorseWorks

Provost's Award, West Chester University, Winter Session 2015

Awarded \$5,600 (3-credit AWA) for strategic planning
Strategic Planning for the MSW-Philadelphia Program: Increasing Retention to Support Enrollment Growth

American Foundation for Research and Consumer Education in Social Work Regulations

Awarded \$10,000 for 2-year mixed-methods study of unethical shortcutting
Summer 2013-Summer 2015

College of Business and Public Affairs, West Chester University, Summer 2013

Awarded \$5,600 (3-credit AWA) for research and publication support

Faculty Grants Development Fund, West Chester University, July 2010 – June 2011

Awarded \$3,886 for study of brain injury workers' experiences

Sponsored Research Fund, West Chester University, Summer 2010

Awarded \$2,000 for study of mTBI

Unfunded Proposals

University Forum Grant Proposal, Submitted Spring 2016, unfunded

With Dr. Christina Chiarelli-Helminiak

Proposal to hire 3 trainers for Human Rights-based teaching and advising model

FY17 University Research Fund, Submitted Fall 2015, unfunded

With Dr. Angela Lavery

Proposal to conduct research on animal-assisted therapy with dementia patients

University Forum Grant Proposal, Submitted Spring 2015, unfunded

With Dr. Christina Chiarelli-Helminiak

Proposal to hire trainer for Human Rights-based advising model

Publications

Buck, P. W., & Lavery, A. (2019). Animal-Assisted Activities for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Parent Insights. *Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin*, 8(1), 78-89.

Buck, P. W. & Rauscher, K. (2018). The ethics of competency in human-animal relationships. In L. Kogan (Ed.). *Clinician's Guide to Treating Animal Companion Issues*. Elsevier.

Buck, P. W., Bean, N. & de Marco, K. (2017). Equine-assisted psychotherapy: An emerging trauma-informed intervention. *Advances in Social Work*, 18(1), doi: 10.18060/21310

Holbrook, A., Tennille, J. Buck, P.W. (2017). Building capacity for evidence based practice together. *Social Work in Public Health*, 32:7, 421-431.

doi:10.1080/19371918.2017.1344601

- Bradley, J. & Buck, P. W. (2016). Chapter 2: Role and Responsibilities of the Field Director. In C. Hunter & J. Moen (Eds). *Social Work Field Directors: Foundations for Excellence, Revised Edition*. Lyceum Books.
- Buck, P. W. & Sowbel, L. (2016). The logistics of practicum: Implications for field education. *The Field Educator*, 6(1).
- Buck, P. W., Fletcher, P. and Bradley, J. (2015). Decision-making in social work field education: A “good enough” framework. *Social Work Education*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/02615479.2015.1109073
- Bradley, J. & Buck, P. W. (2014). Chapter 2: Role and Responsibilities of the Field Director. In C. Hunter & J. Moen (Eds). *Social Work Field Directors: Foundations for Excellence*. Lyceum Books.
- Buck, P. W., Sagrati, J., Kirzner, R. (2013). Rehabilitation work with mild traumatic brain injury: A place for social work. *Social Work in Health Care*, 52(8), 741–751.
- Buck, P. W., Bradley, J., Robb, L. & Kirzner, R. S. (2012). Complex & competing demands in field education: A qualitative study of field directors’ experiences. *The Field Educator*, 2(2).
- Buck, P. W., Laster, R., Spencer, J. & Kirzner, R. S. (2012). Working with mild traumatic brain injury: Voices from the field. *Rehabilitation Research and Practice: Special Issue – Mild Brain Injury*.
- Buck, P. W. (2011). Mild traumatic brain injury: A silent epidemic in our practices. *Health & Social Work*, 36(4), 299-302.
- Buck, P. W. (2010). Care should be a right, not a privilege. *Neurology Now*, 6(5), 48.
- Buck, P. W. (2009). Learning to listen: A speech about love and social justice. *Civic Matters* 3, 9-11.
- Buck, P. W. (2008). Growing up in the Ownership Society: Exploring links between housing tenure and adolescent self-perceptions. Unpublished manuscript. UMI/Proquest: Michigan.
- Vartanian, T. P., Buck, P. W., & Gleason, P. (2007). Intergenerational neighborhood mobility: Examining differences between Blacks and Whites. *Housing Studies* 22(5):833-856.
- Vartanian, T. P., Karen, D., Buck, P. W., & Cadge, W. (2007). Early factors leading to college graduation for Asians and Non-Asians in the United States. *Sociological Quarterly* 48(2): 165-193.
- Buck, P. W. & Alexander, L. B. (2006). Neglected voices: Consumers with serious mental illness speak about intensive case management. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research* 33(4): 470-481.
- Vartanian, T. P. & Buck, P. W. (2005). Childhood and adolescent neighborhood effects on adult income: Using siblings to examine differences in OLS and fixed effect models, *Social Service Review* 79(1): 60-94.
- Bush, S., Stahlberg, I., Buck, P. W., & Girvin, H. (2002). “Welfare reform: Where have we been, where are we going?” In Proceedings of the Action/Research Conference on Welfare Reform, Sanford F. Schram, Ed. Bryn Mawr PA: Bryn Mawr College.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations Under Review

