



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

**Commission on Research (COR)
Annual Report to the CSWE Board
March 2020**

Charge from the CSWE Board of Directors

The Commission on Research’s mission is to advance rigor, relevance, and high ethical standards in the teaching and conduct of research related to social work education. Toward that end, the Commission on Research shall provide leadership in establishing key research priorities for improving social work education, in promoting the scholarship of teaching and learning within social work education, as well as in specifically promoting quality in research curricula across methods and paradigms in BSW, MSW, and doctoral education. The Commission is concerned with advocating for research supported policies, practices, and programs within CSWE, helping to build relevant data bases that promote innovation in social work education, and with strengthening the connections between social work education-related research and social justice. It will complete its mission in partnership and collaboration with sibling Commissions, Councils, and task forces within CSWE as well as other social work professional organizations committed to excellence in the science of social work.

The 2019-2020 Members of the Commission on Research

Dr. Kristin Whitehill Bolton	University of North Carolina, Wilmington
Dr. Tamara Cadet*	Simmons University
Dr. Jill M. Chonody	Indiana University Northwest
Dr. Amber Holbrook	West Chester University
Dr. Emily Ihara*	George Mason University
Dr. Anupama Jacob	Azusa Pacific University (CA)
Dr. David Kondrat	Indiana University at Indianapolis
Dr. Michael Mancini	St. Louis University (MO)
Dr. David Axlyn McLeod	University of Oklahoma
Dr. Shari E. Miller (Chair)	University of Georgia
Dr. Allison Zippay	Rutgers University

***New members**

Commission Meetings and Focus

The Commission on Research (COR) held several face-to-face meetings this year, one for a day and a half during Spring Governance in Alexandria in March 2019, and the other was Thursday afternoon in October during the 2019 Annual Program Meeting (APM) in Denver. The Commission also communicated via email at multiple points over the intervening months. The Chair, Shari Miller, hosted an orientation meeting in August via conference call for the new members this cycle (* noted on list above) appointed July 1, 2019. The focus for COR this year has been on bringing closure to some past initiatives, making

forward movement on continuing initiatives, and establishing pathways to new ones. Updates related to COR activities follow here:

Complete/Closing/On-Hold Initiatives:

Research Specializations in MSW Programs:

COR members conducted a web scan to determine if programs offer research specializations and if they do, to determine what those specializations look like. The 227 CSWE accredited MSW programs were included in the web scan. Findings suggested that: 13% had little to no information on their websites; the majority of research specializations (65%) require two research courses; 2 schools have a research concentration, 4 schools have a research specialization, and 2 schools have a certificate. COR members will present a model Research Concentration/Specialization which has been developed into a manuscript for publication. Some discussions continue about the possibility of looking more deeply at specific course curricula. However at present this initiative is near its point of closure.

Ongoing Initiatives:

COR/SAGE Innovation in Research Instruction Award:

Applications for the 2019 cycle were reviewed in Summer 2019. The 2019 award was presented to Dr. Derrick Kranke during the CSWE Membership Meeting at the 2019 APM in Denver. Dr. Kranke presented at APP the work for which he received the award: "I'm on the Right Track: Learning Qualitative Analytic Methods through the Analysis of Song Lyrics". This award is ongoing, and applications will be reviewed in Summer 2020 for the 2020 presentation at APM.

Review of Annual CSWE Survey Data:

It is a longstanding COR responsibility to give feedback on questions for the CSWE Annual Survey, and to consider questions about data collection, analyses, reporting, and focus. Based on observations that emerged over time, CSWE undertook an effort to evaluate the Annual Survey in the interest of best meeting the needs of the organization and also its membership. Julie Rhoads and eventually Ryan Bradshaw as well worked collaboratively with COR to look closely at the survey questions, structure, and procedures for determining special survey sections, which resulted in a decision to develop a survey about the survey, disseminated by CSWE to its members. COR members made suggestions for questions to be included in that survey about the survey and also recommended CSWE facilitate focus groups at APM in follow-up. COR reviewed data from the survey about the survey as well as focus group data, all of which contributed to changes made to the Annual Survey, as well as to considerations for how data are presented. COR reviewed the 2019 Annual Survey draft, and provided thoughts and feedback to Ryan Bradshaw.

