



ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The Catalyst

NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR (MSW)

We are so proud of our graduating MSW students. On May 6 we will celebrate our 37 students at our Graduate Hooding Ceremony and Commencement. The faculty and staff in the Department of Social Work are so proud of these students for all their work in and outside of the classroom. Graduating in what feels to be at the current moment, the tail end of the Covid-19 pandemic, these students continue to persevere and we are proud to count them among our colleagues. They have served our communities well through their practicum and we are proud to welcome them to the profession as our colleagues.

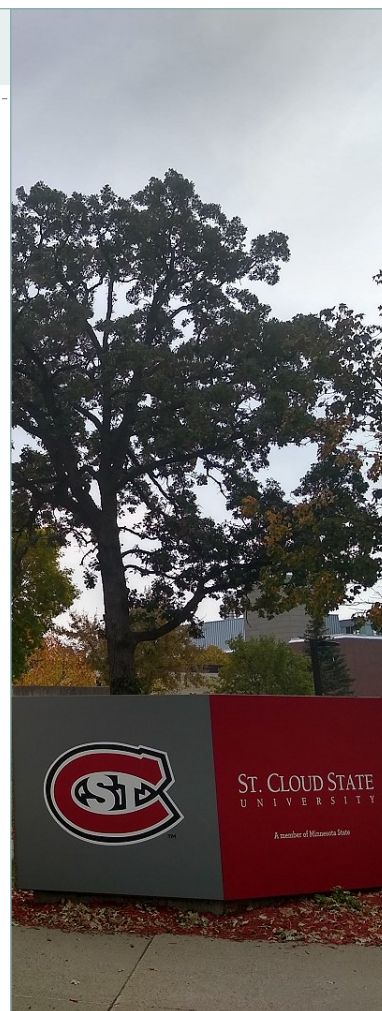
The Department of Social Work is proud to announce the submission of our Self-Study on April 1. This is the first step in our reaccreditation process. We are looking forward to welcoming CSWE Site Visitors in September to finalize our accreditation for the next seven years.

The MSW Program continues to be grateful to our community for so many reasons, but first and foremost for the continued, incredible support of our students in the form of internship opportunities. Our program would not operate without you. We look forward to continuing to serve our community through MSW student internships and addressing mezzo level problems through continued collaboration.

We are currently seeking applications for our MSW Program and MSW Field Advisory Boards. If you, or someone at your agency is interested, please email Sara DeVos at srdevos@stcloudstate.edu.



Dr. Sara DeVos



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MEET SOME OF OUR MSW'23 STUDENTS

Elaina Wimmer

As a social worker, I hope to be a voice for those who don't "have" one. While everyone has a voice, some need help finding it. I hope to serve postpartum women, and young children. Be the village!

Mimi Nguyen

I hope to obtain an LICSW. In addition to doing clinical work, I hope to find ways to engage in macro practice as this is something that I have sort of avoided up until this past semester. Advocacy is something that I'd like to dip into, not just in the sense that I'd be an advocate specifically for my clients, but for the greater population.

Jared Nelson

My goal is to learn as much as I can to better hone in the skills necessary to fight for social justice, advocate for vulnerable populations and be on the forefront of veteran policy change.

Smriti Shrestha

Spreading love, compassion and kindness- because they have the power to change the world.



GOT RESEARCH?

If you would like your research or publication information presented in the next issue of *The Catalyst*, feel free to contact Dr. Teboh with your information.

Dr. Teboh can be reached during his office hours in SH 237 or via email at:

cteboh@stcloudstate.edu

CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE AS A SOCIAL WORK INTERN

Diana Kuhl , Bridge to Community Resources

I would have to say that it was the fact that Bridge to Community Resources is not recognized as an official organization by the school. It kept us from fundraising too much and hindered our ability to implement lasting change for the campus. And what made it worse is that the dean and other staff members continued to say that we were an integral part of the university, but continuously blocked our attempts to do anything meaningful. It's frustrating to know that you are interning at a place that can do so much good and is told they can by those in charge, yet they are the same people that prevent you from doing anything of substance.

EXPERIENCE SHARING

Project Connect, Smriti Shrestha

According to Minnesota Homeless Study (2018), an estimated 19,600 Minnesotans experienced homelessness on any given night in 2018; 50,600 experienced homelessness over the course of the year. Homelessness increased by 10% between 2015 and 2018. This research concludes that lack of housing is the primary barrier to getting out of homelessness. Homelessness and the risk of being homeless is a struggle that many people in our community experience. Project Connect is an event that offers people within our community the opportunity to access services offered by governmental, non-profits and other service agencies.

