

November 2024

SJSU School of Social Work Newsletter

Social Media



Instagram



LinkedIn



Unofficial Discord
Created by and for MSW
students



Contact Info

Office Telephone: 408-924-5800

Official Website

Newsletter Archive

General Email Address:
socialwork@sjsu.edu

Office Address: One Washington
Square (WSQ Rm. 215) San Jose, CA
95192-0124

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

School of Social Work Evaluation,
Suggestion, and Feedback Form
(Anonymous)

Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage month! We honor this month along Indigenous people around the world to celebrate and amplify our diverse histories, languages, traditions, resilience, and ways of caring for the land. Many of our communities here and around the world continue to fight for self-determination, sovereignty, and our land back. We invite you to engage in your learning while supporting the efforts of Native American Indigenous people in our surrounding area and around the globe.

Please check out the link below to see any events that will be happening in celebration of Native American Heritage month. These events are brought to you by a variety of co-sponsors and planners including the Native American Student Organization (NASO), Gathering of Academic Indigenous and Native American staff and faculty (GAIN), the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center, and the Student Union.



SJSU NAHM
Events




Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) 70th Annual Program Meeting

Here are a few words from Dr. Meekyung Han about this year's CSWE Annual Program Meeting:

Proud Spartans joined the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) 70th Annual Program Meeting held from October 23 through 27, 2024! This year's theme, "It's Time to Act: Indigenous Knowledge Sovereignty and Environmental Justice," created a powerful space for deep reflection and dialogue.

Our team—including three dedicated alums, Megan Aikawa, Liza Castaneda, and Monica Tudorache (featured in the October newsletter), a current MSW student, Olivia Aquino, and four faculty members, Professor Amy Lebichuck (Title IV-E Project Coordinator), Professor Sergio Serna (IV-E Assistant Project Coordinator), Dr. Meekyung Han, and Dr. Nayoun Lee —came together to represent our school's commitment to social justice and cultural humility.

Through our presentations and engagement in sessions of interest, we embodied the spirit of "Stand Up, Stand Proud, Stand Together," embracing the values of Spartans united for change and the advancement of social work.



Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) 70th Annual Program Meeting

"On behalf of our proud team, I'm delighted to share this story, along with our group photo (from left to right): Professor Serna, Dr. Lee, Megan, me (Dr. Han), Monica, and Professor Lebichuck."



Showcasing Achievements for MSW Alumni

Guided by Dr. Meekyung Han, two remarkable alums from the Class of 2023, **Megan Aikawa** and **Liza Castaneda**, presented their capstone projects at the 70th Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (see photos). These projects have also been developed for publication in peer-reviewed journals, showcasing the depth and impact of their research. Their journeys and accomplishments are highlighted separately below:

In collaboration with Dr. Han and co-authors Drs. Trang Nguyen, Dinh Linh, and Minh Bui—social work professors in Vietnam—Megan Aikawa’s capstone project, "Improving Field Education for Social Work in Vietnam: Intern Supervisors’ Perspectives on the Current State and Potential Solutions" is now being published online in *International Social Work*. This work highlights the importance of understanding field education in global contexts and proposes practical improvements for social work training in Vietnam. Continuing her collaboration with Dr. Han after graduation, Liza Castaneda’s capstone project, “Everyone Benefits When There is Another MSW in Child Welfare: Exploring Ways to Support Title IV-E MSW Student-Employees,” provides crucial insights into supporting Title IV-E MSW student-employees at public child welfare agencies. Now published in the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, this study underscores the benefits of enhancing support for county employees through the IV-E program.

In addition, highlighted in the October SSW Newsletter, **Monica Tudorache** (MSW 2024) presented her capstone project “Integrative Therapies: Psilocybin’s History and Clinical Applications in Mental Health” (Advisor Dr. Lee) as an e-poster at this year’s APM. Last but not least **Olivia Aquino** (2nd-Year MSW) has received the prestigious CSWE Minority Fellowship this year and attended her first APM. Check out the October SSW Newsletter for more information about Monica and Olivia.

These accomplishments highlight the outstanding academic and professional successes of Liza, Megan, Monica, and Olivia, showcasing their commitment to enhancing social work education, practice, and policy at both local and international levels. Kudos to all for their impactful contributions to the social work field.

