

2026 CSWE Election: Candidate Statement

Dione King, PhD, MSW

Graduate Program Representative (Dean/Director) – CSWE National Nominating Committee

My name is Dione M. King, and I would be honored to serve as the Graduate Program Representative on the CSWE National Nominating Committee (NNC). In my current role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professional Advancement at the University of Alabama, I oversee faculty affairs, curricular instruction and assessment, and provide supervision across key academic operations. I bring graduate education experience from multiple settings, including small to very large-sized institutions, regional comprehensive teaching institutions, and research-intensive environments, to the Graduate Program Representative position. As a purpose-driven leader, I strive to lead with intention, strengthen leadership development, and model well-being in all aspects of my work.

I hold PhD and MSW degrees from the University of Georgia and a BA in Sociology from Spelman College. My early professional experiences in the K-12 system and business sector provide a unique and valuable perspective. Combined with my social work practice background and extensive leadership across varied institutional contexts, I am confident these experiences would be an asset to the National Nominating Committee in the identification of board candidates prepared to advance social work education in an increasingly complex landscape.

My relationship with CSWE began in 2010 as a Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) recipient. Since then, I have remained deeply engaged in service to the profession. I have served as an accreditation site visitor (2021-present), reviewer for the *Journal of Social Work Education* (2019-present), Chair of the Council on Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity (2021-2022; Co-Chair 2019-2021), member of the MFP Advisory Board for both the master's and doctoral programs (2015-2023), MFP mentor for Masters (2021-2023) and Doctoral (2024-present) students, and a member of the Futures of Social Work Education Task Force (2024-present). I continue to serve CSWE when called upon, including serving as an invited panelist for a 2025 APM Accreditation Site Visitor session.

As an MFP alumna, the spirit of the program is interwoven throughout my leadership and engagement with faculty, staff, and students within social work education and beyond. I aim to lead by example, demonstrating my commitment to CSWE's mission through sustained service, mentorship, scholarship, and leadership that advances social work education. I am prepared to support CSWE in the selection of qualified, mission-aligned candidates for the Board of Directors. If selected, I am committed to advancing leadership that reflects the values, diversity, and aspirations of our profession. Drawing on my experience in administration, capacity-building, and organizational leadership, I am prepared to engage productively with fellow committee members and extend thoughtful,

constructive contributions that acknowledge the diversity of experiences within social work education. Thank you for your consideration.