

2026 CSWE Election: Candidate Statement

Laura Curran, PhD, MSW

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

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on CSWE's National Nominating Committee as a Graduate Program Representative. I bring more than 20 years of experience in academic social work and currently serve as Dean and Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. I am seeking election to the National Nominating Committee because of my deep commitment to sustaining representative, effective, diverse, democratic, and forward-looking leadership within CSWE. At a time of unprecedented challenges in social work education, strong and principled leadership is more important than ever.

I have long been dedicated to CSWE's mission, having previously served on the Board of Directors, as a member of the Council on Leadership Development, and as a site visitor. These experiences have strengthened my appreciation for the vital role CSWE plays in supporting social work education and advancing our profession.

In this deeply destabilizing moment, my vision for CSWE includes maintaining our fundamental commitments to social, racial, and economic justice; supporting educational institutions and their diverse needs in the face of political and economic pressures; advocating for equitable student access to social work education and addressing student debt and financial barriers; preparing our community for emerging, technologically-mediated practice, including AI literacy; reaffirming our commitment to academic freedom; and strategically mobilizing social work to nurture and defend multiracial democracy. I am grateful for your consideration and for the opportunity to serve our community.