Showcasing Achievements for MSW Alumni

Liza Castaneda

Liza Castaneda's Project: Supervised by Dr. Han, Liza Castaneda's capstone, titled "Everyone Benefits When There is Another MSW in Child Welfare: Exploring Ways to Support Title IV-E MSW Student-Employees," provides insightful perspectives on assisting Title IV-E MSW student-employees at public child welfare agencies. It emphasizes the advantages and practical aspects of supporting current county employees through the IV-E program in the field. This study is now published in the Journal of Public Child Welfare.

Public Child Welfare Agency Support for Title IV-E MSW Student-Employees in Northern California

Liza A. Castaneda, MSW, MA, and Meekyung Han, Ph.D., MSW
San José State University, San José, California, USA



TAP HERE TO RETURN TO KIOSK MENU

Research Question: How do Public Child Welfare Agencies Support their MSW Student-Employees?

Abstract

- The Title IV-E program supports the training and retention of public child welfare workers.
- There is a lack of information available as to how public child welfare agencies support current employees who pursue their MSW while continuing to be an employee of their agency.
- This study examined how six Northern California counties support their employees.
- Themes included strong county social work internship programs, additional supports and benefits, and challenges in program implementation.
- Counties would benefit from sharing information across counties to attract higher-skilled workers and improve access to higher education.

Background

Public child welfare has long been challenged with recruiting and retaining skilled workers

- High caseloads
- Extensive documentation requirements
- Safety
- Exposure to Trauma
- Limited resources and support
- Burnout

1980 Child Welfare and Adoption Assistance Act: Title IV-E of the Social Security Act: implemented collaborative training efforts between universities and public child welfare agencies

- BSW/MSW Education
- Financial support
- Postgraduate employment obligation
- Current employees can remain employed while in school

BSW and MSW are the preferred education for public child welfare workers

- California: 50% of Emergency Response and Family Maintenance workers must have an MSW
- Enhanced Child and Family Outcomes
- Stronger relationships
- Achieve Reunification within 12 months
- Achieve Adoption within 24 months
- Diverse Workforce reflecting the populations served

Title IV-E Education programs in California are a statewide operation

- Purpose
- Goals
- Student requirements
- Participating schools of social work
- Educational curriculum
- Faculty resources
- Annual summit
- Prioritizes current employees of qualifying agencies

Purpose

There is a lack of information regarding Title IV-E support at the agency level, for current public child welfare employees who wish to pursue their MSW. Each agency was believed to have created their own policies and practices.

A pilot study was conducted to learn how Northern California Public Child Welfare Agencies Support their MSW Student-Employees (note: public child welfare agencies are organized by counties in California).

Since public child welfare is governed by individual states, variations in implementation and administration at the local level were expected.


Meet the Authors



Liza A. Castañeda is a Title IV-E MSW graduate of San José State University. She has been in the social services field since 2004, both in direct services and policy and evaluation. Additionally, Liza holds a Master of Arts Degree in Human Services Counseling and is a Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner. She is currently working towards clinical social work licensure in California.



Meekyung Han is a professor and co-director of the Child Welfare Partnership for Research and Training at the School of Social Work, San Jose State University. Dr. Han's research interests primarily revolve around child welfare, mental health issues, the overall well-being of marginalized populations, and the advancement of culturally responsive and sensitive practices. Having previously served as a social worker in the public child welfare sector, she possesses practical experience. Her active involvement in researching the child welfare system and the enduring impacts of child maltreatment on later-life mental health emphasizes her expertise in this field. Dr. Han has outlined a robust research agenda and is significantly engaged in interdisciplinary research with community-based agencies.

It's time to act. 
Indigenous Knowledge, Sovereignty
and Environmental Justice

CSWE 70TH ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING
OCTOBER 24-27, 2024 | KANSAS CITY, MO

CSWE

Congrats to Liza!

