

2026 CSWE Election: Candidate Statement

Jeremy Vu, DSW, MSW, BSW

Undergraduate Program Representative (Dean/Director) – CSWE Board of Directors

Háu, lšnála Glí Nažin emáčiyapí yélo. Čhaŋté wašté napé čiyuzapí lo. It is an honor to be nominated for the Undergraduate Program Representative for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). As an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota people and the current BSW Program Director and Practicum Coordinator at Oglala Lakota College (OLC), I bring a perspective deeply rooted in the strengths and systems of Indigenous people, informed by over nine and a half years of dedicated service to Indigenous social work education

Throughout my tenure at OLC, I have taught a comprehensive range of courses, from foundational social work methods to advanced research and graduate leadership. My commitment to academic excellence is reflected in leading our program through a successful CSWE reaffirmation in 2024 and being recognized by my students and peers as Faculty of the Year twice. These experiences have provided me with a deep understanding of the unique challenges and strengths of undergraduate programs, particularly those serving systemically excluded people, underserved, and rural populations.

My involvement with CSWE is longstanding. I currently serve as the Chair of the Indigenous and Tribal Research Track (previously serving as Co-Chair), where I advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous epistemologies in social work research and pedagogy. I have also been a recipient of the CSWE Minority Fellowship Program, which further solidified my dedication to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within our profession.

Beyond the classroom, my leadership extends to statewide and national platforms. I served as the West River Representative for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – South Dakota Chapter and have presented extensively on restorative justice, historical trauma, and Lakota values in social work. My scholarship, including publications on traditional food systems and mental health in Native communities, emphasizes the intersection of cultural identity and professional practice.

As your Undergraduate Program Representative, I will strive to:

- Champion the inclusion of tribal and diverse-serving institution perspectives in CSWE decision-making to ensure undergraduate standards reflect the diversity of our global community.
- Bridge the gap between traditional social work ethics and Indigenous epistemologies, fostering a direction that honors decolonized healing practices.

I am eager to bring my experience as an educator, administrator, and advocate to the CSWE Board of Directors to ensure that undergraduate social work education remains a rigorous, inclusive, and transformative journey for all students.