- Wykoff, K. & Buck, P. W. (proposal submitted to the *American Psychological Association Annual Conference* for August 2019). Competencies and Ethics Involved with the Counseling Modality of Animal Assisted Interventions.
- Buck, P. W. & De Marco, K. (proposal submitted to the *International Association of Human-Animal Interactions Organizations* for June 2019). Equine-assisted psychotherapy for women in the criminal justice system: A trauma-informed, restorative justice approach.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- Buck, P. W. *Unsheltered Bonds: Homeless Animal Guardianship*. 5th International Veterinary Social Work Summit. University of Tennessee. October 2018.
- Buck, P. W. *Stable Pathways: The Experience of Trauma-Informed, Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy for Women in the Criminal Justice System*. 5th International Veterinary Social Work Summit. University of Tennessee. October 2018.
- De Marco, K., & Buck, P. W. *Stable Pathways: The Experience of EAGALA for Women on Probation*. Presentation at The EAGALA (Equine-Assisted Growth and Learning) Conference. March 2018.
- De Marco, K. & Buck, P. W. *Stable Pathways: EAGALA: A Trauma-Informed Intervention*. Presentation at The EAGALA (Equine-Assisted Growth and Learning) Conference. March 2018.
- Buck, P.W., & Brescia, L. (November 2016). *Voices from the Barn: Parent Perceptions of Animal-Assisted Activities for Children with Autism*. Presentation at West Chester University Research Day.
- Buck, P.W., McDonald, S., Hoy, J. & Kim, C. (November 2016). *Human-Animal Interactions: Implications for Social Work Education*. Council on Social Work Education: Atlanta, GA.
- Hoy, J., Buck, P., Vincent, A. & Strand, E. (November 2016). *Humans and Animals: An Emerging and Promising Collaborative Practice*. Council on Social Work Education: Atlanta, GA.
- Buck, P. W., Bamford, S. & Mendez, K. (November 2015). *Integrating Content on the Human-Animal Dynamic into the MSW Foundation Curriculum*. Veterinary Wellness and Social Work Summit: Knoxville, TN.
- Buck, P. W. & Sowbel, L. (October 2015). *The Reality of Hours and Supervision in Field Practicum*. Council on Social Work Education: Denver, CO.
- Buck, P. W., Tennille, J. & Holbrook, A. (October 2015). *Beyond Implicit and Explicit Curricula: A Third Dimension for Social Work Education*. Council on Social Work Education: Denver, CO.
- Buck, P. W. & Sullivan, T. (October 2014). *Social Justice by Design: Administrative and Programmatic Choices in Social Work Education*. Council on Social Work Education: Tampa, FL.
- De Hope, E. & Buck, P. W. (October 2014). *Infusing Neuro-Bio and Social-Neurology Content into the Social Work Curriculum*. Council on Social Work Education: Tampa, FL.
- Buck, P. W., Robb, L. & Fletcher, P. (November 2013). *Reports from Field Directors: Seeking the "Good Enough" Balance*. Council on Social Work Education: Dallas, TX.
- Bradley, J., Laster, R., & Buck, P. W. (November 2012). *The new social service environment, through a Field Director lens*. Council on Social Work Education: Washington, DC.
- Buck, P. W. & Robb, L. (November 2012). *The Ethics of Competing Demands in Field Education*. Council on Social Work Education: Washington, DC.
- Buck, P. W., Kirzner, R., Sagrati, J. & Laster, R. (March 2012). *The Challenge of mTBI work: Exploring the experiences of rehabilitation professionals*. International Brain Injury Congress: Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Gregorio, E., Bartell, K, Holiday, B. & Buck, P. W. (October 2011). *Raising voices & defining values: The development of a student-led, open-access journal*. Council on Social Work Education: Atlanta, GA.
- Buck, P. W. & Pierce, S. (October 2011) *Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: A Silent Epidemic*. American Public Health Association annual conference: Washington, DC.

