Dr. Dawn Thurman, PhD, LCSW-C, LICSW

Long Bio

Dr. Dawn Thurman, PhD, LCSW-C, LICSW, works at the intersection of social work, education, and technology. She is an Associate Professor and Transfer Coordinator in the BSW Department at Morgan State University's School of Social Work. There she teaches, develops curriculum, and chairs doctoral dissertations and capstones in the DSW program.

Dr. Thurman is CEO and Clinical Director of Ready. Set. Grow!, a psychotherapy and acupuncture group practice based in Bowie, Maryland. She provides direct clinical care, supervises students and staff, and manages the organization's daily operations.

She is also an entrepreneur building technology for the social work profession. Dr. Thurman founded Note Genie, an AI-powered clinical documentation tool that helps social workers and other helping professionals write progress notes more efficiently. She founded Discerna, an AI-powered EdTech platform for social work and psychology education, piloted at Morgan State's BSW and MSW programs. Discerna includes four modules: Cases, Media, Reads, and Lens.

Dr. Thurman's research examines how artificial intelligence intersects with social work practice, education, and workforce development. She served as Principal Investigator on two CEAMLS AI research projects and is Principal Investigator on the SHIELD Behavioral Health Training Program, a SAMHSA SOR-IV funded initiative preparing social work students for substance use disorder prevention and intervention. Her scholarship centers on the ethical, privacy-conscious use of AI in clinical and academic settings.

She earned her PhD and MSW at Howard University and holds a clinical social work license in Maryland, LCSW-C. She speaks and consults on AI ethics, behavioral health workforce development, and technology in social work education.

Across every role, teaching, clinical practice, research, and product development, Dr. Thurman's focus stays constant. She helps social workers and helping professionals use technology ethically, responsibly, and in service of the clients and communities they serve. Her work is guided by a single mission: advancing social work through AI.