

MSW Program at West Chester University

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WCU to launch College of Education and Social Work

On July 1, the graduate and undergraduate social work programs at WCU will join the university's new College of Education and Social Work. This change is part of a <u>campus-wide reorganization</u> of the academic programs WCU offers.

WCU's social work programs are now part of the <u>College of Business and Public Affairs</u>, along with departments including criminal justice, political science, and public policy and administration.

When the university's social work programs join the College of Education and Social Work, they will be in the same academic unit as the WCU departments that train professional educators and counselors. This realignment will strengthen connections among academic departments that have similar missions, enhancing both social work programs' ability to educate future practitioners.

The College of Education and Social Work will be led by Dr. Kenneth Witmer,

Dr. Page Buck appointed interim Assistant Dean of new college

In May, MSW Program Director Dr. Page Buck will assume a new role as interim Assistant Dean of the College of Education and Social Work, soon to open at WCU.



Dr. Buck was elected to lead the program in 2013. Under her leadership, the MSW Program became one of the first degree programs at WCU's <u>campus in Center City Philadelphia</u>. The MSW Program is the largest at the Center City campus and will graduate its first cohort of students in May. Additionally, the MSW Program moved higher on the list of the 100 Master of Social Work programs <u>ranked by U.S. News & World Report</u>.

Overall, more than 500 graduate and undergraduate students at WCU are pursuing degrees in social work at campuses in West Chester and Philadelphia. In her new role, Dr. Buck will be supporting the BSW and MSW programs as faculty and students work together to promote social justice and uphold human rights.



Dr. Stacie Metz elected chair of Graduate Social Work

The MSW Program will have a new leader in May: Dr. Stacie Metz, an associate professor who has taught in social work and public health programs at WCU.

Dr. Metz has master's degrees in social work, public health, and psychology, along with a doctorate in public health studies. She is now an associate professor in the MSW Program, recognized as a leader in academic and community settings. Her interdisciplinary training is an excellent asset during this period of social and political change, including a move toward interprofessional education and practice.

Dr. Metz's community involvement includes work on Youth Mental Health First

Aid training in the Coatesville area. One of her colleagues on this initiative says, "I am inspired by Stacie's leadership abilities, professionalism, and genuine style."



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