

# 2020 ELECTION CANDIDATES



CSWE Board of Directors

## Graduate Program Representative

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**Sharon D. Johnson**

*Dean, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO*

I am seeking a position on CSWE's Board of Directors because I want to be a part of shaping the future of social work education. CSWE, as an accrediting body, guides the field of social work by providing a blueprint and a voice for moving the profession forward. I want to be a part of continuing to bring this aspect of CSWE to fruition.

As a researcher, evaluator, and instructor, I have the ability to ask tough questions and see new avenues for exploration. I am a critical thinker with the ability to observe interactions and group dynamics and provide rational and unbiased perspectives on important matters. I am always seeking to diligently create and maintain environments of mutual understanding and respect where excellence is encouraged and supported. UMSL is a regional land grant institution that serves as an anchor institution for the community and a region that has a unique blending of urban and rural service centers. It is an institution that has accredited graduate and undergraduate social work programs. My role providing leadership to these programs gives me a unique perspective on the needs of social work programs at both levels and across varying geographical contexts.

My vision for CSWE is that as an organization it is a shining exemplar of guidance, clarity, and vision. Social work education is vital, and the transferable skills taught in our programs is unmatched. Often, we find that the field of social work is not recognized as a supplier of a critical workforce. We are left to advocate on many levels when social work is both misunderstood and underrepresented. My vision for social work education is for it to receive recognition for its content, depth, and importance in training a critical and valued workforce.



**Lori Messinger**

*Dean, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Knoxville, TN*

I am honored to be nominated for the CSWE Board of Directors (BOD). I have served on the BOD for one term, with 1 year as a member of the Executive Board, and I am hoping to serve a second term to continue the work of the Board.

At its heart, I believe that CSWE is a membership organization: serving the needs of academic social work programs, as well as the faculty, staff, students, and administrators who constitute them, and facilitating our way forward in challenging times. CSWE must be outward-facing, raising the profile of social work and social justice in a world where our practice, scholarship, and ethics-based approaches are undervalued. CSWE must also be focused on supporting the social work education infrastructure as well, providing training, scholarship, assessment, and coordination that shapes social work education and practice in the future. Further, the organization is only as good as its staff, who should be provided a supportive, engaging work environment that fosters their professional

growth. Finally, CSWE will only be successful if we engage our members and partner well with ally organizations, within our disciplines and in other areas, in every aspect of this work.

I bring to the Board my experience in small and large programs; research-intensive and comprehensive universities; and in faculty, program director, dean, and central administration roles. I have served on local, state, and national nonprofit boards. I also bring the experience of serving on numerous CSWE councils and boards, and I conducted research as a CSWE Scholar. I would continue to rely on my colleagues across the country to share with me their hopes and concerns, so I might relay these to the board and organizational leadership and use these to inform the direction of the organization.

## Graduate Faculty Representative

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**Joan Blakey**

*Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA*

I am excited about the possibility of representing my colleagues as the graduate faculty representative on the CSWE Board of Directors. I am eager to give back to an organization and a profession that has been a critical part of my development as an educator, scholar, and researcher. I am an alumna of the CSWE Minority Fellowship Program and have served as a commissioner since 2016 and a track chair since 2019. Schools of social work are vital to creating solutions to complex problems, educating the next generation of social workers, and leading the fight for social justice. At this critical time in higher education, I want to be a part of shaping our collective future.

I have demonstrated the ability to listen to, synthesize, and represent stakeholders' divergent perspectives and needs. I will use my skills and knowledge of faculty development, online education, and administration to listen to and represent members as a bridge between CSWE and schools of social work. I also am serving on three university-wide committees that have been formed to navigate the effects and aftermath of COVID-19 and how to balance the public's health and safety with the students' and university's needs and desires. I hope to use my expertise related to COVID-19 planning to help CSWE creatively respond to the priorities of the organization's members while fulfilling its mission in this changing landscape.

