A Note from the Advocacy Director

The success of advocacy programming in the 2020-21 academic year was a direct result of leadership in the College of Social Work recognizing the need for this work in the years leading up to a historic presidential election and period of social activism. This created the space to develop skills, programs and relationships that allowed the college to intervene at critical moments in creative ways. We hope to build on this work in the coming year for deeper impact and sustained partnership with our community.

Stephen David, LSW
Advocacy Director

Voter Engagement

CSW Advocacy presented 18 workshops and speaking engagements on nonpartisan voter engagement, with a focus on incorporating these practices into human services settings, reaching 496 attendees.

Hosted five phone banks with partners from the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition, as well as National Voter Registration Day and Poll Worker Recruitment events for the 2020 election.

Policy and Advocacy Supervision

First developed as a response to COVID and the transition to online instruction, CSW Advocacy hosted bi-weekly virtual policy and advocacy group supervision sessions for students in field placement. These sessions were open to all students and provided legislative updates, condensed versions of focus area presentations, and space to discuss current events and challenges in advocacy practice.

2400+ Attendees at virtual events from June 2020 through May 2021.

63 Events, workshops, trainings and speaking engagements.

14 Credit hours of continuing education provided to the community.
2021 DC Virtual Advocacy Immersion

CSW hosted our first ever virtual DC experience in March 2021. We selected 16 students and provided four training sessions for them to identify and research legislation, and advocate with our congressional representatives.

In addition to six legislative meetings, students participated in a virtual networking reception with alumni with political experience, virtual committee hearing sessions, and virtual tours of the US Capitol.

“This was a phenomenal experience. I did not have any experience advocating at this level and felt well prepared and supported to do it. I am thankful for the opportunity and would recommend this to any CSW student.”

-2021 Virtual DC Student

Workshop Reviews

Voting on a Mission: Civic Engagement for Nonprofits

“Very informative, I was not going to vote due to lack of confidence, Steve you have made me feel comfortable with knowing my vote will and does count!”

-Hannah
10.14.20

I normally am very up to date on national politics and issues, but I tend to lack knowledge on what is going on locally. This made me want to focus on our local issues more!

-Kristen
10.7.20

Don’t Share That! Information Literacy and Ethics

“Refreshing! Everyone practicing in 2020 needs to see this presentation.”

-Lauren
2.4.21

What can I do? An Intro to Activism

“Good shit Steve.”

-BSSW student
10.20.20

Media Literacy, Misinformation & Social Work Ethics

CSW Advocacy designed a new workshop using the NASW Code of Ethics as the basis for social work engagement with misinformation.

This content reached 522 people through 8 workshops and student sessions, promoting media literacy and pushing back against false information online, and was recently accepted for presentation at the 2021 CSWE APM.

Alternative Crisis Response

In collaboration with the College of Public Health and CFAES, CSW Advocacy will provide community linkages on a $25,000 seed grant studying the effects of alternative crisis response programs in the city of Columbus. An application is pending with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to evaluate new crisis response programs to be created in the city following demands of racial justice activists.