A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Faculty, Students, Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to share the progress that Michigan Social Work has made over the past year. In particular, I want to thank each of you who provided feedback and contributed to our strategic plan, which envisions the future of our great School. The plan is built on the foundation of energy and ingenuity of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and professional colleagues to help us advance our mission, strengthen our foundation and expand our highly regarded programs.

The plan has five goals that look to the future of the School and the social work profession: 1) deliver educational programs that are original, creative and that prepare graduates for leadership in interprofessional and interdisciplinary practice, and knowledge development; 2) improve access to an affordable education at the U-M School of Social Work; 3) build and sustain an environment that is based on respect for all and dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion; 4) engage with local, regional, national and global communities to advance social justice and create progressive change; and 5) lead the profession by advancing the scientific basis of the social work vocation and enhancing interdisciplinary knowledge that informs solutions for social and human problems.

As you review these 2017-18 highlights, you will see how our vision and plan have already begun to unfold.

I conclude with a special thank-you to our generous alumni and friends for their financial support providing our students with scholarships to turn their academic dreams into reality and our researchers with resources to build future knowledge that will improve the quality of life in communities across our country and the world.

I am proud to be part of the Michigan Social Work family, and I look forward to continuing to lead this outstanding School of Social Work.

Go Blue,

Lynn Videka

Dean and Carol T. Mowbray Collegiate Professor of Social Work

FACULTY AWARDS AND LEADERSHIP

LINDA CHATTERS
Fellow, American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare

WILLIAM ELLIOT
Member, Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

KATHLEEN FALLER
Member, Child USA Blue Ribbon Commission to protect youth athletes

SALLIE FOLEY
Professional Standard of Excellence Award, American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists

LORRAINE GUTIÉRREZ
American Psychological Association Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Mentoring in Qualitative Inquiry Award

JAMIE MITCHELL
Member, Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

SANDRA MOMPER
Member, Council on Social Work Education Council on Racial, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity

EMILY NICKLETT
Fellow, Gerontology Society of America, Social Research, Policy and Practice section

JOSEPH RYAN
Gubernatorial appointee, Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice

ROSEMARY SABBI
Inductee, Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame

KRISTIN SEEFEILD

LUKE SHAFFER
Gubernatorial appointee, Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity

TORCH Recipient, National Academy of Social Insurance

ROBERT TAYLOR
2017 Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecturer, Council of Social Work Education

Fellow, American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare

2018 Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award from the U-M Office of the Provost

RICHARD TOLMAN
Fellow, American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare

DAPHNE WATKINS
U-M Fast Forward Medical Innovations Awards: Best Medical IT Innovation and Crowd Favorite
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

COMMUNITY ACTION AND SOCIAL CHANGE (CASC) CELEBRATES 8TH ANNIVERSARY

CASC is the second largest U-M undergraduate minor, attracting students who are passionate about social justice from all majors. CASC students actively develop knowledge and skills to create real social change in communities. Coursework and service learning teach students strategies for engaging communities, raising a voice on issues such as school reform, environmental justice, neighborhood development and civil rights. This program teaches students to create structural solutions to address inequality and alleviate poverty.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW) PROGRAM INNOVATION

To better prepare graduates for leadership, Michigan Social Work is redesigning the MSW curriculum to provide a distinctive education guided by 12 principles. These include social justice, immersion in service learning, preparation to holistically meet individuals’ lifespan needs, applications in real-world settings, problem solving based on evidence-informed practices, support for diverse students, individualized learning experiences, broad knowledge of the diverse field of social work, historical context for ever-changing current issues, the dynamic nature of social work, the global dimension of social work, and teamwork across disciplines. These principles support the School’s strategic plan goals of accessibility to a wider range of students, curriculum innovation using a range of instructional designs, and the creation of a part-time program.

Michigan Social Work created a MicroMasters Program, a massive open online course (MOOC) series that provides foundational social work knowledge that anyone around the world can access at any time for a modest fee (ssw.umich.edu/programs/micromasters/msw). Beginning in fall 2018, students who complete the MOOC, fulfill program criteria, pass a full assessment of their learning and enroll in the Michigan MSW degree will benefit from a lower-cost, accelerated pathway to earn their degree.

