

Office of Field Education  
School of Social Welfare  
Stony Brook University

## Field Education News

April 2015

Well, it's amazing how quickly time can go by! Our students have returned from their Spring Recess, hopefully rested and energized to forge ahead with renewed spark and energy toward the end of their semesters. Now is a good time to review the learning that has occurred and to anticipate and plan for transitions and termination. It is also a good time to let us know what you are looking for going forward as we are currently placing our BSW and second year MSW students for September. We will be placing our advanced standing and incoming students in early June. Please connect with us if you'd like a student in September. Let us know if your needs have changed and if the learning opportunities have changed at your agency. Contact Leslie Kulewicz at 444 -3147 for SIFI. When you call you will likely speak with Victoria who is helping and supporting our efforts in the field office. 631 444 2143.

### **Focus on: Field Education as the Signature Pedagogy**

As part of the 2008 CSWE Education Policy and Accreditation Standards, Field Education was named the signature pedagogy of social work education. Being the signature pedagogy expresses recognition and value of what the field instructor offers and what the student gains through immersion with the client population, tasks assigned and the critical thinking and self reflection that gets processed during supervision. Signature pedagogy reflects "elements of instruction and of socialization that teach disciplinary novices to think, to perform, and to act with integrity to the discipline" (Shulman, 2005) ". . . these pedagogies encourage students to do, think, and value what practitioners in the field are doing, thinking and valuing, they disclose significant important information about the personality of a disciplinary field – its values, knowledge, and manner of thinking – almost, perhaps, its total world view" (Calder, 2006.) Clearly, we in field education play an essential role. As field instructors we appreciate what we have to offer and take the responsibility seriously. We all remember our field placements and our field instructors. We use these experiences to guide and focus our work with our students. It is heartening and empowering to know that field education is valued and celebrated.

**Field Education Facts:** As you know, as of January 2015 social workers are required to obtain continuing education contact hours to maintain their NYS social work license. We are excited that School of Social Welfare has been approved as a provider of continuing education by New York State. If you'd like to be included in obtaining updates about upcoming continuing education opportunities send an email to [socialwelfareced@stonybrook.edu](mailto:socialwelfareced@stonybrook.edu).

*"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."*

*Harriet Tubman*

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