



Social Work Month 2016

This March we have been celebrating [Social Work Month](#), which has the theme "Forging Solutions out of Challenges." The MSW Program at WCU does this every day by training students to guide clients toward recovery, enhance resiliency, and build capacity to cope with life's challenges. We advocate for social justice so our clients and wider society can look forward to a more promising future.



SOCIAL WORK
FORGING SOLUTIONS
OUT OF CHALLENGES

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MSW Program celebrates 20th anniversary

*Making an MSW possible for
more students*



MSW class of 2002

In 1996 WCU became the first state-owned university in Pennsylvania to open a Master of Social Work program, making the degree more affordable and

accessible, especially for first-generation college graduates.

From the beginning, the MSW Program's mission was steeped in social justice. Its concentration -- Advanced Practice with Individuals, Families and Communities -- represented a return to social work's roots, serving individuals and families in the context of their environments. Students were trained in assessment, intervention, and evaluation at all levels of social systems.

The first 18 MSW graduates received their degrees in 1999. Today the MSW Program has more than 300 students and 12 full-time faculty at campuses in West Chester and Center City Philadelphia.

Our students and alumni are proving to be leaders across the region, state, and nation. Human rights and social and economic justice remain at the core of our mission and curriculum, which is rooted in the concepts of recovery, resiliency, and capacity building.

Alumni Advisory Board volunteers lend expertise to MSW Program

In May, the MSW Program established its [Alumni Advisory Board](#) as a way of using our graduates' expertise to benefit current students. Alumni are among our program's key stakeholders and have much to offer in the areas of marketing, student recruitment, program development, and career guidance.

"WCU and the MSW Program has made me who I am today," says Brandon Wright, MSW '13, a site manager for [ReMed](#). "No matter how busy one is, I believe, I have to take a step back and remember the mixture of emotions I was experiencing while transitioning from undergrad to grad school."

For the first time this year, alumni board members are interviewing some applicants to the MSW Program, which is receiving increased applications. Initial reports about this program are positive.

Faculty and staff are also collaborating with the Alumni Advisory Board to develop career plans for students.

"Social work is a tremendously diverse field," says Dr. Page Buck, MSW Program Director. "Some of the feedback from alumni has been that career

guidance early on in the process can be helpful."

Recent faculty publications

- Broderick, P.C., & Metz, S.M. (2016). Working on the inside: Mindfulness for adolescents. In K. Schonert-Reichl & R.W. Roeser (Eds.), [Handbook of mindfulness in education: Integrating theory and research into practice](#) (355-382). New York, NY: Springer.
- Tennille, J., Solomon, P., Brusilovskiy, E., & Mandell, D. (2016). [Field Instructors Extending EBP Learning in Dyads \(FIELD\): Results of a Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial](#). *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, 7(1),1-22.

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