My vision is for CSWE to lead the profession nationally and globally by promoting innovative policies and practices that enhance the ability of schools of social work to educate students to engage in all types of practice, promote well-being, and advocate for equitable conditions that lead to a sustainable future for individuals, families, organizations, and communities. If elected, it would be my honor to serve at this critical time in history.



**Kathryn Krase**

*Associate Professor, Yeshiva University, New York, NY*

CSWE has been instrumental in shaping my career; I see the opportunity to return the favor through a role as a graduate program representative to the Board of Directors. I attended my first CSWE Annual Program Meeting (APM) in New York City, as a master's student. I was overwhelmed and intimidated, to say the least. Then, as a new doctoral student, I traveled to Philadelphia to present my first

accepted APM abstract. Over a decade later, and with administrative and teaching experience in baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs, attending APM is the anchor of my fall semester. APM offers me the opportunity to reflect, while providing tangible and emotional fuel to invigorate my teaching, service, and scholarship for the upcoming year. Having served on the CSWE Council on Disability and Persons With Disabilities, and then the Commission on Membership and Professional Development, I have significant experience within the organizational structure of CSWE. Now, I welcome the opportunity to shape policy and practice at the broader organizational level. I have significant leadership in social work education organizations at the state and national levels. In addition to roles in state level social work education organizations in New York and New Jersey, I served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD) as treasurer. In my role with BPD, I led the process to amend the organization's bylaws in response to changes in the membership and in social work education. All social work programs are now faced with unforeseen implications of the COVID-19 crisis. CSWE needs a Board prepared to respond to rapid change that, simply put, cannot be anticipated. I welcome the opportunity to be part of the team elected to meet this new challenge.

## Undergraduate Program Representative

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**April Jones**

*Department Chair, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL*

I am running for the Board of Directors (BOD) for the BSW program representative because I am passionate about the continued success and growth of BSW programs. I wish to contribute my knowledge, skills, and abilities to the position in collaboration and (support to the program deans, directors, and faculty of BSW programs by hearing their thoughts about what works well and what could use improvement for programs. In short, I want to make a difference by serving the BOD in whatever capacity I may for the accountability and good governance framework of CSWE.

The skills I can bring to the position of BOD BSW program representative are as follows: diverse background in the social sciences (e.g., social work, sociology, organizational psychology), business management (e.g., strategic planning, finance, human resources, & affirmative action and policy planning), and education (e.g., instructional design & technology). Also, I will bring innovation, enthusiasm, and insight as an educator and licensed social work practitioner with two decades of experience with various military, government, and nongovernmental organizations. Furthermore, the knowledge of different education and training technology (to include augmented/virtual/mixed reality) will assist with streamlining processes, service delivery, and education pedagogy in a cost-effective manner for more substantial returns on investments for programs or individuals who are members of the CSWE.

The vision for the CSWE and social work education is to continue the preparation and growth of competent and committed social work professionals through enhancement or continuum of standards and policy, procedures, and education to fit within the technological era. I envision a CSWE that continues its rich history and excellence with social work education that stimulates the development of knowledge, practice, and service within the 21st century to promote social justice and human well-being of individuals, groups, communities, and organizations.



**Eunice Matthews-Armstead**

*Program Director, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT*

As my first term on the Board of Directors comes to an end, I can't help but feel like I am not ready for it be over. I believe that there is so much more that I would like to contribute. I have enjoyed serving on the Awards and Recognition Committee and Executive Committee. I was just recently appointed as co-chair of the newly established Policies and Procedures committee and the ad-hoc Board of Directors Orientation Committee. I have learned a lot about the inner workings of the Board of Directors and have had the pleasure of engaging and working with some remarkable people. My original purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Directors was to offer my experience and perspective to the conversation about how we can continue to provide the diversity of students drawn to the social work profession with an educational experience that is relevant and responsive. My purpose remains the same; however, I believe that I am now better equipped to fulfill that purpose.