National Survey of Faculty:

In response to years of requests from various constituents, COR took on the task of conducting a national survey of social work faculty. In contrast to CSWE's Annual Survey of Programs, this survey examined faculty life, job satisfaction, and work climate. The survey was disseminated in Spring 2018, yielding an *n* of 592 participants. Analysis and reporting were delayed, as some issues emerged related to how data were downloaded in word-form rather than numerically. COR members worked with CSWE staff to re-clean the data manually. A detailed report of the survey results was submitted to CSWE, and also reviewed by COR. The Faculty Survey was the focus of COR's Connect Session at the 2019 APM. Data were presented, and participants were invited to consider that data suggested job satisfaction was less about salary and compensation and more about collegiality and climate. COR is considering plans for next steps including possible follow-up surveys and/or interviews, with an emphasis on deepening

understanding. Considerations include expanding the possible sample, adding qualitative methods, and focusing questions around the data that emerged from the initial survey.

Interprofessional Research:

COR members are engaged in an ongoing initiative focused on interprofessional research. The group completed a methodologically driven scoping review of the literature focused on interprofessional research with an eye toward identifying the conceptual gaps. Based on the results of the scoping review, the group has developed a conceptual framework to clarify the interprofessional research construct discretely, to distinguish it from other forms of collaborative research, and to offer principles to inform interprofessional research in practical application. COR suggests that social work can be “transformational leaders” in a process that calls for intentional openness to learning and process. This work draws on concepts, standards, and competencies related to interprofessional education and interprofessional collaborative practice. A manuscript submitted to *the British Journal of Social Work* is currently being revised and will be resubmitted. Next steps will include a possible second manuscript co-authored with interprofessional partners.

COFE Collaboration:

Members of COR have been in ongoing discussions with COFE to identify possible collaborative pathways. As a result of these discussions two products emerged: COFE developed a bibliography of research *on* field education. This yielded ~500 sources, so there are ongoing discussions about creating a repository to capture such a wide scope of resources. COR members at the same time developed an annotated bibliography on research *in* field education; they are currently working on developing that bibliography into a manuscript for publication. While the initiative may be nearing its end, there is continued consideration for the best ways to reach a larger body of social work educators, to make the bibliographies and possible repository of information more accessible – there are discussions about making use of SPARK

Edited Book Reflective of COR’s charge: Interface of Social Work Education and Research

COR has begun conceptualizing a proposal for an edited book that reflects the central theme of the commission’s mission: the interface of social work education and research. COR had a preliminary discussion with the CSWE Press to determine interest, and received positive feedback with encouragement to submit a proposal. Ongoing work will involve clarifying the book’s focus, determining chapter outlines, delineating possible authorship, and developing all necessary structure.

Research Priorities:

In 2016 COR presented eight defined research priorities to the CSWE Board. Those priorities served as an anchoring structure for COR’s work, and also considerations for CSWE priorities related to research. COR planned to evaluate those priorities to determine their continued fit, but decided to table this work in anticipation of CSWE’s new Strategic Plan. COR will systematically evaluate the eight priorities in light of the Strategic Plan which was effective January 2020 with an emphasis on ensuring their fit, and determining any need for revision, addition, and/or overhaul.

Joint Committee on EPAS:

The Chair of COR, Shari Miller, is appointed to serve on this joint COA and COEP committee; she participated in an in-person working meeting in June which was focused on reviewing environmental scan data, and based on those data, developing proposed change to educational policy.

Social Work Education and Neuroscience:

COR members are interested in determining if/how an effort to build a bibliography, and gather data related to the topics of neuroscience and trauma-informed approaches to social work education can connect to COR's mission. Discussions also include possible data collection from student sample focusing on the relationship between trauma history, ACE scores, and decisions to pursue social work. Exploration is ongoing around the fit of this proposed initiative to COR's mission; current focus is on the need to enhance the research on social work education in this area, in order to develop innovations for education, with particular consideration for COR's emphasis on responsibility to provide evidence in support of social work education methods, approaches, outcomes.

Possible New Initiatives:**Place of Research in DSW Education:**

Members of COR are interested in exploring this, and the implications of DSW education for social work education, and is considering possible opportunities to collaborate with other commissions.

How well are Students being Oriented to Evidence-Based Practice:

Members of COR are interested in exploring this area, with consideration for possible research, publication, and teaching tools/curricular guides.