



Joseph Veroff and Katherine Luke Memorial Award 2025-2026

I. Purpose and Eligibility

This award will be given for the best proposal submitted for a session of Conversations across Social Disciplines (CASD) to be scheduled in the fall of each academic year.

- The proposal should be submitted by one or more students in the joint doctoral program in Social Work and Social Science
- The goals, topics, and methods proposed should be consistent with criteria for
 - a) CASD and
 - b) Veroff-Luke Fund.
- The award has two components:
 - a) Stipend for the student(s) who submit the selected proposal, and
 - b) Expenses for implementation of the CASD session and any proposed follow-up.

Note: students will not be eligible for this award if they received a Meyer, Curtis or Kellogg Scholarship within the same year. In addition, students are not eligible to receive the same award more than once during their time in the Joint Doc Program. You must be in good standing to apply for this award.

II. Criteria

The fund will provide support for Conversations Across Social Disciplines (CASD). This is an exciting opportunity for joint doctoral students to identify key social issues (e.g., social justice, poverty, mental health) that will benefit from deeper dialogue between the social science disciplines and social work. Doctoral students will invite faculty members from social work and one or more of the social sciences to discuss this important social issue in order to provide conceptual insights and practice innovations. [See below for additional core values and principles important for the Veroff-Luke Fund] The doctoral students will serve as moderators and discussants of this conversation. The goal for the CASD is to increase dialogue and to create models for working across the social science and social work disciplines to find connections and opportunities for bridging disciplinary boundaries. Planning and implementation of the CASD will involve significant leadership by students with considerable opportunity for students to interact, augment, and apply the topics discussed. This forum builds upon a program that was originally developed by doctoral students in 2004.

III. A. Form of Support

To honor the memory and promote the core values and principles of two of our highly respected and well-loved colleagues, Joseph Veroff and Katherine Pavelka Luke, an endowed memorial fund was established at the School of Social Work.

Joseph Veroff and Katherine P. Luke were vibrant individuals who represented different generations, interests and disciplines. They were kind and generous with their time and resources. They also shared

many personal and scholarly characteristics that are reflected in the criteria used to select the CASD Proposal. These criteria include the following:

- Navigating across multiple boundaries
 - Across disciplines—using knowledge and perspectives relevant for the topic being addressed
 - Contributing both to scholarship and to improving conditions in the world
 - Valuing connections and balance among personal, family, and work life, and taking action for change
- Fostering collaborative and supportive relationships, including many kinds of mentoring
- Concern with promoting positive conditions, and not just preventing negative ones

Funds will provide:

- a) A stipend for student planner(s) to recognize their promise and initiative, and
 - b) A budget to cover relevant expenses (refreshments, space, stipends, travel, if from a distance) for the event/or series of events, and any proposed products.
- (Funds available for this year is \$3,000. It will be split among a doctoral student and guest speaker(s). A stipend of \$1,500 will go to a doctoral student and the remaining \$1,500 will go to the guest speaker(s).

Additional background:

- Joseph Veroff (1929-2007) had a long and distinguished career as a social psychologist, a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, and a research scientist at the Institute for Social Research. As director of the doctoral program in Psychology and mentor to generations of students and colleagues, Joe was a strong supporter of the joint doctoral program, was a faculty mentor, and served on numerous doctoral dissertation committees. His work focused on human motivation, mental health, marriage and work, and in his final years, the concept of “savoring” the positive experiences in life.
- Katherine Pavelka Luke (1974-2009) received her PhD in Social Work and Sociology in 2009. Her work focused on promoting positive relationships and experiences and antecedents to violence in relationships, exploring the influence of culture, status characteristics and psychoactive substances within sexuality and relationships.

IV. Application Materials

The following application materials are required:

1. A brief description (1 page single spaced) of how the CASD session will be conducted that includes: the topic, the faculty presenters, and the student planner(s). Please provide suggestions for how the event will be publicized so that the Doctoral Office can assist with publicity.
2. An expression of willingness to participate in CASD from the faculty members who will be involved (i.e., an e-mail or a brief note).

I. Review Process

The student planner(s) will be selected by the Doctoral Committee.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Joseph Veroff and Katherine Luke Memorial Award

Application Coversheet

Student Name: _____ UMID: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Social Science Discipline:

- Anthropology Psychology Sociology

Faculty Advisor: _____

Nominated By (Faculty Member): _____

Attach the following required materials:

1. A brief description (1 page single spaced) of how the CASD session will be conducted that includes: the topic, the faculty presenters, and the student planner(s). Please provide suggestions for how the event will be publicized so that the Doctoral Office can assist with publicity.
2. An expression of willingness to participate in CASD from the faculty members who will be involved (i.e., an e-mail or a brief note).

Deadline: September 30, 2025

Submit this form along with the required materials electronically to:

Laura Thomas
Ishirley@umich.edu