

Message from the Dean

At the Indiana University School of Social Work we are delighted to present another issue of *Advances in Social Work*. As the title connotes, *Advances in Social Work* serves to contribute to the knowledge base of the social work profession by providing a publication that advances knowledge and demonstrates effectiveness and quality improvements for social work through research, education, and practice. In publishing *Advances in Social Work*, we envisioned a journal that would provide an opportunity for faculty, practitioners, students, and other professionals to have a forum whereby scholarly work related to social work research, education, and practice could be published. Now in its second year of publication, *Advances in Social Work* has established itself as a highly respected journal with excellent articles from leading scholars. It has been well received by social work educators and practitioners alike. This current issue, too, makes important contributions to the knowledge base of the profession.

I am grateful to a number of persons who have contributed extensively to make *Advances in Social Work* possible. Gratitude goes to Dr. Barry R. Cournoyer, who now serves as the Editor. His leadership, attention to details, and quest for quality are clearly evident. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Margaret Adamek, who served as Guest Editor for this issue. She graciously stepped in while Dr. Cournoyer was on sabbatical and has done an outstanding job. We certainly appreciate all of her many efforts and her strong commitment to excellence. Members of the Editorial Board, whose names appear on the inside front cover, deserve special credit for their direction, support, and diligent work. The Consulting Editors, whose names also can be found inside the front cover, have served as reviewers for the manuscripts submitted. Their able assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Indiana University School of Social Work has a distinguished history. Founded in 1911, it is the oldest social work program in the nation continuously affiliated with a university. The School of Social Work has a rich history of providing quality social work education, producing excellent research and scholarship, and having a strong commitment to serving the profession and the people of Indiana. This coming academic year we will celebrate our 90th anniversary, commemorating the many milestones attained at the School of Social Work. The School has approximately 900 students and offers the BSW, MSW, and Ph.D. degrees. Degree programs are offered on five Indiana University campuses, located in Bloomington, Gary, Indianapolis, South Bend, and Richmond. Headquartered in the state capital, Indianapolis, the School has strong ties to state and local agencies and engages in a variety of collaborative projects with them. The University and the School of Social Work serve as models for utilizing advanced technology in the management of its programs and for scholarly work assessing educational outcomes. Our School is perhaps the most advanced in measuring, assessing, and evaluating the educational outcomes of its programs. With such a distinguished history, quality faculty, and strong supports, the School of Social Work provides a supportive environment for faculty teaching, research and scholarship, and service, and for student learning.

Advances in Social Work marks another milestone in the rich history of the School of Social Work. It advances our mission by disseminating new knowledge for the advancement of the profession. The recent adoption of the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) by the Council on Social Work Education will have significant implications for the education of social work students. BSW and MSW programs will soon need to meet the EPAS requirements to be reaccruited and for new programs to receive initial accreditation. In keeping with our commitment to provide timely knowledge to advance social work education and practice, a future issue of *Advances in Social Work* will be devoted exclusively to addressing the implications that EPAS has for social work education. I certainly hope that you—as many others already have found—*Advances in Social Work* to be a valuable asset to your work and to the social work profession.

Michael A. Patchner, Ph.D.
Dean
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