JOINT PHD PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL SCIENCES CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Founded in 1957, the interdisciplinary program prepares graduates to integrate social science perspectives with social work theories and research methods that equip graduates to create knowledge to solve society’s grand challenges. Program graduates are an illustrious group of leaders of the social work profession including 75 graduates who have served as deans or faculty members in the top social work programs worldwide. In 2018, Professor William Elliott III became the joint PhD program director. Elliott brings a passion for training the next generation and has a deep understanding of the research process based on his own leading research in the fields of college savings accounts, college debt and wealth inequality.

GLOBAL SOCIAL WORK IN CHINA

The School offered a new groundbreaking course at Tsinghua University, bringing together 19 faculty, students and staff from U-M with the Tsinghua University community to compare Chinese and American approaches to solving social problems. The course focused on the management and organization of social services and on philanthropy.
INTERVENTION INNOVATION

TECH DELIVERS HIV PREVENTION MESSAGES TO TEENS

Associate Professor DAVID CÓRDOVA received an award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health to advance technology-based HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections prevention for African American youth.

Córdova and his team developed the app S4E, an adaptation of Storytelling for Empowerment, a substance use prevention program. The team will evaluate the app’s impact on reducing risk behaviors such as drug use and unprotected sex, and on increasing HIV/STI testing for teens. S4E is listed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on its National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.

RURAL CHURCH MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Assistant Professor ADDIE WEAVER partners with churches and their leaders to help reduce barriers to mental health care for rural consumers. Her program, Raising Our Spirits Together, is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health via a Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Grant.

The prevalence of mental disorders in rural America is comparable to urban America, but rural communities lack mental health services. Rural residents hesitate to seek services because of the stigma attached to mental illness. Weaver works with local churches, the heart of rural communities, to provide technology-based treatment and in-person support for depression.

VIRTUAL REALITY TO IMPROVE JOB-INTERVIEW SKILLS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Associate Professor MATTHEW SMITH received a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. He is partnering with Professor and Associate Dean for Research ROGÉRIO PINTO to develop and evaluate a virtual-reality intervention to enhance job interviewing skills for youth diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders in high school settings. A randomized controlled trial will evaluate the feasibility, acceptability, portability, fidelity and effectiveness of the adopted virtual reality intervention. This study builds on Smith’s existing grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to enhance supported employment for adults with severe mental illness. The new intervention will support the transition for graduating high school students into the workforce by strengthening job interview skills.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

On March 9, 2018, Michigan Social Work faculty, students and staff gathered with community leaders for the Annual Research Day. Participants came from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Lansing), the Michigan HIV/AIDS Council (statewide), UNIFIED (Ypsilanti), Alpha House (Ann Arbor), the Community Health and Social Services Center (Detroit) and U-M’s Office of University Development (Ann Arbor) as well as other advocates. Participants shared insights around social justice in practice-based research; hospital research; diversity, equity and inclusion in research; research funding and urban versus rural research.

Three Michigan Social Work faculty members were honored with Social Justice Research Awards: EDITH KIEFFER, professor of social work, for investigating the impact of Michigan’s Medicaid expansion; SANDRA MOMPER, associate professor of social work, whose research benefits American Indians and African Americans communities in Michigan and DAVID CORDOVA, associate professor of social work, for his work focusing on Latinx health inequities in adolescent HIV and substance abuse prevention.
The Michigan Social Work Community showed solidarity to protect immigration policies that uphold the basic human values that are the core of the social work profession — social justice, respect for the dignity and worth of all persons and the importance of human relationships.

In response to the fall 2017 Trump administration announcement to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, Michigan Social Work students organized a rally in protest and to show support for undocumented immigrants. The following month, students rallied again in a march led by the Student Community of Progressive Empowerment, a group created by and for undocumented students on campus.