I would bring to the position of Board member a wealth of leadership and administrative experience. I am currently the program director of undergraduate social work at Eastern Connecticut State University. I served as a field coordinator for both an undergraduate and graduate level social work program at two different institutions of higher learning. Over my 25 years in higher education, I chaired countless committees and decades of administrative experience in social services. I had the honor of serving in leadership positions for professional organizations such as National Association of Social Workers, Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, and the Southern Conference of African American Studies, Inc. I enjoyed volunteering, collaborating, and contributing to the workings of CSWE and would be honored if I was granted another term.

## Undergraduate Faculty Representative

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**Makeba Green**

*Associate Professor, Bowie State University, Bowie, MD*

It would be an honor to serve as an undergraduate program representative on the Board of Directors at CSWE. BSW education has the important task of preparing students for entry level work. Students are educated on theory, practice, and research. It is also their first opportunity to implement the knowledge, values, and skills into practice during their field practicum experience. Over the past 17 years, my experience in undergraduate social work education has prepared me for the opportunity to represent BSW education on the Board of Directors. I am running because I would like to serve as an advocate and ally, on behalf of all BSW programs, to ensure BSW education receives equal attention.

I have been committed to BSW education my entire career. Upon completing doctoral studies, I accepted a faculty position at Bowie State University and have since served as director of field education, and currently serve as chair of the BSW program, which is a position I have held for the past 4 years. I also serve as co-chair of BPD's Conference Planning Committee, where I have been actively involved for several years. I have attended numerous CSWE and BPD conferences. I also have served as a site visitor for CSWE for the past 8 years. My participation in both organizations will provide me with the unique ability to serve in the elected role more effectively. The skills I will bring to the position

are a proven record of effective leadership, a vision for BSW education, and the ability to work well with others to advance a productive agenda.

My vision for CSWE is to increase the public's knowledge of the significance of the social work profession, which may directly increase public interest in BSW education. I am prepared to be an invaluable asset.



**Nancy Kelley**

*Professor, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE*

I am very interested in serving as an undergraduate faculty member representative to the CSWE Board of Directors. I am excited to serve our profession at the national level! I will bring new energy to the Board that will help synthesize new ideas and lessons learned from experiences working with undergraduate social work students over time, including during recent major transitions in our social, economic, political, and cultural environment. I bring to the table 19 years of experience working with undergraduate social work students—classroom teaching (physical and virtual), practicum, academic advisement, research project guidance, oversight for senior honors projects, service-learning coordination, professional mentorship, and advising student social work organizations. I have been in multiple leadership roles, including chairing our curriculum committee and serving on other committees such as practicum, program, admissions, and assessment. I have directly participated in three full reaffirmation processes. I have been a leader for curricular change, especially in two areas—service-learning and infusing aging content throughout the social work curriculum, including practicum. I am an inaugural recipient of our Service Learning Academy Faculty Fellowship Program Award (2014–2015), and I was the faculty designee for the receipt of the inaugural Anita Rosen Award for Best Practices in Gerontological Curriculum Infusion (2009). Recently, I was nominated at the university level to participate in the development of a new Community Engaged Scholarship Transcript Designation for undergraduate students that adds distinction to transcripts upon graduation showing extra efforts in service-learning, community-based learning, and volunteerism while completing their bachelor's degrees. I am committed to CSWE's mission and goals and believe that I can provide solid input for leadership in quality social work education. I am eager to be a part of the next generation of contributors to CSWE and the education of practitioners in the field of social work!

# 2020 ELECTION CANDIDATES



CSWE National Nominating Committee

## Graduate Program Representative

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**Tobi DeLong Hamilton**

*Program Director, Brandman University, Irvine, CA*

I believe accreditation standards are critical to ensuring social work education is producing competent and qualified social workers. As the governing body, CSWE sets the benchmarks for the industry, and I want to be part of the organization that affects the profession. As an educator, I am dedicated to providing students with the best structure to make them successful. I feel that being on the CSWE National Nominating Committee will allow me to contribute to the education process at a higher level. In addition, I would like to fulfill my commitment and desire to serve my profession with my volunteer work on the committee. I bring 20 years of practice experience and higher education instruction to the committee through logical perspectives and fair-minded opinions. I have excellent interpersonal communication skills, which makes me a valuable and easy to work with team member. I also have great organizational skills that support multitasking and managing large workloads. My vision for CSWE is continued continuity for social work education while being able to quickly and effectively adjust to changing conditions. Even though social work has been a longstanding profession, it is our responsibility to consider new perspectives and keep education moving forward.



