School of Counseling faculty members and a student recently had a busy few days in and around Washington, D.C.

On March 7, Dr. Heather Katafiasz, Assistant Professor, left, and doctoral student, Eman Tadros, center, advocated for legislature on Capitol Hill by meeting with staff from the offices of Sen. Rob Portman and Rep. Marcia Fudge. They discussed the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (S.286/H.R.945), which would allow marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to have access to Medicare billing.

Then, Dr. Rikki Patton, right, an Associate Professor, and Healther Katafiasz, left, presented at the 2019 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Leadership Symposium. Held in Arlington, Va., from March 7-9, Patton and Katafiasz co-led a presentation titled, “The Process of Becoming: Exploring the multi-systemic layers of leadership.”

Also presenting was alumna Erin Schaeffer, who spoke about leadership in agency settings, and her belief in the importance of working collaboratively with The University of Akron. Tadros and alumna Laura Audrey Wilson were also in attendance, building on their leadership foundations.

For information about the advocacy efforts, please contact familyteam@aamft.org. For more information about the MFT Master’s program, visit the School of Counseling online.