Colleen Dempsey

COLLEGE: College of Social Work

DEGREE: MSW ’12

CAREER: Child and Family Counselor, Southeast, Inc.

NOTABLE: In 2010, Colleen Dempsey helped organize The Student Café: Conversations for Change initiative, which ultimately led to a special invitation from the White House. This student-run event allowed legislators and students to come together for a rare opportunity to talk with each other about the Ohio budget and the long-term consequences of some of the proposed budget cuts. The event gained national attention and the group was one of ten groups invited to Washington, D.C., for a meeting with President Barack Obama and other high-ranking policy makers. That is, ten groups out of almost 400—it was an extraordinary honor! Today, Colleen does most of her advocating on a smaller scale in her work as a child and family counselor, making sure individuals have access to the treatment they need. She still thinks big, and after the success of the Student Café, she knows she has the ability, with the support of others, to turn those thoughts into actions.