Showcasing Achievements for MSW Alumni

Megan Aikawa

Megan Aikawa (she/they) is a second generation mixed-ethnicity Asian American—Vietnamese, Japanese, and Korean. Learn more about Megan:

My research interests include international social work, social work education, Asian American mental health, and community-based services. I fell in love with Vietnam when I moved to Hue in 2019 to work with a US-based nonprofit organization to do field research and help develop a curriculum to teach “healthy relationships” to middle and high school students. I later moved to Hanoi to work at a charity that focused on financial support for orphans. I then realized that I could be more effective if I was formally trained in social work. I received some advice my first semester at SJSU—do all your projects about Vietnam; become an expert in the field so when you graduate, you will have so much to offer. I was lucky to do my 298 with Dr. Han, who had direct experience with social work in Vietnam and would guide me to do my 298 in Vietnam.

Fast forward to this year, I had the honor of sharing my research on university social work field education in Vietnam at the CSWE conference and our paper is in the press with *International Social Work*. Sometimes I focus so much on what I want to do next and where I hope this research leads, but seeing this photo of me my first time in Vietnam, I’m reminded that my past self would be so excited by what I’ve accomplished so far. Besides social work, I enjoy being a mom to my 6 month old, engaging in mindfulness and meditation, and having silly dance parties with my partner in the kitchen while waiting for the kettle to boil. If you want chat more about anything, please email me at meganai@yahoo.com! Thank you for letting me be part of the SJSU SSW community! I have been forever changed.

Showcasing Achievements for MSW Alumni

Megan Aikawa



Competency-Based Education and University-Agency Collaboration in Social Work Field Education in Vietnam
Megan Aikawa, MSW, San José State University & Meekyung Han, PhD, San José State University

Methods

| Participant Demographic Information (N=17) | Frequency |
|---|-----------|
| Social Work Training | 9 (52.9%) |
| 1. Undergraduate or graduate level training | 2 (11.8%) |
| Professional setting or experience | 2 (11.8%) |
| None | 1 (5.9%) |
| Professional Social Work Experience | 7 (41.1%) |
| 0-9 years | 2 (11.8%) |
| 10-19 years | 1 (5.9%) |
| 20-29 years | 9 (52.9%) |
| Agency Type | |
| Health (Medical and Physical) | 9 (52.9%) |
| Education | 3 (17.6%) |
| Child and Family Services | 4 (23.5%) |
| Mental Health | 1 (5.9%) |
| Disability | 3 (17.6%) |
| Other | 3 (17.6%) |
| Native Supervisor Experience | |
| 0 years | 1 (5.9%) |
| 1-9 years | 2 (11.8%) |
| 10-19 years | 6 (35.3%) |
| Native Supervisor Training | |
| Work for agency | 1 (5.9%) |
| Work for university | 2 (11.8%) |
| Self-teach | 4 (23.5%) |

Results

Theme 1: Diverse implementation of a common framework

- Three types of field experiences (See chart)
- Variety of internship requirements (hours and scheduling)
- Lack of enforced regulations/standard practice
- Similar recruitment, supervision, and evaluation processes
- Varied expectations, activities, and university partnerships

Theme 2: Varied expectations and activities for fieldwork

- Similar understanding of the goals of field education
- Limited expectations for existing practical skills
- Want students to arrive with more practical skills
- Opportunities not always available for students to learn professional competencies as field activities.

| Training goal | # agencies with relevant expected skills | # agencies with relevant field activities |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Knowledge and reasoning for the field | 3 | 1 |
| 2. Personal and Professional Skills and Qualities | 3 | 3 |
| 3. Group Work and Communication Skills | 2 | 3 |
| 4. Competency for Professional Practice | 4 | 3 |

Theme 3: Ongoing challenges to implementation

- Limited time and resources
- Limited training and experience.

Timeline Diagram:

- Year 1:** Concurrent courses, Site Visit (Brief exposure to field environment (Typically 1 day))
- Year 2:** Concurrent courses, Single-Subject Field Application (Short term practice of one topic (1 week to 2 months))
- Year 3:** Concurrent courses, Graduation Internship (Short-term professional practice of all social work topics (1.5 to 4 months))
- Year 4:** No concurrent courses

CSWE 2016 ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING
OCTOBER 24-27, 2016 | KANSAS CITY, MO

CSWE | SJSU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Megan's CSWE Project

Congrats to Megan!

Undergraduate Social Work Association (USWA)

Please see the flyer below to meet our official officers for USWA! If you have any questions, please feel free to email uswasjsuofficers@gmail.com

USWA Officers

Our team has been working hard to support the undergraduate social work students!



