

2026 CSWE Election: Candidate Statement

Shannon Cousineau, DSW, LCSW

Graduate Program Representative – CSWE National Nominating Committee

I am Dr. Shannon Cousineau, and it is my distinct honor to be nominated for Graduate Program Representative for the National Nominating Committee. I am interested in being the Graduate Program Representative because the National Nominating Committee needs people who recognize the importance of the history of social work education, while holding a clear vision for the future. Innovation, strategy, collaboration, and an awareness of the changing needs of social work education to prepare students for a constantly evolving society is a key aspect of this role.

Having been in social work education for more than 15 years, I have seen the transformation of student needs. I am dedicated to being a part of molding the future social work practitioners and leaders in the field. I have a strong understanding of accreditation standards and processes. But with the ever-changing world, the consistent review of those standards needs people with a vision to keep social work education pushing forward. Being on the National Nominating Committee will afford me the opportunity to collaborate with other members, ensuring CSWE Governance stays true to its by-laws and commitment to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

I have a long history of serving in various capacities to my university, community, and the social work profession. Dedicating my time to such tasks as being a CSWE Minority Fellowship Application Reviewer over the past two years. I have served as an abstract reviewer for the CSWE and Society for Social Work and Research annual conferences. Additionally, I have been a manuscript reviewer for the Journal of Health and Social Welfare in the Community and Advances in Social Work Journal. I have been a part of special interest groups for Social Workers in Hospice and Palliative Care. In addition to serving as a member of the advisory board for the Recovery Courts of Robeson County, a member of the Robeson County Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Consortium which addresses prevention, treatment, and recovery for those who are struggling with substance use disorders.

I also have been a leader through my social work practice and in higher education. Having served as a clinical supervisor, Assistant Program Director, Program Director, and Clinical Administrator over the years prior to entering higher education, I understand the

importance of having strong social work practitioners through rigorous social work programs, especially field placements. I can bring this unique perspective to my role as the Graduate Program Representative on the National Nominating Committee.

In closing, it would be an honor to serve as a Graduate Program Representative on the CSWE National Nominating Committee. This opportunity would provide another opportunity to actively participate as a member of CSWE, something that is very important to me as a social work educator.