**Mary Hylton**

*Program Director, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD*

I am honored to be nominated to serve as a graduate faculty representative to CSWE's National Nominating Committee (NNC). The NNC plays a pivotal role by identifying a strong slate of candidates to run for CSWE Board and officer positions. As a candidate for the NNC, I believe the identification of transformative and diverse leadership is imperative to ensuring that social work education responds proactively to the current global crises. I am committed to identifying leaders who evidence innovative thinking and who equitably represent the constituencies of social work education.

The opportunity to serve on the NNC reflects my strengths as both an educator and a social worker. I have nearly 20 years of experience as a social work educator, at both a large public research institution, and at a regionally focused teaching university. During my time in higher education, I have served in numerous leadership positions, including as BSW program coordinator, graduate program chair, and board member for the Nancy A. Humphries Institute for Political Social Work. These roles, coupled with my work in policy practice and civic engagement, have honed my skills in recognizing leadership potential in others and in helping people to see this potential in themselves.

I believe CSWE has a vitally important role to play in responding to the complex and intersecting crises facing our society. As social work educators, we must prepare our graduates to practice effectively in ambiguous and rapidly evolving environments, while creating systemic change that addresses

increasing inequality, inequity, and disproportionality. Through innovative initiatives, professional development opportunities, and accreditation, CSWE has and should continue to lead the profession in addressing these challenges. I am eager to use my skills to promote the strong and creative leadership needed to support CSWE's important role. Thank you for your consideration.

## Graduate Program Representative

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**David Jenkins**

*Dean, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY*

I believe in the importance of serving in positions to assist our professional organizations. Service is a central part of my professional identity, and I believe in stepping up and making sure our profession continues to move forward.

I bring over a decade of social work administrative leadership to the position.

Additionally, I have held numerous positions and offices in CSWE, NASW, etc. I

believe I have the experience and knowledge necessary to serve on the National Nominating Committee.

CSWE continues to play a vital role in our educational pursuits of the profession of social work. We must be responsive and accountable in our educational offerings to address the needs and concerns of society and our most vulnerable.



**Jason Ostrander**

*Program Director, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT*

The social story of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need for a stronger public will to intervene against glaring social disparities. This revelation prompts focused reflection and appropriate action on the part of social work education to prepare and socialize new generations of social workers in our accredited programs.

I am running to be the graduate faculty representative on CSWE's National Nominating Committee because this position enjoys a vital platform to engage in pedagogical reflection and so presents an opportunity that I would fully embrace. Apparent in my assistant professor, MSW program director, and community researcher advocate roles, the need for this reflection is also understood from my ongoing education, which includes MSW and PhD degrees from University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

I bring a diverse array of skills to this position and describe my role as a scholar activist dedicated to preparing the next generation of social workers to confront and reject White supremacy and patriarchy in our society. To this end, I have worked nearly 20 years directly in social work education and in local, state, and federal political spheres to address inequities in policy. In the academy, I have worked diligently to create campaign and policy experiences, courses, and field placements for student learning. In addition, I have participated in national meetings of CSWE and NASW for approximately 10 years.

My vision for CSWE is to identify, recruit, and advocate for leaders who are committed to integrated practice built on an antiracist foundation. These leaders—who embrace diverse educational modalities and address head-on the inequities found in legislated and culturally perpetuated policies—can debate

and create pedagogical guidelines that can inform a shared justice language to equip, guide, and support antiracist practice among social work educators, students, and generations of practitioners going forward.

