

UMSL | Social Work

Dear School of Social Work Alums,

It is with pleasure that I pen this communication as the new dean of Social Work at UM-St. Louis. You are part of a distinguished group of individuals who can proudly say you hold a degree from the only public social work program in Eastern Missouri. You were educated by some of the top scholars in the country; scholars who conduct research and engage students in our classrooms and in the community and who are focused on critical issues that are facing this region and our nation.

We are always looking for new ways to teach and provide instruction to make sure our students and alumni are given ample opportunity to stay current in evolving practice methods. Training specific grants were recently awarded to the school as a demonstration of this effort. Through these grants, the school is now providing specialized training and support to MSW students interested in working within integrated health settings targeting children, adolescents, and young adults. BSW and MSW students are now being prepared to implement an evidenced-based approach to substance use problem identification within practice settings. A CSWE Policy Enhancement grant will prepare students and field instructors to evaluate racial equity within their agencies.

Even with all of this outstanding productivity from our faculty, I am most proud of each of you, our alumni. You are making significant contributions to the St. Louis region and beyond. You are in every public service sector and are truly making a difference. You are critical thinkers who are leading community agencies, advocating for client rights, providing support to populations at-risk for negative outcomes, policy advocates, therapists, counselors, and others that are too numerous to name. You continue to inspire all of us here at the school to reach greater heights.

We want to continue to grow our school and its reach into the community. We can only accomplish this if we are well informed and we rely on each of you to be our eyes and ears into the needs of the community. To better organize your input, we will be re-launching our alumni group this semester and would love for you to be involved. Please complete the short survey at the following link to provide us with your level of interest in being a part of this effort and how you are willing to assist:

[School of Social Work Alumni Engagement Survey.](#)

As always, your financial support to the school is also needed and appreciated. Gifts to the school are used for student programming and scholarships. If you are able to contribute, please follow the link below to make your contribution and specify **School of Social Work Fund**:

<http://giving.umsl.edu/s/260/35-development/giving/start.aspx?gid=35&pgid=61>

Thank you for taking the time to read this communication and for your continued contributions to the community and the School of Social Work. For more information and school updates, visit our website:

<http://www.umsl.edu/~socialwk/> or connect with us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/UMSLSocialWork>.

Sincerely,

Sharon D. Johnson
Professor and Dean