- Buck, P. W., Sagrati, J. & Plaisted, C. (June 2011). *Voices from the field: Working with mild traumatic brain injury*. Brain Injury Association of PA: Lancaster, PA.
- Buck, P. W. (April 2011). *Concussions on Campus: What faculty and staff in higher education need to know about this silent epidemic*. WCU Research Day.
- Buck, P. W., Robb, L. & Bradley, J. (October 2010). *Students as Customers and Learners: An Exploration of Competing Demands in the Field Practicum Placement Process*. Council on Social Work Education: Portland, OR.
- Buck, P. W. (October 2010). *Peeling the Onion: Understanding the Layers of Misperception around Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*. North American Brain Injury Society. Minneapolis, MN.
- Buck, P. W. & Sagrati, J. (June 2010). *What Should I Say? Explaining Mild Traumatic Brain Injury to Family, Friends and Work Colleagues*. Brain Injury Association of PA: Lancaster, PA.
- Buck, P. W. *Feeling Efficacious About School: Considering the Impact of Parenting Practices*. Society for Social Work and Research: January 2008.
- Buck, P. W. *The Danger of Dense Ties: Adolescent Perceptions of Neighborhood Safety in Closely-Knit Neighborhoods*. Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management: November 2007.
- Gammon, P., Alexander, L., & Buck, P. W. *Reconciling Expectations: How Case Managers Make Sense of their Relationship with their Clients*. Society for Social Work and Research: January 2007.
- Buck, P. W., Vartanian, T. P. & Gleason, P. *Using Neighborhood Quality to Help Predict Factors Associated with Food Insecurity for Families with Children*. Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management: November 2006.
- Buck, P. W. *Low-Income Homeownership: The Pathway to Prosperity and Well-Being?* Virginia Commonwealth University Policy Conference: June 2006.
- Buck, P. W. & Alexander, L. B. *Consumers in ICM: Neglected Voices*. Society for Social Work and Research: January 2006.
- Vartanian, T. P., Buck, P. W., & Gleason, P. *Trapped in Poor Neighborhoods? The Effects of Childhood Neighborhood Quality on Adult Residential Outcomes*. Society for Social Work and Research: January 2006.
- Vartanian, T. P., Buck, P. W., & Gleason, P. *Intergenerational Neighborhood Effects: Linear and Nonlinear Effects*. Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management: November 2005.
- Vartanian, T. P. & Buck, P. W. *The Effects of Neighborhood Residence on Adult Economic Well-being*. Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management: November 2003.

Student Presentations under Mentorship

- Zimmerman, H. (2018). Animal-assisted activities and the positive social emotional impacts for children on the autism spectrum. *WCU Research Day; Oral Presentation*.

Invited Presentations

- Buck, P. W. *Fostering Resilience in a Pandemic*. Working Dog Center, University of Pennsylvania. February 2022.
- Buck, P. W. *Wellbeing: What does the Research Show?* Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System, New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA. August 2021.
- Buck, P. W. *Veterinary Social Work*. Shelter Medicine Symposium, Philadelphia, PA. March 2021.

- Buck, P. W. *Staying Well in Veterinary Medicine: Boundaries*. Presentation to Alumni of University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. February 2021.
- Buck, P. W. *Pet Loss*. Human-Animal Bond class presentation: University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. January 2021.
- Buck, P. W. *Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy: Therapeutic Benefits of the Human-Horse Bond*. University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. October 2020.
- Buck, P. W. *Veterinary Social Work: A One Health Perspective*. Pet Partners. October 2019.
- Buck, P. W. *Mental Health & Veterinary Wellness*. University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. September 2019
- Buck, P. W. *Competency in Animal-Assisted Interventions: An Ethical Mandate*. CEU Webinar for the American Psychological Association. February 2019
- Buck, P.W. *Use of Animal-Assisted Interventions in Classroom Settings*. 2018 Student PSEA (Pennsylvania State Education Association) WCU Chapter Conference. West Chester University. December 2018.
- Buck, P. W. & de Marco, K. *Animal-Assisted Interventions in Integrated Care Settings: A Review of the Evidence Base*. Training for West Chester University HRSA Grant Recipients. September 2018.
- Buck, P. W. *The Human-Animal Dynamic in Undergraduate Settings: Implications for Wellbeing*. The University of Pennsylvania Student Health Services. April 2018.
- Buck, P. W. *Wellness in Schools of Veterinary Medicine*. The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. February 2018
- Buck, P. W. *The Human-Animal Bond: An Untapped Resource in the Promotion of Health & Well-being*: The Barn at Spring Brook Farm, West Chester, PA: March 2017.
- Sowbel, L. & Buck, P. W. Pre-Conference Workshop. *Gatekeeping for 21st Century Social Work*. BPD Annual Conference. Louisville, KY: March 2014.
- Homonoff, E. & Buck, P. W. CSWE Field Council Connect Session. *Field education scholarship*. Dallas, TX: November 2013.
- Buck, P.W. *The prevalence of undiagnosed Mild Traumatic Brain Injury among children*. DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, DE. March 2011
- Buck, P. W. *Mild Brain Injury: Understanding and Managing the Symptoms*. Connections for Life After Brain Injury, Moss Rehab: November 2009.

