

## Vimala Pillari Ph.D., LCSW



### **Profile**

*Distinguished Professor and an academic dean.*

*Founding dean of a new College for Health Sciences and Human Services, the departments under the new college are Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Counseling, Public Health, Social Work and a new program in Communications Sciences and Disorders.*

*Also, Founding Director and Dean of 2 new different Graduate Schools of Social Work.*

*My academic background is a strong combination of Liberal Arts - Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, History, Human Ecology and Biology and a professional background in Social Welfare.*

*Published several articles and 8 books.*

*Brought in substantial amount of monies through grants and fundraising.*

*Excellent teaching, research and administrative experiences.*

*A clear understanding of academic and professional programs.*

*Extensive experiences in strategic planning, accreditation and fundraising.*

*Experienced in budget and human resource management.*

*Committed to students, faculty and staff success.*

*Value: fairness, team work, accountability, honesty, continuous improvement.*

*Transformational leader with commitment to excellence and diversity.*

*Seasoned listener and effective communicator.*

### **EDUCATION**

Columbia University, New York, – Ph.D. (Doctorate in Social Welfare) - Social Work Practice, Substantive field - Practice and Policy in Child Welfare and Personality Theories.

Madras University, Madras – M.A., Social Work, Specialization in Families and Children

Madras University, Madras – B.Sc., Home-Science/Economics, Child Psychology and Sociology, with a strong Liberal Arts background.

Master's Thesis – The Influence of Social Factors on Dietary Habits of Middle Income Families at East Mambalam.

Honors – First in the University (best thesis) in Social Work under the supervision of instructor, Nafia Jamal. Manuscript 179 pages.

Doctoral dissertation – The Development of an Ecological Perspective in Social Work (A Family Model). (Under the supervision of Professors, Dr. Margaret Mead and Dr. Carel Germain). Manuscript 281 pages.

## **Financial and Strategic Planning Experiences**

### **Brought in over forty million dollars in research grants and donor funds to different universities**

- Newman University – Founding Director, School of Social Work, 1997-2000. Raised funds to create student scholarships.
- Dominican University – Founding Dean, Graduate School of Social Work, 2000-2008. Raised 8 million dollars with the Vice President for Advancement to purchase a building for the new School of Social Work under my leadership and brought grant funds.
- Title IVE and Foundation grants - 12 million dollars and 2 million foundation grants
- Clark Atlanta University – Dean, strategic planning and budget management, 2008 to present.
- Title IVE- and IVB grants; Title III grants; Families and Children Research Center; Research funds with faculty, Foundation and alumni legacy funds; private donors; fundraising and donor monies Conducted fundraisers and raised student scholarship monies at Clark Atlanta University, School of Social Work. Includes 95th celebrations of the school. In all government grants (training and others) 18 million dollars and foundation grants and fund-raising for the school 1 million dollars
- Tarleton State University - built the mission and strategic plan for the new College of Health Sciences and Human Services – Departments of Nursing, Counseling, Social Work, Medical Laboratory Sciences and Public Health. Brought in research and donor funds. In all, one and a half million dollars.  
Brigham Young University - University and Child Welfare grants - \$500,000 dollars.  
Norfolk State University – National Mental Health - \$500,000 dollars.

## **ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP**

- Re- Accreditation of MSW & BSW Programs in Clark Atlanta University
- Participated in the re-accreditation (CAEP) of the master's and bachelor's accreditation programs in the School of Education in Clark Atlanta University
- Developed a dual degree program – Masters in Social Work and Public Health
- As Founding Dean developed and completed the initial accreditation of the Master of Social Work Program and created the new Graduate School of Social Work at Dominican University, Illinois.
- As Founding Director started and completed the initial accreditation of the new MSW program at Newman University
- Accreditation of the new Master of Social Work program in Southern Connecticut State University.
- Re-accreditation of the Master's program in Social Work at the State University of New York at Buffalo.
- Participated in the re-accreditation of the Master and Bachelor's program in Social Work at Norfolk State University, Virginia.
- Re-accreditation of the Master and Bachelor's programs in Social Work at Brigham Young University, Utah.
- Active role in the University Re-accreditation processes in two Universities- Southern Regional Accreditation (Virginia) and North Central Association Accreditation (Illinois).