PRESIDENT
Kira Sanders



VICE PRESIDENT
Juan Carlos Camarillo



SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER
Vanessa Fregoso



EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT
Nghi Bui

NOT PICTURED:

SECRETARY
Alexandra Viveros

TREASURER
Yesenia Godinez Tafolla

SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICERS
Angelica Ramirez
Elisabeth Gonzales
Sabrina Navarro

EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT
Jacqueline Torres-Raya

MERCHANDISE
Kate Buckley

CONVOCATION
Molly Abrom

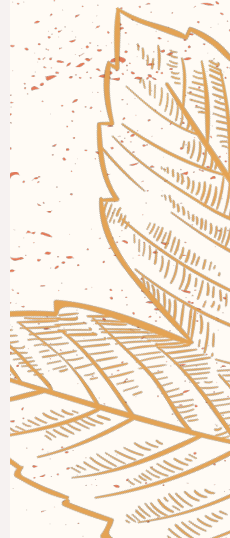
STUDENT REP
Elizabeth Burke

**Have a knack for designing?
Want a chance to win free merch?
Watch out for our upcoming merch design
contest happening this month!**



Follow us on Instagram @uswasjsu

Any questions? Reach out to uswasjsuofficers@gmail.com



Social Work Graduate Student Association (SWGSA)

Here are some announcements/events from SWGSA!

Community Engagement Town Hall Meeting

A place to discuss topics such as student experience, field placement, and more! This will be happening on Monday, November 25th from 6pm-8pm. Please scan the QR code to join this virtual meeting!

Community Engagement Town Hall Meeting

Monday,
November 25
6:00 - 8:00 pm

YES!

ABSOLUTLEY!

In collaboration with the School of Social Work & SWGSA please join us for a virtual meeting to discuss topics like:

- Student experience
- Field placement questions/experience
- program experience
- Open forum!

<https://bit.ly/3YLWqlp> ID:
88016931018 Passcode:
667631



For questions or concerns please contact
swgsa.president@gmail.com



Social Work Graduate Student Association (SWGSA)

Holiday Toy Drive

Open to all! This toy drive will be going until December 11th, 2024. Please drop off any times at the Office of School of Social Work. Please see the flyer below to see items that can be donated.

| | |
|--|--|
|  | SWGSA PRESENTS |
|  <p>HOLIDAY DRIVE</p> | |
| OPEN TO ALL MSW & BASW STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY & FRIENDS! | |
|  Items that can be donated:  | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports equipment• Teen shoes (sizes 6-9)• lego playsets• action figures• children's book• local sports team branded item• hair accessories and braiding items• gift cards | |
| <u>DROP-OFF LOCATION</u> Office of School of Social Work 1 Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95112 | <u>DEADLINE</u> Items need to be turned in by: 12/11/2024 |
| Questions? Please email us at swgsa.socialeventschair@gmail.com | |



School of Social Work

Here are some announcements/events from the School of Social Work!

Back Area

Students able to reserve for meetings, or available for a study area during School of Social Work office hours if not booked for a meeting. Office hours are 8am-5pm, every week day.

Winter Graduation for BASW


We want to congratulate our BASWs who are graduating this winter! This is an amazing accomplishment and you all should be proud. Winter graduation for BASW will be with the College of Health and Human Sciences, located at the Provident Credit Union Event Center at SJSU. It will be on Thursday, December 19th, 2024 at 6:30pm.

College of Health and
Human Sciences

Date/Time: Thursday,
December 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Location: Provident Credit
Union Event Center

Digital Program: to be linked
prior to the ceremony






School of Social Work

Social Welfare Policy in the Capitol

For a few of our MSW classes, we had an amazing guest speaker, Jacob Fraker, come in to speak about social welfare policy in the Capitol. In our school, our students learn the philosophical background of social welfare in the 120 and 202 classes. We, as social workers, have an obligation to advocate for our clients and to be fair, regardless of their philosophical backgrounds. We train ourselves with theoretical concepts in the classroom, and Jacob provided actual examples related to this.

Many students pursue job opportunities in counseling, family work, and casework. As Jane Addams did in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, community organizing, policy, research, and advocacy are also very important. Many students are not exposed to this policy-related environment and focus on individual interventions. Jacob inspired students toward the structural intervention path as social workers.