The first Project Connect located in St. Cloud was held in the year 2014. SCSU (Saint Cloud State University) Health and Human Services, Bridge to Community Resources, Tri CAP, and local counties (Benton and Stearns) are the service providers in this event. This year, Project Connect was held on October 26, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Rivers Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota. There were more than 40 vendors and services ranging from COVID-19 immunizations to haircuts, which were offered and are a part of this huge networking project are:

- Housing
- Winter Cloths
- Youth Agencies
- Family Support
- Mental Health
- Veteran's
- County Financial and Social Services
- Public Health
- Disability Services
- Legal Services and Resolution
- Medical Care: Vaccinations, Blood Pressure, Doctor Visits
- Necessities Bag

Bridge to Community Resources, under the leadership of Dr. Sheila Moriarty, conducted different programs such as 'virtual silent auction,' 'tending for a cause at beaver island brewery,' and selling tee-shirts. We were able to provide 400 necessities bags to the people who attended the event. The necessity bag contained- sanitary items, hygiene products, cold weather gears, toiletries, and gift certificates for Coborn's.

I was overwhelmed and emotional to be a part of this event. I had an idea of how it would look like but I did not realize the intensity of it. This has indefinitely impacted me on how I would view a certain community and has inspired me to do something like this back in my home county, Nepal. The idea of 'Project Connect' is reaching out to as many people as we can so that they can reach out to the services that are available to them.

SOME OF THE PLACES OUR STUDENTS INTERN

Catholic Charities Young Learners Programs that provides an early intervention day treatment program for children ages 3-7 years of age who are expressing difficulty in the home, school, and community.

Children's Home Society & Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota that provides adoption and foster care services.

Greater Minnesota Family Services is an in home family services, group home, school based mental health, early childhood mental health.

Lutheran Social Services of MN provides social skills training for youth, youth in foster care, youth in outpatient therapy. Recruitment of potential foster parents in communities of color. Refugee services program.

National Association of Social Workers provides macro practice, program development, communications and fundraising, social policy and political action.

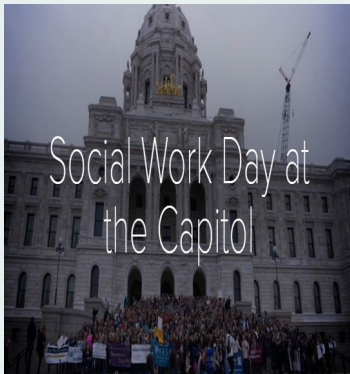
EXPERIENCE SHARING (CONTINUED)

Social Work Day at the Capitol, 2022 , Elaina Wimmer

This was my first experience with Social Work Day at the Capitol. I was disappointed that it wasn't in-person for us to experience, however NASW made it engaging and informative throughout the scheduled events. We were only required to attend a session, however I found them to be so informative that I attended three. The topic that really stood out to me was Re-Imagining Public Safety. Overall, the presentation focused on measures that legislators can take to differentiate between law enforcement responsibilities and the responsibilities that are social workers'. NASW-MN and NAMI worked together to create a seamless presentation for social workers in a way that was engaging. The topic relates to social work in many ways. Social workers are the largest body of mental health professionals in Minnesota. Social workers responding to mental health crises is something that we are trained and prepared for. We can prevent further fatalities and tragedies if we let those trained in a specialty do their jobs. Social workers and police officers are intertwined, yet separate systems. I learned that if a police officer responds to a mental health call, they are 16x more likely to be killed than if it was someone who was a mental health professional. Right now in Minnesota, we have a young mental health system. We have a say in shaping this young system based on what we have experienced that works. Our presenter, Elliot, stated that we know that non-traditional methods, such as mass incarceration and punishment by police, are not effective. Those methods are only re-traumatizing those people further, especially since they are not criminals. People who experience mental health illnesses and crises are not criminals. We as social workers can offer new ideas that we have seen work with our clients to form an effective mental health model in the state of Minnesota. This topic has challenged me, yet taught me so much about the politics involved with systemic change. Change doesn't happen overnight, and people on both sides realize that what we are doing isn't effective or working. I learned from Rep. Frazer about omnibus bills and how many policies and reforms are a package deal, so they can be passed faster instead of just a ton of separate bills.

