Dawn Thurman, PhD, LCSW-C, LICSW

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Academic Degrees

PhD, Social Work, 2008 — Howard University, Washington, DC

MSW, 2002 — Howard University, Washington, DC

B.A., Psychology, 2000 — Canisius University, Buffalo, NY

Academic Appointment

Associate Professor, Morgan State University, School of Social Work, 2014–Present

Research Funding (Principal Investigator)

- State Opioid Response (SOR IV) SHIELD Fellowship, SAMHSA / Morgan State University, 2024–Present ($999,682)
- State Opioid Response (SOR III) SHIELD Fellowship, SAMHSA / Morgan State University, 2022–2024 ($983,932)
- Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) Grant, Fight Blight Baltimore / Morgan State University, 2022–2023 ($100,000)

Technology and Entrepreneurship

- Founder & CEO, Discerna (discerna.app), Discerna Learning Systems LLC, 2026–Present
- Founder & CEO, Note Genie (notegenie.ai), 2023–Present

Selected Publications

- Thurman, D., Porter, R., Gibson, G., Townsend, L., & Wells-Wilbon, R. (2026). Cyberbullying and artificial intelligence: A review of detection technologies and their relevance to social work. Submitted to NASW Press.
- Green, K., Dickens, D., Thurman, D., & Van Sluytman, L. G. (2024). The disproportionate use of corporal punishment on African American children in US schools. Journal of African American Studies.
- Burley, J. T., Thurman, D., & Brade Stennis, K. (2022). Mothering and othering: Experiences of African American professional women. Journal of Motherhood Initiative, 13(1), 161–176.

Selected Presentations

- AI and Social Work Practice: Generative AI and the Current State of Social Work Practice. DSW Immersion Project, Morgan State University.
- Using AI for Literature Search, Reviews, and Citations. DSW Immersion Project, Morgan State University.

Clinical Experience

CEO, Clinical Director & Psychotherapist, Ready. Set. Grow! LLC, Bowie, MD, 2012–Present

Licenses and Certifications

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-C), Maryland | Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Washington, DC

AWS Machine Learning University Educators Consortium (2026–Present) | AWS AI Practitioner Foundational Training Badge

Honors

- Educator of the Year, National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter, 2019
- Best All-Around Professor, School of Social Work, Morgan State University, 2018