

2026 CSWE Election: Candidate Statement

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

My vision for CSWE is to strengthen collaboration among graduate programs to maximize our collective impact through shared resources. An equity-focused approach recognizes that when resources are shared, not guarded, every community and individual can succeed. Guided by CSWE values of access, respect, and justice, I aim to foster inclusive dialogue and resource sharing to advance program, research, and professional development across all programs. Inspired by my grandfather, Odell Sanders, a civil rights leader in West Tennessee's Rural Freedom Movement, I have dedicated more than three decades advancing social justice, access and equity in social work.

I bring demonstrated leadership experience at CSWE, having served as Chair of the Council on Conferences and Professional Development from 2019 to 2023 and as a member of the Task Force to Advance Anti-Racism from 2020 to 2023, where I co-chaired the Workgroup on Conferences and Faculty Development. I have advanced equity-driven professional development, led policy work on safety and inclusion, and provided foundational input for initiatives such as the Student Summit and Teaching Academy that now support social workers at every career stage. I led initiatives, including the development of the Statement on CSWE Conference Safety and Inclusiveness, which provides an important blueprint for inclusive practices and conference safety for all CSWE members. I am a proud alumna of two social work programs, Howard University (PhD) and Bryn Mawr College (MSS).

Although I currently lead a School of Social Work at a Research-1 institution, I have also worked at a variety of types of institutions, including teaching-focused, and historically black universities and colleges (HBCU's). I have created and led several graduate programs and developed evidence-informed faculty and student initiatives. I have designed and led immersive learning abroad programs, bringing global perspectives into social work education and fostering cross-cultural understanding among students and faculty. These diverse leadership, teaching, mentoring and personal experiences have given me insight into the broad and evolving needs of social work education, including the need for greater institutional collaboration rather than competition. Increased collaboration is strongly needed, to share ideas and lean on each other in support of and development of solidarity work.

These priorities ground my vision, and I look forward to engaging in dialogue with members to further develop them in ways that support the creation and maintenance of a sustainable social work workforce.

- Increase collaboration among member institutions in research, program development, teaching, and community engagement particularly between greater and less resourced programs.
- Address cross-institutional inequalities, supporting faculty at all ranks such as assistant and associate professors in leadership roles and those seeking promotion to full professors by facilitating collaborative opportunities on scholarship, and strategies for successful promotion and tenure.
- Share successful institutional strategies to enhance student financial support including leveraging scholarships, federal work-study programs, and paid practicum placements.
- Foster increased opportunities for safe, inclusive spaces where faculty can engage in open discussion.