Minnesota Social Service Administration (MSSA'22) , Mimi Nguyen

The Minnesota Social Service Association held its 129th Annual Training and Conference Expo this spring. It is the largest, most comprehensive, health and human service conference in the Midwest. Health and Human Service Professionals, local and nationally recognized speakers, come from all parts of MN and the surrounding states to provide educational sessions that cover a broad spectrum of topics. The two sessions that were most impactful to me at MSSA were titled "Provider Grief: Processing the Loss of People You Serve" and "Best Practices for Working with Safe Harbor Youth." In these sessions, I have learned about the many different kinds of grief and I also gained foundational knowledge on Minnesota laws surrounding young people who are sexually exploited. Both are very relevant to the work that I plan to do in the future. I am grateful for the opportunity to network with other students and professionals and I am already very excited for next year's conference!



DEPARTMENTAL ACCREDITATION

On the 1st of April, the three professors of the social work department completed the self-study part of the reaccreditation cycle and now, are preparing for the site visit on September. The Social Work Department program at St. Cloud State University is governed by an organization called the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). They regulate the courses that are taught and how these courses have been offered so that social workers are taught in the similar way across the country. The Social Work program at SCSU has an accreditation since 1975. In every 7 years the program is asked to do a 're-affirmation' which is what they call a 'self-study'. The CSWE sends out list of questions on the program and wants the written documents of the practices in social work department. This year, the social work department is on another cycle to be re-accredited and worked on a document that had many parts which were divided amongst the three faculties. The BSW part was focused by Dr. Sheila Moriarty, Dr. Sara DeVos focused on the MSW part and Dr. Patience M. Togo focused on the organization of the entire document. It was a 716 pages of document at the end. The document as a whole has been sent to the CSWE for them to look at it over so that they can send the document back to us with the corrections that are supposed to be made. The department will have two visitors from CSWE in September, mainly with the intention to see if the program has been running smoothly and to talk about the program offered while making sure that the necessary changes have been amended. Finally, when they go back and vote YES, the social work program is allowed to keep the accreditation.

What does the team have to share about their experience during the accreditation cycle ?

Dr. Sheila Moriarty: The entire process helped me understand our program in a much deeper way. It also helped me understand what we are doing very well and it hinted out the possible areas for growth. We work very hard to give the students the best education possible and it is very important for us to do things in an ethical and effective manner.

Dr. Sara DeVos: We look forward to our site visit in September. Assessment plan remains strong. We continue to be responsive to the needs of our community and students and are exploring the online components of our program. Through the self-study process, it helped us understand what we clearly need to work on and we will spend the next year, focusing on inclusive curriculum.

Dr. Patience Malm Togo: This is something that we have known since 2-3 years back but it wasn't easy because of all things we had to do, with Covid, it was more difficult. I was very nervous because this whole thing was on my watch and I wanted to make sure that I did this well. We knew how important this was for students to graduate with the degree accreditation and the highlight of this entire experience for me was when we submitted the document and got a confirmation back from the specialists that everything has been confirmed and accepted. No matter how challenging this was, in the fall of all that, I was looking at the outcome- for the students and even the stress was worth it because the outcome would be much more worth it.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

MEET OUR GRADUATE ASSISTANTS, 2021-22

Alicia Vang, MSW Student, Advanced Standing

My name is Alicia Vang and I am a graduate student in the social work program. When I am not a social worker, I enjoy hiking, camping, snowboarding, and doing do-it-yourself (DIY) projects at home. I have a six-year-old pit-bull husky mix name, Hasu and he loves to receive cuddles. My journey as a social worker so far has taught me so much and I have gained professional growth by engaging with the National Association of Social Workers- Minnesota Chapter (NASW-MN). What I enjoyed most about being a part of NASW-MN is that it has given me many opportunities to take advantage of all the continuing education for social workers.

As a graduate assistant, I had the honor to partake in doing a research study with Aileen Moore on student attitudes around the issues of research in social work. I was able to go through the IRB training to ensure ethical and adequate procedures are followed to protect research participants. Also, Aileen is the Child Welfare Director and this was a great learning opportunity to gain more knowledge about the work that a child protection social worker does. I attended a virtual hearing and found it to be very interesting and intriguing how court hearings were processed.