Media Coverage

- Buck, P. & McClure, E. (2018, April 21). PHL17's IN FOCUS: Autism Awareness.
- Giordano, R. (2018, January 04). New research is finding animals may help kids on the autism spectrum relate to other people. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.
<http://www.philly.com/philly/health/kids-families/467726673.html>
- Maye, F. (2017, July 07). WCU, Barn at Spring Brook, team up for unique program that helps autistic children. *Southern Chester County News*.
<http://www.southernchestercountyweeklies.com/general-news/20170707/wcu-barn-at-spring-brook-team-up-for-unique-program-that-helps-autistic-children>

Prior Research Experience

Principal Investigator: *Stable Pathways: Equine Assisted Psychotherapy for Justice-Involved Women*, June 2016-June 2020

Quasi-experimental study of the effects of equine-assisted psychotherapy for justice-involved, adult women; Collaboration with Gateway HorseWorks and Chester County Adult Probation

Principal Investigator: *Voices From The Barn: Parent Perceptions of Animal-Assisted Activities for Children with Autism*, Aug 2015-Sept 2019

Qualitative study at The Barn at Spring Brook Farm

Principal Investigator: *ICN Member Agency Organizational Capacity Study*, Spring 2007

Developed and implemented study of organizational capacity in 67 social service agencies in Norristown, PA through the Interagency Council of Norristown (ICN). Web-based survey, quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Project Coordinator: *Research Extenders & Integrity: The New Frontier*, Summer 2006

(NIH-funded: RO1-NR009879-01)

Responsible for all aspects of participant recruitment for large-scale research project exploring the ethical experiences of research extenders.

Project Director: *The Alliance in Intensive Case Management*, Spring 2004 – Fall 2005

(NIMH-funded: RO3-52734-02)

Responsible for qualitative analysis, using NVivo, of data from 67 consumers from 19 non-urban agencies in Eastern Pennsylvania, gathered in an exploratory, one-group, repeated measures design as a part of a study of the consumer/case manager alliance.

Project Director: *The MSS Admissions Experience*, Spring 2002 – 2007

Responsible developing and implementing all aspects of a longitudinal, mixed-methods research project on the experiences of applicants to the School of Social Work.

Responsibilities include developing the structured survey instrument and qualitative interview guide; developing documentation for IRB review; conducting qualitative data analysis using NVivo; conducting quantitative data analysis using; monitoring administrative elements of project; and report writing.

Research Liaison: *Bryn Mawr College Community-Based Learning Program*, Spring 2004

Responsible for community-based research project for Education 266. Supervised undergraduate students in all aspects of development and implementation of project

Field Interviewer: *University of Washington: Social Development Research Group*, Spring 2003

Conducted field interviews for cross-cultural family study

SERVICE ACTIVITY

University

Elected Member of Sabbatical and Leave Committee, Fall 2016-Present

Women's Leadership Development, West Chester University, 2018-2019

Search Committee: Associate Dean, College of Education & Social Work, Spring 2016

Academic Reorganization Committee, COC representative, Fall 2015

Search Committee, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, Fall 2015

Title IX training: *Peter Lake on Academic Freedom & Title IX: Balancing Competing Interests*, September 15, 2015

New Faculty Orientation: Volunteer Mentor, August 12, 2015

Council of Chairs, member, Fall 2013 – Spring 2016

Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship Committee, 2013

Search Committee, Assistant Director of Social Equity, 2011-2012

Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force, 2010

Women's and Gender Studies Steering Committee, 2009-2011

Women's and Gender Studies Assessment Sub-Committee, 2009-2011

College of Business and Public Affairs

Coordinator for Allocation of Graduate Assistantships, Summer 2015
Member, Search Committee: Associate Dean, Spring 2015

Graduate Social Work Department, MSW Program

MSW Program

Reaccreditation Team, 2018-Present
Student Wellness Working Group, Chair, 2018-Present
Faculty/Staff Strategic Planning Committee, 2018-Present
Pre-Doctoral Program, Advisor, 2015-Present
Recovery Task Force, Advisor, 2015-2017

