

### *School of Counseling Faculty Awarded \$1.3M Grant For Opioid Recovery & Student Training*

Dr. Rikki Patton, School of Counseling Associate Professor, was primary co-author awarded a \$1.3 million multi-year grant for “Interdisciplinary Training Initiative for Children, Adolescents & Families Impacted by Opioid User Disorder,” which will enhance and expand community-based experiential training with a focus on youth and their families impacted by Opioid Use Disorder and other Substance Use Disorders. Drs. Heather Katafiasz and Yue Dang, also School of Counseling faculty, are grant participants.



The grant will help pay for training mental health professionals to use best practices when helping other recover. Ohio is currently second in the country for fatal drug overdoses. The impact of addiction is devastating and reaches far beyond the user. That’s why a team of faculty from The University of Akron is partnering with colleagues from Drexel University to address treatment gaps, determined to help affected families deal with the impact of trauma caused by the opioid abuse.

Led by Dr. Patton and Dr. Jessica Chou, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and Family Therapy at Drexel University, the project was awarded from The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “Many people suffer from opioid addiction,” said Patton. “The individuals who suffer from opioid addiction may receive treatment, but most families related to users do not. The impacts of the addiction and how it affects the family unit is overlooked.”