## Undergraduate Program Representative

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**Stephanie Adams Saulnier**

*Program Director, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY*

During this past semester, we have all entered a new reality—one that requires openness to trying new things, while maintaining the high professional standards that have guided social workers for decades. I am running for the National Nominating Committee because I believe that as social workers, we can be called to serve our profession, as well as our clients. The Nominating Committee has a role in ensuring that our accrediting body is advised by a diverse group of CSWE members. We all benefit from a professional organization that is led by people who bring their lived experiences, both in their personal lives and their professional lives, to the Council and the committees they serve. As we move forward into our new normal, CSWE should guide our educational programs that encompass both the tried and true as well as the new and novel. I have served on advisory boards for over 20 years and have experience recruiting candidates for volunteer positions. As a BSW program director I understand the role of, and the importance of, advisory boards that are reflective of diversity and experience, and I believe that will make me an ideal person for this position.



**Lisa McGuire**

*Department Head, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA*

I am running for the National Nominating Committee as I have great respect for CSWE and want to provide service to continue all its good work. Having served as a site visitor and a council/commission member, I have a good understanding of the needs of the organization and am committed to ensure we identify great academic leaders to continue to support all the efforts of CSWE.

I have nearly 30 years of experience as a social work educator/administrator, serving at two universities. I have taught across program levels (BSW, MSW, and PhD) and have also served as a field coordinator and developed a Title IV-E funded partnership. I understand the organizational needs of CSWE including the dynamic tensions that exist around issues such as accreditation, curriculum policy, and responding to diverse educational institutions and an ever-changing practice environment. I strive to work well with others and complete assigned tasks with efficiency and integrity.

It is a crucial time for social work, as a profession and an educational discipline. CSWE has a unique role in maintaining high standards for professional education, including responding to the current crisis in higher education as well as preparing the next generation of social workers to operate in a changing practice world. The profession has traditions of flexible response in times of need as well as a complex understanding of person-in-environment. This positions us to provide leadership in interprofessional efforts to create social, economic, and environmental justice. My vision for social work education is to lean into this crisis and build opportunities to achieve our professional mission.

## Undergraduate Faculty Representative

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**Insoo Chung**

*Assistant Professor, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA*

I am running for the undergraduate faculty representative on the CSWE Board of Directors. I believe my credentials and work experience positions me favorably for this position.

My 16-year teaching experience in various subject areas at both undergraduate and graduate levels has prepared me as a strong advocate for BSW programs. I believe that BSW education is pivotal in equipping students with a wide range of and essential knowledge, skills, and values for their becoming ethical practitioners and competent social workers. I emphasize the cultivation of students' critical thinking skills and respect to unique experience and different cultures of diverse groups in society. My teaching experience at two HBCUs and a culturally diverse higher-ed institution has made me aware of and sensitive to the needs of students who have different socioeconomic status and diverse backgrounds. I strongly advocate for the culturally diverse students' academic advancement. In addition, collaborative interdisciplinary teaching and learning is the center of my pedagogy in order to promote students' reflective thinking and enhance their communicative and trans-cultural skills.

Concerning academic and professional service, I went through three CSWE accreditation and reaffirmation processes. At Shaw University, I was in charge of the entire social work program assessment. I also served on the curriculum committee and developed several social work courses. In my current position at The Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University, I serve on various departmental, school, and university level committees: Macro Concentration Feasibility Committee, Assessment Committee, International Planning Committee, Library Committee, and NSU IRB Committee.

I believe my substantial experience in various areas of social work and skills in curriculum development, program assessment, organizing, and collaborative teamwork building will contribute to dealing with the challenges of social work education and social work practice, and producing well-prepared social workers in global society.



**Christopher Fike**

*Assistant Professor, Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, MI*

My name is Chris Fike, and I'm running to be a member of the National Nominating Committee for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). I currently serve as an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work & Youth Services at Saginaw Valley State University. I completed my MSW at Arizona State University, where I am also completing my doctoral work.