## **Growth of the Undergraduate Social Work Program**

- Enhanced the BSW program by revision of the first two years of undergraduate education – core and general education.
- Actively included students in research projects and leadership skills.
- Worked with undergraduate students to inaugurate student organizations to fulfill students' needs/desires.

## **Development of New Social Work Programs**

- Started and developed the new MSW program in Social Work (and added an undergraduate program in Social Work) at Newman University with a family-centered concentration. Initial accreditation of the graduate MSW program with the Commission on Higher Education and initial accreditation from the National Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Wrote the required documents based on CSWE standards, recruited faculty, staff and students.
- Started and developed the Master's program in Social Work (there was no undergraduate program in Social Work) at Dominican University, Illinois. Obtained accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. Obtained national accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education, Spring 2004. Wrote the required documents based on the CSWE standards, recruited faculty, staff and students.
- Started work on a dual degree program Social Work/Public Health between Clark Atlanta University and Emory University.

Started a new Clinical Ph.D. program at Clark Atlanta University. Seed monies from Title III federal funds - \$500,000 per year for the next 5 years.

International Consultant – Building a new BSW/MSW program, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Al-Daayen, Qatar.

## **Development of Doctoral Programs**

- Development of a second doctoral program on Clinical Social Work at Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work.
- Member of the Governor's Team and Co-Chair in the development of the doctoral program at Norfolk State University in Virginia.
- Trained as a Site Team Visitor.
- Chair and Membership in various administrative committees listed under each University.

## **Diversity Experiences**

- Newman University –Recruited diverse Advisory members, faculty, staff and students. Infused the curricula with diversity and multicultural materials.
- Dominican University - Recruited diverse students, faculty and staff. Built the Advisory Board with diverse community members. Spearheaded the accreditation process by the infusion of diversity and multicultural material into all course outlines.
- Clark Atlanta University – Built a multicultural Families and Children Research Center.
- Member of the University Global Leadership Initiative.

### **Tarleton State University**

**2016 - present**

**A member of Texas A&M System**

***Inaugural Dean and Tenured Professor (2016-2018)***

***College of Health Sciences and Human Services***

***Assistant for Special Projects in the Office of the President -2018 to present***

### **Primary duties and accomplishments for the New College**

**Inaugural dean of the new College of health Sciences and Human services – Departments – Social Work, Counseling, Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences and Public Health.**

**Created the new mission of the college**

**Created the strategic plan for the college**

**Preliminary work completed on a new bachelor's and master's program on**

**Communication Sciences and Communication Disorders**

**Plans to add Kinesiology department (from College of Education) to the new college.**

**National Institute of Justice grant - \$500,000. Police Officers and Stress – Interdisciplinary Study – Social Work and Counseling.**

**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - \$500,000 grant for studying Minority Health Issues and Education**

**Interdisciplinary Study – Social Work, Counseling and Public Health.**

**Accredited the Master's Counseling program –CACREP accreditation**

**Initial candidacy for the Master's program in Social Work - CSWE**

**Fund raising - \$500,000 land donation to the Department of Nursing.**

### **Consultancies**

**International Consultant to Doha Institute of Graduate Studies, Qatar. 2016 to present.**

**Involved strategic planning, curriculum and US accreditation equivalency**

**Consultant to the Congressional Research Institute for Social Policy, Washington, DC, 2017 to present.**

**Working on recent social policy issues with Congressman Dr. Townes and others.**

**Clark Atlanta University, Georgia**  
**2008 - 2016**  
**Dean and Tenured Distinguished Professor**  
**Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work.**