MSW Curriculum

Assessment Committee, Member, 2018-Present
Diversity and Inclusion Curriculum Committee, Co-chair, 2017-Present
Lead Instructor: SWG560, 2018-Present
Observed Structured Clinical Examination Committee, Member, 2017-Present
Field Education Support Committee, Member, 2018-Present
Author, Standards for Professional Behavior, 2013
Chair, Field Education, 2009 - 2013
Lead Instructor, SWG501/502/596/597, 2009 - 2013

MSW Outreach

Community Advisory Board, Developer and Advisor, 2015-2016
Alumni Advisory Board, Developer and Advisor, 2015-2016

MSW Admissions & Marketing

Project Director, Website Redesign: 2009 & 2012
Developer, MSW Program Admissions Evaluation Project
Member, Admissions Committee

MSW Search Committees

Chair, Search Committee: Assistant Professor, 2018-2019
Member, Search Committee: Assistant Professor, 2011-2012
Member, Search Committee: Assistant Professor, 2012-2013
Chair, Search Committee: Director of Field Education: Fall 2013
Chair, Search Committee: MSW Recruiter: Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Faculty Advisor to Student Journal

2010-2011: Volume I, Issue I
2011-2012: Volume I, Issue II
2012-2013: Volume II, Issue I

National Social Work Community

Animal-Assisted Interventions

Member, Editorial Board, *Human Animal Interactions Bulletin*, Division 17 of the American Psychological Association; 2018 - Present

Advisory Board Member, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice, Task force on new *Center for Human-Animal Connection*: 2017 – Present

Dissertation Committee Member, University of Pennsylvania: 2018 – Present
Topic: *Foster Care Youth and Unsheltered Animals*

Dissertation Consultant, Case Western University: Spring 2015 – Present
Topic: *Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy*

Field Education

Elected member of CSWE Council on Field Education: 2015-Present
Research and Publications Committee
Field Summit Response Committee

Outside Reviewer Tenure Application – University of Denver: Fall 2016.

Representative for Council on Social Work Education on the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on May 25, 2016 in Rockville, Maryland for a discussion of enhancing community-based training sites
<https://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/bhpradvisory/acicbl/Meetings/walkerbu ck0516.pdf>

Dissertation Committee, Widener University: Fall 2015 - Present. Dissertation: *Social Work Field Education: A Survey of Field Instructors' Experiences in Site-Based and Distance Education BSW and MSW Programs*

Reviewer - *The Field Educator*, 2013 to Present

Reviewer - CSWE Annual Program Meeting 2011 – Present

Other

Consulting Editor - *Health & Social Work*, February 2011 – Present

Non-Profit Leadership

Advisory Board Member, *Barn at Spring Brook Farm*: 2017 – Present

Consultant, *Paws & Affection*, 2017 – Present

Research Consultant, *Gateway HorseWorks*, 2016 – Present

Advisory Council Member, *My Dog is My Home*: 2016 – 2018

Local Social Work Community

University of Pennsylvania College of Veterinary Medicine

Wellness Consultant at New Bolton Center, 2017 to Present

Chester County Department of Community Development

Point-in-Time Homelessness Count: volunteer, January 2016 – Present

Thorncroft Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center
Volunteer Field Instructor, Fall 2015

Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania
Community Advocate for Traumatic Brain Injury, 2012 – Present
Team Leader, Fundraising Walk for WCU Team, 2013

CLINICAL PRACTICE

University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
Counselor, November 2017 - Present
Village Wellness, Berwyn, PA
Holistic Psychotherapist, June 2017 - December 2018

AWARDS & HONORS

Outstanding Advisor Award: 2019, 2020 West Chester University

Women's Leadership Development 2018-19, West Chester University

Healthcare Hero 2018, Main Line Today, Spring 2018

Page Walker Buck uses innovative animal therapy techniques to treat patients with complex emotional traumas. Buck, an associate professor in West Chester University's graduate social work department, does equine-assisted psychotherapy with Gateway HorseWorks. She treats adolescent girls and adult women on parole or probation from Chester County's prison system. Many experienced abuse in childhood, intimate partner violence, and the loss of family members. How do horses help? "Horses are prey animals hardwired to sense danger and anger," Buck explained. "When people regulate their emotions to feel comfortable with a 1,200 lb. animal, their brains downshift, allowing them to engage in the therapeutic process."

Sabbatical, WCU, Spring 2017

Exceptional Departmental and College Service Award, WCU, May 2017

Top-100 Distinguished Alumna: Bryn Mawr College, 2015

Convocation Speaker (2008): Bryn Mawr College

Saul Rivitz Award (2007): Outstanding dissertation proposal

Mary Patterson McPherson Award (2007): Excellence and service to the community