I am running for the National Nominating Committee because the institutions that frame social work education and prepare future practitioners—namely, academia and professional associations—remain firmly rooted in hegemonic philosophies and practices that perpetuate colonization, oppression, and White supremacy. An antiracist social work approach requires us to challenge professional hegemony through deconstructing, disrupting, and dismantling traditional ivory tower conceptualizations of social work scholarship, practice, and education.

As integrated members of the institutions that perpetuate White supremacy, social work educators have a responsibility to decolonize social work scholarship, practice, and education through antiracist strategies. I am committed to bringing that perspective to the National Nominating Committee. As an activist-scholar-practitioner, relationship-building, authenticity, empathy, and an explicitly antiracist framework are at the core of my personal and professional identity, while a commitment to the values of social justice, dignity and worth of all people, service, integrity, and the centrality of human relationships really frames my professional work.

## Undergraduate Faculty Representative

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### **Kesslyn Brade Stennis**

*Associate Professor, Coppin State University, Baltimore, MD*

To be a candidate who represents undergraduate faculty on the CSWE National Nominating Committee is an honor. For over 20 years, I have served as a faculty member in various undergraduate programs and can attest to the influence that undergraduate faculty have on the future of the profession. Beyond teaching, social work faculty model knowledge, values, and skills for a diverse cadre of future scholar-practitioners. They will facilitate change for a variety of clients usually through the medium of direct practice. As such, undergraduate social work faculty establish a foundation for the trajectory of social work practice and the holistic well-being of our global community.

This perspective is shaped by my 20+ year career in social work education and diverse professional experiences. Of significance is my acceptance into the CSWE Minority Fellowship Program, which provided me with the opportunity to network with other emerging faculty who value research and practice that embrace diversity. Additionally, my service as past president of the NACSW Board and member of a variety of editorial boards allowed me to evaluate operations, create programs, and support the agendas of stakeholders. Finally, my current roles as department chair and executive director of the Dr. Dorothy I. Height Center for the Advancement of Social Justice, along with my recent promotion to full professor, allow me to understand and provide professional development and mentoring opportunities for junior, midcareer, and senior faculty.

I will approach my role as Undergraduate Faculty Representative on the National Nominating Committee with the level of awareness, respect, and regard that it deserves. My goal will be to ensure that colleagues are nominated who understand our significant role, exemplify our wealth of diversity, and represent our collective voice within the context of CSWE's organizational structure so that the perspectives of undergraduate faculty are effectively represented.



***Dhruvodi Mukherjee***

*Associate Professor, University of North Texas, Denton, TX*

I am interested in joining the National Nominating Committee to add my say to the voices that would come to represent the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) in the future. I consider myself an excellent candidate to serve this committee. I was born in India and practiced social work internationally in Mumbai, India, London, UK, and in the USA. I am an associate professor at the University of North Texas, located in the Dallas Fort Worth area, one of the fastest growing metroplexes. Prior to that, I was an associate professor and worked for 12 years at the Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL, one of the federally designated rural areas. Thus, I have had an eclectic experience that is geographically expansive since it traverses national and rural–urban boundaries. I have served as an undergraduate program director for many years. My primary area of research is trauma-informed care and workforce development. I explore how psychological trauma influences the lifespan from childhood to adulthood and how historical traumas travel across generations. I take a trauma-informed approach to make sense of the world and the challenges that afflict community development, therapeutic relations, and interdisciplinary interactions. I think CSWE has responsibilities to ensure the social work curriculum adapts to a globally inclusive path to social work education. I remember hearing about CSWE while completing my master’s degree in India; I felt it gave me a mandate of global legitimacy. The world is facing many challenges where social workers are finding themselves in the intersections of health care, climate change, growing inequalities, and depleting state support. The profession realizes that no problem can be exclusively addressed by either lifestyle changes or political transformation alone; in these shifting times, CSWE would play an essential role in nurturing skills that define a new generation of prepared social workers.