***Primary duties and  
Accomplishments include:***

- Principal Investigator, Title IVE Child Welfare Grant - 1.5 million dollars per year for 8 years.
- Principal Investigator – Clinical Ph.D. program – Title III grants for five years
- Child Welfare funds –Foundation and Title IVB
- Received an initial one million dollars grant for Domestic Violence, followed by more funds.
- Networking with community agencies and governmental organizations –grants
- Fundraising for the 95<sup>th</sup> School anniversary.
- Member of the Academic Council
- Member of the Deans’ Council
- Member of the University Strategic Planning Committee
- Member of the University Budget Committee
- Member of the University Enrollment and Retention Committee
- Member- University Tenure and Promotion Committee - 2005 to present
- Member – University-wide Strategic Planning Committee – 2005 to present
- Member – University Assessment Committee- 2005 to present
- Member – University Annual Speakers Planning Committee
- Establishment of a Multi-Cultural Families and Children Research Center - Funds
- Co-Chair of the Commission on Council of Faculty Development for the national conference held in Atlanta, 2011/2012
- Research member of the Environmental Sustainability interdisciplinary study.
- Member of the Global Leadership Academy.
- Re-accreditation process for the BSW and MSW programs are being completed 2013- 2014.  
The BSW and MSW programs were successfully re-accredited in 2015.
- Compliance Training -Received certificates for compliance training for the past 4 consecutive -2009- 2014.
- Participated in the School of Education reaccreditation (CAEP) process.
- Enrollment increased from 90 students to over 643students during my tenure.
- Increase in faculty publications and national and international paper presentations.
- Appeared in three radio talks shows and one TV show to promote and raise monies for the School of Social Work, 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Fall 2010.

Fundraiser May, 2014. Raised funds for student scholarships through continuing education workshops.

Co-Chair of APM – National Council on Social Work Conference in Atlanta, 2011.

Commissioner for Faculty Development – Council on Social Work Education, 2011-2013

Appointed as a member of the Supreme Court, Georgia as an advocate - Justice for Children, Georgia University Advisory Committee.

## **DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY, ILLINOIS**

***2000- 2008***

***Founding Dean and Tenured Professor,  
Graduate School of Social Work***

### ***Primary duties and***

### ***Accomplishments include:***

- Founded the Graduate School of Social Work. Successfully accredited the new program within the first 3 years.
- Also achieved accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.
- Developed the graduate program in Social Work with a family-centered concentration
- Continued to build the multifaceted aspects of the school of social work. Directed and participated in teaching and outreach work with professional agencies.
- Member – Academic Affairs Council Committee
- Member – Academic Deans Council
- Member – University Strategic Planning Committee
- Member – University Cabinet Committee
- Chair – Curriculum Committee of the Graduate School of Social Work
- Chair – Graduate School of Social Work Advisory Board
- Chair – Internal Review Board for Research Committee of the Graduate School of Social Work
- Chair – Graduate School of Social Work Tenure and Promotion Committee
- Member– University Promotion and Tenure Committee
- Donor funds, Title IVE and other fund raising events.

### **Courses taught**

*Introduced the ecological perspective and family-centered practice as the philosophical base for the social work program.*

Family-centered practice, Human Behavior and the Social Environment,  
Social Welfare History, Policy and Planning

Started a new MSW Family-Centered Program, Fall 2000

- Completed feasibility study (400 pages), October 2000.
- First commissioner visit, Spring 2001

- Received approval from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Completed Candidacy application (450 pages)
- Second commissioner visit, Spring 2002
- Candidacy approval by CSWE, Summer 2002
- Self-study completed (1,500 pages)
- Final Site-team visit, October 2003
- Received Initial Accreditation, Spring 2004

Throughout the process there was no requirement for interim reports by the Council on Social Work Education.

Outreach to state and community agencies included the Department of Families and Children (DFCS) grant for recruitment of their employees for further education. Through creation of the title IVE grant, over 50 students, about \$500,000 dollars was brought into School of Social Work in its first year of operation.

### **Administrative Responsibilities**

- Visited many social work agencies (115) in the Chicago metro-area for the development of the new MSW program with a focus in family-centered social work.
- Visited many universities (22) to understand the need, and to advocate, for a new MSW program.
- Orientation lectures to universities and agencies.
- Recruited students, staff, and faculty to the MSW program.

### **Faculty Development**

- Trained and oriented all new faculty to the standards of the Council on social work education
- Five workshops to new faculty on how to teach
- Three workshops to faculty on how to write for publication.
- Small research monies to faculty for pursuing research of their interests
- Provided opportunities to faculty to attend and present at workshops

### **Staff Development**

- Training and orientation of new field work directors
- Orientation - training and visiting agencies with new director of admissions to introduce the new family-centered program and recruit students.
- Student enrollment number increased rapidly up to 230 students.
- Students orientation to new program
- Graduated over 115 students from the new MSW accredited program.
- Developed the first application packet for admissions.