We participate in politics in two ways. One is through the representative system, where our representatives, such as the President and Senate, make decisions and policies. The other is through the State Ballot, where we participate directly in policy. Both methods are critical, and many students were interested in the General Election in November 2024. Jacob especially highlighted the topics on the State Ballot, including Constitutional Rights to Marriage, Local Government Residential Rent Control, and Raising Minimum Wages. Students had the opportunity to apply theories to California Proposition and learned about the significance of social welfare policy and its connection to our daily lives.





School of Social Work

Jacob spent his early life in a small town and attended community college. Although he did not initially plan for a policy-related job, his journey at SJSU and UC Berkeley led him to social welfare policy. He faced many hardships and demonstrated courage in overcoming these challenges, ultimately growing from them. Additionally, his advocacy for diversity in society exemplified true Californian beauty.

SJSU School of Social Work alumni play pivotal roles in social welfare in the Bay Area and California, and I truly believe that many students were inspired by him and will play important roles in social welfare policy.

Jacob has graciously provided a list of internships and fellowships in Sacramento for social work. If you are interested, please check out the link below. There will also be a link to Jacob's bio if you wanted to learn a bit more!

[Link to Internships/Fellowships](#)

[Links to Jacob's bios](#)

[Bio #1](#)

[Bio #2](#)



School of Social Work


Mental Health Resources at SJSU

With the semester coming to an end and the mixed feelings about the current state of our country, things can seem overwhelming and difficult to process alone. Please follow the link below to check out our mental health resources here on campus. These are here specifically for student usage, so please utilize it!

MH Resources

The California Association of School Social Workers

The California Association of School Social Workers Conference was held on November 14 and 15 in Sacramento this year. 7 SJSU School of Social Work faculty attended the conference. The School Social Work Education, Empowerment, and Training Program (SSWEET) was represented by faculty involved with the school's Pupil Personnel Services programs. The two-day conference offered valuable training and networking opportunities for school social workers across California. SJSU SSWEET was also able to obtain valuable feedback from attendees on potential training topics that SSWEET can offer to the school social work community in the future.



School of Social Work

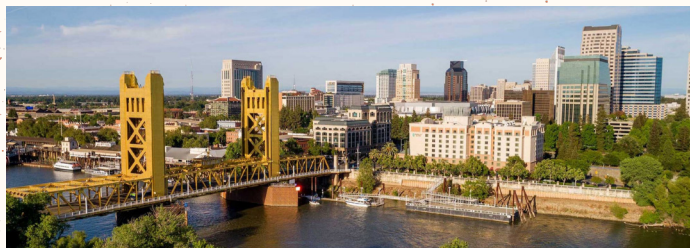
The California Association of School Social Workers

Pictured at the SSWEET table, sponsored by SJSU School of Social Work, are (left to right, the picture with the blue table cloth) Dr. Omar Zavalza, Professor Debbie Boerbaitz, Professor Lizette Moore-Guerra, Professor Derek Wang, Professor Cynthia Figueroa, and Professor Tam Nguyen.



School of Social Work

The California Association of School Social Workers



CASSW 2024 Conference

*Cultivating Connections,
Fostering Growth: The Heart of
School Social Work*

November 14 & 15, 2024

Citrus Heights Community Center
Sacramento, California



Thank you staff for representing us so well!

The School Social Work Empowerment, Education, and Training Program (SSWEET)

The School Social Work Empowerment, Education, and Training Program (SSWEET) was created in 2021 through the efforts of Dr. Peter Allen Lee and the SJSU School of Social Work PPSC faculty team. Dr. Lee and colleagues wanted to honor Professor Dick Evans and his legacy as a school social worker. He was a dear colleague who lived out his passion through his decades of support and encouragement, mentoring 1,000s of social work professionals. SSWEET's vision is to provide lifelong professional support and growth for school social workers, who are the ones integrated and respected in every educational environment. SSWEET's mission is to support school social workers in their impact on education systems and its students, families, teachers, and communities.

Newsletter & Social Media Submissions

Are you interested in being featured in the next newsletter or social media posting? Please fill out the interest form below. We would love to showcase individuals within our community!

Interest Form