

2026 CSWE Election: Candidate Statement

Michael Sherr, PhD, MSW

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

I am honored to be nominated for election as the Undergraduate Program Representative to the Board of Directors of the Council on Social Work Education. As a proud graduate of social work education at the BSW, MSW, and PhD levels, I have experienced firsthand the power and continuity of our educational pipeline. Each level of training builds upon the next, and at the core of that continuum stands undergraduate social work education—the foundation upon which our profession is built.

Undergraduate social work education is where professional identity is formed; ethical commitments are nurtured, and students first learn to translate social work values into competent generalist practice. If elected, I am committed to ensuring that BSW education is not only preserved but continually enhanced in ways that respond to the evolving needs of our communities and the profession. Cultivating students for competent, ethical, and reflective practice is deeply entrenched in undergraduate social work education, and this work deserves strong advocacy and representation at the national level.

I am especially passionate about representing BSW program faculty who carry the critical responsibility of preparing students for competent generalist practice while simultaneously equipping them to address the myriad social justice challenges faced by our clients and communities. Undergraduate faculty operate at the intersection of teaching core practice skills, instilling professional values, and responding to complex social realities—often with limited resources and within diverse institutional contexts.

Advancing antiracism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) is central to my vision for undergraduate social work education. I strongly support embedding ADEI principles within evidence-based practice methods taught to our students, ensuring that competence includes cultural humility, structural analysis, and accountability to marginalized communities. At the same time, I deeply value and celebrate the vastly different contexts in which BSW education occurs—from small Christian rural programs to large, urban programs in national and global epicenters. These diverse settings enrich our profession and strengthen social work education as a whole.

I would be honored to bring my experience, commitment, and advocacy to the CSWE Board in service of undergraduate social work education and the faculty and students who sustain it.