- Developed the Student Handbook.
- Developed the Field Work Manual
- Built the new advisory board for the Graduate School of Social Work.
- Fund-raising - Developed Continuing education workshops
- Started beginning work on a Family-Centered Research Center, Spring 2004.

## **NEWMAN UNIVERSITY, KANSAS**

***1997 - 2000***

***Founding Director and Tenured Professor,  
Graduate School of Social Work***

***Primary duties and  
Accomplishments include:***

Developed the graduate program in Social Work with a family-centered concentration and build the different aspects of the School of Social Work. Reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and build the finances for the program.

- Member – Graduate Council
- Member – Vice-President Committee on University Affairs
- Built the Advisory Committee for Social Work Program
- Member of the University Council
- Chair of the Curriculum Committee
- Chair of the Continuing Education Committee
- Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee
- Built a family-centered concentration in the new MSW program
- Completed feasibility study (280 pages) in December 1997. The study was accepted in January 1998. Completed the Candidacy Application (450 pages) in February 1998. Was accepted by the Site Team Visitor and the Council by April 1998. The program was given Candidacy status.
- Completed the North Central Region of School and Colleges report on the MSW program (350 pages) and the overall University received re -accreditation in July 1998.
- Completed 200 pages of Progress Report of the MSW Program for the Council on Social Work Education.
- Completed a second report for the North Central Region of School and Colleges. (250 pages)
- Fundraising and acquiring student scholarships for the Graduate School of Social Work.
- Recruited students to the MSW program.
- Developed Continuing Education workshops on a quarterly basis. Funds from the workshop went towards student scholarship.
- Completed second progress report for the Council, October 1999. (280 pages)



**BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UTAH**

***1995 - 1997***

***Associate Director – Research Center  
School of Social Work***

***Primary duties and***

***Accomplishments include:***

- Brought grant monies for two research studies.
- Distinguished Teaching Award
- Member – Rank and Status Committee
- Member – Research Committee
- Member – HBSE Committee
- Member – Research Proposal Committee
- Chair – The generational transmission of sexual victimization. What will stop the cycle?
- Chair – The relationship between substance abuse relapse. Prevention education and recidivism.
- Chair - Course Revisions for Accreditation
- Research I and Research II
- Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- Interventions with Ethnic Clients
- Clinical Interventions with Special Populations
- Systems Theory and Cultural Diversity
- Models of Family Therapy
- Advanced Family Therapy

**NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY- VIRGINIA**

***1985 - 1995***

***Professor – School of Social Work***

***Primary duties and***

***Accomplishments include:***

- Chair- Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Co-Chair – Doctoral Committee
- Chairperson – Social Work Methods and Human Behavior and the Social Environment Committee
- As Chairperson, worked with faculty to revise all master level and bachelor level course outlines in Social Work Methods and Human Behavior in the Social Environment.
- Environment
- Member of the Assessment Committee
- Member – Promotion and Tenure Committee
- Member – Sub-committee on school mission
- Member – Dean’s Cabinet

- Co-Chair – Student Rally
- Member - University Self-Study Committee
- Services to the Norfolk State University Committees
- Alternate Senate Member – the University Senate for five years, Fall 1985 – 1990
- Member – Southern Association Site Visit, University Self-Study Committee, Hospitality Committee.
- Member – Bookstore committee
- Governor’s Task Force on Higher Education (building the doctoral program)
- Grant funds for research studies

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK  
1981 - 1985**

***Associate Professor - Graduate Program  
School of Social Work***

***Primary duties and  
Accomplishments include:***

- Chairperson – Curriculum Committee
- Co-Chair - Accreditation Committee
- Chairperson – Integrated Methods and Human Behavior and the Social Environment Committee: Social Work practice (Social casework), Family Therapy, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Family and Child Welfare, Ego Psychology and Differential Environments, Philosophy of Social Work, Minority Perspectives.
- Chair – Workload Committee for Faculty
- Chair - Part-time Faculty Concerns
- Introduced the ecological perspective as the philosophical base for social work education.

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY, CONNECTICUT,  
1978 - 1981**

***Assistant Professor  
Department of Social Work***

***Primary duties include:***

- Chairperson, Methods Committee
- Co-Chair – Human Behavior and the Social Environment Committee
- Chair of the Methods Committee in the Graduate Planning Committee.
- Member – Undergraduate Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee
- Member – University Curriculum and Instructional Committee.