In partnership with the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health, JULIE RIBAUDO, clinical associate professor, and doctoral students SARA STEIN and PAIGE SAFYER created a trauma-informed resource guide for those caring for recently separated immigrant children. Resources include a children’s story and coloring book, a communications tool for foster caregivers, and a list of strategies for both school personnel and agencies working to reunify children with their families.

In collaboration with the Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County as well as U-M C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, ODessa Gonzalez Benson, assistant professor of social work, and Sherrie Kossoudji, associate professor of social work, held a two-day symposium, Keeping Our Door Open: A Multi-Dimensional Approach to Refugee Resettlement. The symposium brought together academic experts, policy-makers, nonprofit social services professionals and government officials to analyze the limitations in the present refugee system, enhance education and discuss ways of overcoming these constraints. Two hundred participants met and connected with fellow stakeholders and left the symposium with enhanced education, new connections and energized to create new policies that address the multi-faceted challenges of refugees.

At the end of its second year, the School’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan is fully underway. In spring of 2018, 70 members of the Michigan Social Work community participated in the Undoing Racism® Workshop, which was presented by The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, in conjunction with the DEI office. The workshop provides training using the premise that the transformation of racism was systematically constructed — and that it can be undone when people understand where it comes from, how it functions, why it continues and what we can do to dismantle it.
U-M SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT DIVERSITY

54% PhD STUDENTS OF COLOR
- Asian/Pacific Islander 19%
- Black 21%
- Hispanic 11%
- Native American 3%
- White 46%

38% MSW STUDENTS OF COLOR
- Asian/Pacific Islander 12%
- Black 11%
- Hispanic 11%
- Native American 26%
- White 82%
- 2 or More Selected 4%

40% CASC STUDENTS OF COLOR
- Asian 11%
- Black 14%
- Latinx 9%
- Native American 0%
- NA 2%
- White 60%
- Mixed Race 4%

OUT OF 416 MSW STUDENTS
(2017-18 INCOMING CLASS)

190 MSW STUDENTS WERE THE FIRST
IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND
GRADUATE SCHOOL

247 IN-STATE MSW STUDENTS

169 U.S. MSW STUDENTS FROM 33 STATES

15 INTERNATIONAL MSW STUDENTS
FROM SIX COUNTRIES

353,486 MSW FIELD PRACTICUM
TRAINING HOURS

28 PhD PUBLICATIONS

178 FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

94% 2017 MSW GRADUATES SEEKING
EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYED WITHIN
8 MONTHS OF GRADUATION

16,000+ ALUMNI FORM A STRONG NETWORK

965 CONTINUING EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS
STUDENTS GO GLOBAL

61 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

- AUSTRALIA
- BELGIUM
- BRAZIL
- CHILE
- CHINA
- COSTA RICA
- ENGLAND
- FINLAND
- GHANA
- GREECE
- GUATEMALA
- HONG KONG
- INDIA
- ISRAEL
- ITALY
- JAPAN
- NETHERLANDS
- NORWAY
- PERU
- PHILIPPINES
- PORTUGAL
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SWAZILAND
- SWEDEN
- THAILAND
- UGANDA
- ZAMBIA

RESEARCH

NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER FISCAL YEAR

5,000,000
4,500,000
4,000,000
3,500,000
3,000,000
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0

FY18
FY14
FY15
FY16
FY17
FY18

SUBMITTED 2018

- NIH 22%
- Other Federal 14%
- Foundation 22%
- State, Corporate or Other External Sources 13%
- Internal University Sources 29%

FUNDED 2018

- NIH 13%
- Other Federal 17%
- Foundation 22%
- State, Corporate or Other External Sources 16%
- Internal University Sources 32%
On March 14, 2018, Michigan Social Work joined the nationwide walkout protesting the disturbing prevalence of gun violence. Participants gathered to write down names of those killed and injured due to gun violence; they carried these names with them as they encircled the Michigan Diag to mark a period of silence shared by fellow students across campus and around the country. The student-led event was a spontaneous and organic response to the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.