

The National Rural Social Work Caucus – Organization by Rumor

The Rural Social Work Caucus is an informal organization; members often say it is an organization that operates by rumor as opposed to structure, established as a “loose” membership body at the First National Institute on Social Work in Rural Areas hosted by the University of Tennessee in 1976. The caucus has operated since that time basically as a “commons” with a set of voluntary leaders that work to keep a voice for social work practice with rural places active within the social work profession.

Over the past 30 plus years the caucus has partnered with universities and colleges across the United States to host an annual National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas. Additionally, the caucus has worked to add to the knowledge base for social work practice within rural contexts by encouraging those with interests in rural places to publish and share their research and expertise. The annual institute was designed to move around the country to showcase the diversity of rural America and to provide social workers in rural areas with access to a substantial professional development activity that might not otherwise be available to them. This was one of the reasons the caucus originally worked with colleges and universities with active missions to serve rural areas as the location for the institute.

The Department of Social Work at the University of Memphis

Housed in the School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy within the College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of Social Work offers two degree programs in two campuses. The Bachelors of Arts in Social Work program and the Master of Social Work program are both fully accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).

Since 1978, the Department has had a tradition of excellence in undergraduate education, and in 2011, we launched our Master of Social Work program, which has been fully accredited since 2014. We are proud of the past and energized about the future. Our accomplishments include: Over 9 million in grants over the last 10 years; over 300 social work undergraduate majors & pre-majors; over 130 Master of Social Work students; over 120 MSW Graduates. All of our tenure & tenure track faculty are research active and deeply involved with the Memphis community and leaders in professional organizations such as NASW, CSWE, BPD, SSWR, and others. The 2016 U.S. News rankings placed the MSW program at #123, or in the top half of all social work graduate schools in the country. We are second in the State of Tennessee. Our work with at-risk populations is making a significant impact on the Memphis and greater Midsouth community.

The Lambuth Campus

The Lambuth Campus of the University of Memphis located in historical Jackson, TN, is home to over 20 undergraduate majors and minors, as well as a number of master’s degrees, including the MSW, and doctorate degrees. This beautiful 57-acre residential campus offers students the excellence and world-class education of a large regional university with the advantages of a small, rural campus, the best of both worlds! The setting is absolutely pristine, but the city of Memphis is merely an hour away. The plant biodiversity of this beautiful campus is so special that it has been classified as an arboretum. The Lambuth Campus became part of the University of Memphis system in 2011, and it only keeps getting better and better since then.

July 18, 2017

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Advisory Board Meeting
Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal
TBA
(By Invitation)

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Reception for Reviewers and Advisory Board of the
Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal
TBA
(By Invitation)

July 19, 2017

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Networking
Jack Morris Ballroom

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Concurrent Session 4
WSU Classrooms

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Concurrent Session 1
WSU Classrooms

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Afternoon Break
Coffee & Cookies
Jack Morris Ballroom
Planetarium Show

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Concurrent Session 2
WSU Classrooms

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Concurrent Session 5
WSU Classrooms

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Concurrent Session 3
WSU Classrooms

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm

Opening Luncheon
Jack Morris Ballroom

July 20, 2017

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Networking

Jack Morris Ballroom

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Concurrent Session 6

WSU Classrooms

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Concurrent Session 7

WSU Classrooms

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Concurrent Session 8

WSU Classrooms

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm

Networking Lunch

Jack Morris Ballroom

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Concurrent Session 9

WSU Classrooms

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Student Poster Session

Coffee & Cookies

Jack Morris Ballroom

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Concurrent Session 10

WSU Classrooms

5:15 pm – 6:00 pm

Business Meeting

Jack Morris Ballroom

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Dinner Reception

Jack Morris Ballroom

July 21, 2017

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Concurrent Session 11

WSU Classrooms

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Concurrent Session 12

WSU Classrooms

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Concurrent Session 13

WSU Classrooms

12:00 – 12:15 pm

Closing Remarks

Jack Morris Ballroom

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

July 21, 2017

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Lunch & Museum Tour
Casey Jones Restaurant & Museum

July 22, 2017

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Guided Visit
Botanical Gardens

We would like to thank Dr. Niles Reddick, Vice Provost, for his support and trust.

We would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Jackson, TN, for their financial and logistic support.

I want to offer a heartfelt thanks to our presenters, our supporters, and our volunteers, without whom this event would not have been possible.

I would also like to recognize the work of Ms. Fawn Pettet and Ms. Cherry Malone, who are my right and left hands (I am not saying which is which, but I need them both).

Elena Delavega
42nd Institute Chair

July 19, 2017

Theme Song of the National Rural Social Work Caucus

Words: Jim Winship, Tune: Similar to Kate Wolf's 'Give Yourself to Love'

It's sort of like a rumor carried on the breeze,
Words like *change*, *community* are drifting through the trees
The Caucus don't have much structure, but it doesn't fade away,
Blooms like some perennial on those hot and humid days.

A place of learning,
A place of solace,
Where folks don't put on airs
Easy to talk about what needs to be done
In the midst of those who care

As long as times, they (get) (stay) hard, then our work is never done
And as long as people feel at home when to these Institutes they come
As long as we can laugh and sing, and let down our thinning hair
Then this traveling rural road show will pop up again somewhere

A place of learning,
A place of solace,
Where folks don't put on airs
Easy to talk about what needs to be done
In the midst of those who care

And it's sort of like a rumor
Carried on the breeze