***Accomplishments include:***

- Introduction of the Ecological perspective as the conceptual framework for the School of Social Work.
- Worked with the departmental social work committee to develop a new MSW program.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE WORK AND TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Faculty and Staff Development**

*Oriented and trained new and returning faculty and staff in several universities in a variety of areas: Orientation to the Standards of the Council on Social Work Education, effective teaching, writing for publication, securing funds, preparing students handbooks and field work manuals, recruitment and enrollment of students and continuing education workshops.*

*Co-Chair of the National Social Work Conference held in Atlanta in Fall, 2011/2012.*

**Teaching Areas**

**Graduate and Under-Graduate**

*Developed, modified or introduced new courses in different Universities. Some of the courses are listed below.*

Family-Centered Practice as a Concentration with three different course outlines

Social Work with Families, Differential Approaches to Treatment, Social Work Research, Social Work with Individuals

Social Work Methods – different courses developed, Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Ethnicity, Domestic violence and implications for practice (for MSW students), Child welfare

Practice Issues.

**Graduate:** Social Work Practice, Social Work Methods, Social Work with Individuals, Social Work with Families and Differential Approaches to Treatment, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Family and Child Welfare, Ego-Psychology and Differential Environments, Philosophy of Social Work, Diversity Perspective and Ethnicity, Social Welfare History, Social Work Research, and Policy and Planning

**Undergraduate:** Social Work Practice, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Working with Families, Social Work Research, Social Welfare History and Issues and Group Work.

**Practice Experience**

Part-time social worker – Family Action Counselors of Tidewater, private practice. 1986 – 1989

Part-time social worker – Family Services of Tidewater, Norfolk, Virginia. Fall 1989 – 1995.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

### **SELECTED CONSULTANCIES AND BOARDS**

Consultant - Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy, 2017 to present.  
Consultant – School of Business – Understanding behavior and developing social skills, Austin Peay State University 2017.  
International Consultant – Doha Institute of Graduate Studies at Qatar – building of a new MSW program – Spring, 2017 to present.  
Selected by the Supreme Court of Georgia on Justice for Children – Georgia University Advisory Committee, 2015.  
Advisory Board member – Veterans Hospital, Atlanta, 2015.  
Advisory Board Member- National Leadership in Academy of Aging, 2012 to present. Volunteer member of the Social Workers Caucus in Washington DC 2012 to present.  
Consultant - Center on self-sufficiency and growth, Atlanta, 2009 to present.  
Advisory Board member - Urban League of Atlanta, 2014 to present.  
Consultant to the MSW program at West Virginia University, 2005-2006.  
Board Member – Resurrection Health Care. 2000 – present.  
Board Member – Salvation Army. 2000 – present.  
Social Work Practice Commissioner, Council on Social Work Education. 1999- to present  
Board Member of the Counseling and Mediation Center in Wichita, Kansas. Fall 1997 – present.  
Editorial Board Member of Journal – Human Behavior and the Social Environment. Dec. 1995 – present.  
Prepublication Reviewer of the journal titled Human Behavior and the Social Environment for the Haworth Press, Inc. New York.  
Governor’s Task Force on Higher Education Restructuring – State Wide Faculty Task Group. 1994 – 1995.  
Secretary and Treasurer, Moses Newsome Committee for CSWE Presidency. 1994.  
Coordinator – American Board of Examiner in Clinical Social Work, Washington, D.C. Winter 1992 – present.  
Consultant – The Planning Council, Homeless Prevention Program, Norfolk, Virginia. Fall 1991 – present.  
Board Member, Virginia Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency. March 1990 – present.  
Consultant to Private Practice, Jamestown, New York. 1982 – 1985.  
Site Visitor for the Council on Social Work Education. 1981 – present.  
Consultant to the study of burnout among hospital personnel and effects on families. Harlem Valley Psychiatric Hospital. 1980 – 1981.  
Regional Director – National Association of Social Workers (Connecticut Branch) 1979 – 1981.  
Board Director – community Consultation Board, New Haven, Connecticut. 1979 – 1981.

Published several books and articles; Research grants, Research studies, Professional certificates and Professional presentations and memberships.