

Office of Field Education
School of Social Welfare
Stony Brook University

Field Education News

September 2015

Another school year is upon us! We hope summer has been kind, refreshing and relaxing. Classes started on August 24 and field placements begin on September 9. We've had our SIFI Orientation and we are looking forward to joining our new field instructors as they embark on their adventure of supervising social work students for the first time. We are excited to be able to offer 24 continuing education hours for SIFI participants who attend all 12 SIFI sessions. We welcome our new Field Office secretary, Annette Palazzo, who began with us over the summer. Please join us in welcoming her when you have the opportunity to connect with her, 444 2143. And as always, feel free to connect with any of us with field related questions, concerns or expressions of joy as you engage in supervising your students.

Focus on: Supervision: Clearly the work we do in educating our students in field placements is all about supervision. Orienting them during their first days to the agency and to the work they will do with the population the agency serves, ensures a good start to the semester. Examples of how we supervise and model good social work practice for our student include: choosing assignments that match the student's learning needs and place in the social work program; developing a safe learning space for students to learn as you meet in individual supervision; including students in staff meetings, case conferences, group supervision and in service learning opportunities; and carefully and intentionally reading process recordings in a timely manner so they can be best used in supervision. Our students gain so much from the neutral, disarming environment that you create in supervision. This allows them to take risks, strengthen their skills and tweek their practice strategy. As professional social workers, we recognize (and remember!) how necessary a field instructor's commitment to supervision is to helping students move forward efficaciously.

We hope that you also have access to and benefit from supervision that is available to *you* at your agency so you can be the best social worker you can be. For each of us supervision should be part of our experience as long as we are practicing in the profession. It is also interesting to experience the parallel process of being in supervision while you supervise.

Begin this year with a deep breath, harness what is within you and embrace what is before you as you journey forward with your student.

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. As a field instructor you will receive information about upcoming continuing education opportunities offered through the School of Social Welfare. If you have any questions regarding continuing education offerings please email socialwelfareced@stonybrook.edu.

"Education is the journey from darkness into light." Adam Bloom

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