Amanda Boser , MSW Student, Advanced Standing

I have been the Director of Training at statewide non-profit in Florida. I also as certified as a trainer in Mental Health First Aid, Motivational Interviewing, American Red Cross CPR/First Aid/AED, Suicide Prevention. Most recently I have had a successful internship with NASW-MN where I was able to help organize Social Work Online Advocacy Week among other achievements.

As a graduate assistant I have been fortunate enough to work on grading and gaining teaching experience. I have been able to process situations and scenarios with all of the Social Work Faculty and get a more well-rounded education.

Mimi Nguyen, MSW Student

My name is Mimi - I got my Bachelor's degree in Sociology at the College of St. Benedict and I am a Foundation student in the MSW program here at St. Cloud State University. At present, I am proud of my work as the In-Kind Donations Coordinator at Lutheran Social Service of MN in their Refugee Services Program, my current placement for practicum this year. With everything that's going on in the world, making connections with community members has been a gift that allows me to bridge the gap between donors and clients who are resettling. As a Graduate Assistant, I have prepared PowerPoint presentations for lectures; I electronically file past documents for practicum, grade assignments, track attendance and participation, facilitate class, as well as complete many other tasks behind the scenes.

Smriti Shrestha, MSW Student

Immediately upon graduation, I worked as an Education Policy Research Intern and conducted a research to create a teacher training curriculum for two of the schools in western Nepal. I have also served as the Vice-President of Leo Club of Kathmandu Kohinoor and provided with services to eliminate food hunger and crisis during the times of Covid-19 and conducted various mental health workshops. I have been actively involved in activism, mainly digital, about the political and social issues that are concerning and need to be addressed. As a Graduate Assistant, I have had this wonderful opportunity to network with my colleagues and professors- helping me in understanding the context of social work in the culture of USA. I have also been able to grade undergraduate papers, assist in class, research, and work on the department magazine. I am overwhelmed to have been working as a GA.



COURSES OFFERED IN THE DEPARTMENT

MSW

Generalist Social Work Practice I, II (611, 612)

Social Work with Marginalized Populations (613)

Human Behavior and the Social Environment (614)

Field Placement(300 in first year, 600 in second year) (615, 625, 635,645)

Integrated Practice Seminar I, II, III, IV (616,626, 636, 646)

Social Welfare Policy (621)

Research I (622)

Mental Health and Social Work Practice (650)

Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals and Families (631)

Advanced Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations (634)

Thesis (if Plan A student) (699)

Advanced Generalist Practice with Refugees & Immigrants (618)

Advanced Policy Practice (642)

Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice (680)



Summer Session Courses for MSW

Social Work Foundations (610)

Child Welfare: Public-Private (521)

Social Work Frameworks (610)

Social Work Assessment and Treatment of Trauma (684)

Social Work Ethics and Values (682)



COURSES OFFERED (CONTINUED)



BSW

- Democratic Citizenship (SW 195)
- Intro to Social Work (SW 216)
- Human Interaction in Social Systems (SW 330)
- Fundamentals of Generalist Practice (SW 340)
- Cross-Cultural Social Practice (SW 345)
- Social Work Research Methods (SW 350)
- Social Welfare Policy (SW 360)
- Practice I (Individuals/Families) (SW 410)
- Practice II (Families & Groups) (SW 411)
- Practice III (Organization/Communities) (SW 412)
- Professional Development (SW 442)
- Internship in Social Work (SW 444)
- Field Practicum Seminar (SW 445)



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The mission of the department is to use an anti-oppression lens, with a focus on race, class and gender, to inform both its educational environment and educational programs. Faculty, staff and students commit to an experiential and transformative educational process that will challenge them to think critically and analyze systemic inequalities in the United States and the world. This process will prepare professional social workers to work as change agents in a diverse world.

Six Core Values of Social Work Profession

Service

Social Justice

Dignity and worth of the person

Importance of human relationships

Integrity

Competence

EVENTS

Minnesota conference of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

NASW national conference

Minnesota Social Service Association annual conference

Minnesota School Social Workers Association events

Minnesota Society for Clinical Social Work events

Social Work relies on community partners for access to learning opportunities and alumni for workplace expertise and mentoring. Public- and private-sector organizations depend on students and faculty for research and volunteer assistance.

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