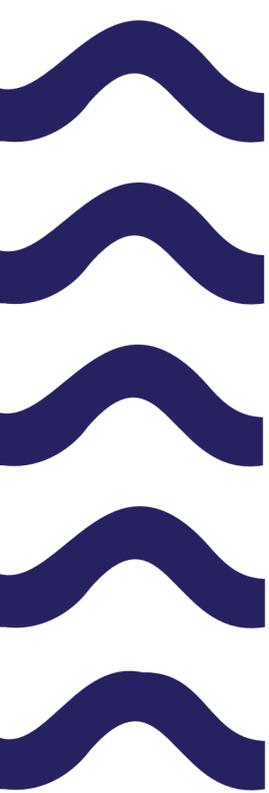# *Celebrating*
Jane Yang

Jane Yang graduated with her MSW degree in May 2021 from the University of Georgia. She has worked in the child welfare field for 18 years and is currently the Permanency Field Program Specialist for region 5. She also supports child protection services. After completing her degree, Jane became involved in other areas of the child welfare field including quality assurance and complex care for foster youth with high needs and disruptive placements.

Although Jane was not initially interested in going back to school, she acknowledges that one of her proudest moments was being selected to be part of the first NCWWI stipend student cohort in Georgia. Jane faced challenging times throughout her educational journey including juggling home life, going to school full time, working full time, and completing an outside internship, all while managing the difficulties caused by the pandemic. However, she prevailed with the support of her family, co-workers, and supervisors. Jane identifies building and sustaining relationships as one of her keys to success. She has also learned to be patient with herself and become organized in a way that works best for her. What keeps Jane motivated is not only the relationships but also that she loves the work she does, identifying problems and solutions that she can share across the region to help others.

Jane looks forward to becoming more involved in research and trauma-informed care for foster youth. She advises students and new child welfare professionals to find their team of people they can rely on. Having a support system within the child welfare field makes challenging times easier. And for students who may be a little older while in school, as she was, she encourages them not to be intimidated by going to school with younger people. They will bond over what they are learning, and they will all teach each other valuable life lessons.

"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better, too."
Paulo Coelho