



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

CSW ADVOCACY
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



Stephen David, LSW
Advocacy Director

2022 - 23 Academic Year

2022-23 IMPACT

1300+ event attendees

209 meetings with community partners

61 events and trainings

18 emails to the CSW Advocacy list

14 Policy & Advocacy Supervision sessions



CSW ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Director at the Ohio State University College of Social Work creates opportunities for students, practitioners, and community partners to participate in advocacy and political engagement around social work values.

This work engages pressing social and political issues through nonpartisan voter engagement, hands-on advocacy education and strategic collaboration and partnership.



VOTER ENGAGEMENT

The College of Social Work continues to promote innovative approaches to engaging the pro-democracy ecosystem. Bringing together students, human service professionals and community members, the College of Social Work is helping develop the next generation of political social workers.

- CSW Advocacy hosted continuing education workshops through its 2022 Political Education Series focused on building nonpartisan voter engagement into existing health and human service systems. These included Voting Is Social Work: Field Placement Voting Action Plan, Voting on a Mission: Civic Engagement for Health and Human Service Workers and Do Something: Advocacy for Impact.
- CSW hosted in-person and virtual events for National Voter Registration Day registering or updating registrations for 50 students.
- In partnership with six different voter advocacy organizations, CSW held the first in-person Democracy Promise Unconference at the Columbus Metropolitan Library. This event brought together over 50 community members, advocates, and students to set a crowd-sourced agenda around pressing topics for American democracy. The keynote panel featured on conversation around the theme, "Is the American Experiment Over?" that merged policy advocacy, community organizing and academic perspectives on the challenges facing our democratic institutions.



DC ADVOCACY IMMERSION

The DC Advocacy Immersion is a transformative experience for students. Giving students hands on experience with federal advocacy and career development, this trip shows students they belong in the room at the highest levels of government.

- CSW staff selected 20 students for the DC cohort through an application and interview process. Students were assigned to groups based on their issue interests and experiences.
- Through a four session training program, students identify their target legislation, develop fact sheets, and practice their meeting strategy in simulated legislative visits with policy advocates acting as congressional staffers.
- In 16 legislative meetings with the Ohio congressional delegation, students presented legislation on the home health care workforce, voting rights for people with criminal convictions, access to reproductive healthcare, mental health services in schools and supportive housing services.
- CSW hosted a successful alumni reception to connect with DC-based alumni and online students, and a DC Careers Panel exploring roles and providing connections with professionals engaged in advocacy and government agency work.
- The DC Advocacy Immersion was featured in an OSU News article highlighting the student experience on the trip.



TESTIMONIALS

"I learned so much in such a short time and will never forget the experience!"

"These were such important conversations to have and I really loved knowing that I had them with people with close connections to decision-makers. Great experience!"

ADVOCACY TRAINING

CSW Advocacy is a university and community resource for connecting students and social workers with opportunities for action.

- Collaborated with CSW regional campus staff to recruit and train 46 students across campuses to participate in NASW Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse.
- Worked with NASW Ohio staff to launch their legislative advocacy committee. Transitioned leadership of that group to a former CSW student currently working at a policy advocacy nonprofit.
- Provided 28 guest speaking or group facilitations for community partners, including workshops on giving legislative testimony and connecting students with local activism.
- Conducted 14 biweekly Policy & Advocacy supervision for students in field placement. These sessions cover current policy and social topics related to social work practice, such as attempts to ban gender affirming healthcare and education censorship legislation, and provided space for students with interests in policy practice to meet and connect with each other.
- Expanded the CSW Advocacy email list to 350+ contacts. Sent 18 emails connecting social workers with CSW programing and external advocacy opportunities.



TESTIMONIALS

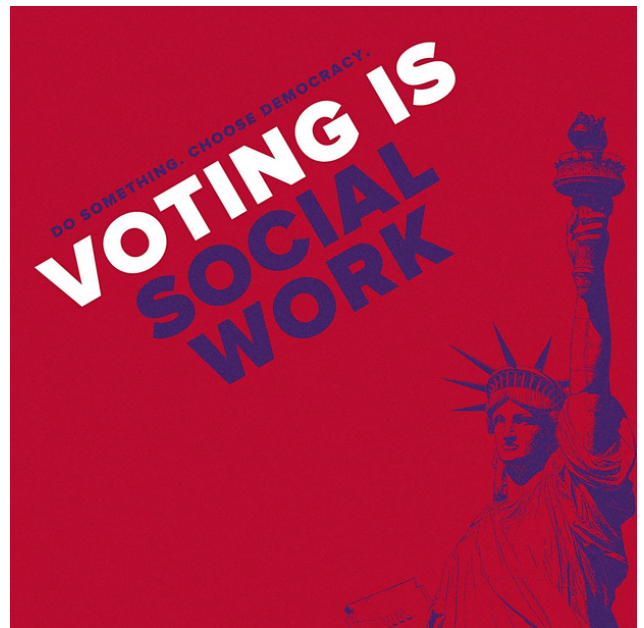
"It was easy to follow, informative, and did not leave me with this overwhelming sense of dread but rather a feeling of hope and promise."

-Do Something: Advocacy for Impact at Society of Ohio Public Health Educators, 3/10/22

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with contemporary social issues and local momentum is a key component of advocacy at the College of Social Work. Strategic relationships with community and campus partners has opened opportunities for unique collaborations.

- Collaborating with research team from College of Public Health and CFAES on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding project analyzing impacts of the City of Columbus Mobile Crisis Response program that pairs social workers with police officers responding to mental health calls. CSW advocacy lead the facilitation of a research advisory council of community partners and that helped recruit over 20 participants for focus groups and interviews in the first phase of qualitative data collection.
- Engaged with the Divided Community Project at the Moritz College of Law to plan a world café event for members of truth and reconciliation style commissions across the US.
- Maintained ongoing partnership with the Columbus CARE Coalition through their COPE Team to respond to neighborhood violence and provide community building for families impacted by trauma.
- Received unanimous faculty approval for development of Introduction to Activism 4000 level course to be offered as part of the new General Education curriculum.





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CSW Advocacy operates under the direction of Lisa Durham, Assistant Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement. Thanks to Lisa for her guidance and stewardship of this work.

Thanks to Dean David Jenkins for his investment in the continued impact of advocacy initiatives at CSW.

Appreciation to CSW advocacy intern Suzann Vannasdale for her contributions throughout the year.

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Report photo credits to Stewart Blake.

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