

ST. KATE'S – ST. THOMAS
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

A partnership of St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas

Grand Challenges for Social Work: NADD's Role in Their Implementation

NADD 2016 Spring Conference

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016

Caribe Hilton, San Juan, PR

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Moderator:

Marilyn Flynn, University of Southern California

Panelists:

Richard Barth, University of Maryland

Barbara Shank, St. Catherine University – University of St. Thomas

Edwina Uehara, University of Washington

Grand Challenges for Social Work: NADD's Role in Their Implementation

- Establish website connections – NADD and NADD Member Schools - Place link to American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare website - <http://aaswsw.org/>
- Link Grand Challenges to campus events.
- Become a 'Grand Challenge Promoter'. Faculty and deans/directors from all sizes of NADD programs start promoting the Grand Challenges.
- Encourage faculty to connect presentations at NADD, BPD, CSWE and NASW with Grand Challenges Initiative.

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- Establish Partnerships: Schools with large established research networks partner with smaller programs in your area. Bring colleagues along in your 'rigorous' research studies, providing them with research experience and opportunities for engaging in and contributing to scholarly publication.
- Make connections between the Grand Challenges, curriculum (generalist for the BSW and specializations for the MSW).
- Develop and disseminate curriculum modules related to Grand Challenge issues.
- Integrate the Grand Challenges into required curriculum, design electives and continuing professional education programs around these issues.
- Make the connections to standards: competencies and practice behaviors.

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- Initiate faculty discussions, community meetings, classroom assignments, student/faculty forums, Salons, contact people who wrote Grand Challenge lead papers for suggestions about making connection, develop faculty 'champions'.
 - i.e. Rick Barth, President of the Academy did a short video for my doctoral class on the Academy and Grand Challenges. My doctoral students will have readings, a discussion and an assignment working with the Grand Challenge Initiative.
 - i.e. 'Let's Talk Teaching' or a Salon. Introduce faculty to the Grand Challenge Initiative through faculty meetings, professional development sessions, etc.
 - i.e. Journal of Social Work Practice In the Addictions. Special issue: Implementing the Grand Challenges of Reducing and Preventing Alcohol Misuse and Its Consequences
<http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative>

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Do Grand Challenge Initiatives have to be grand?
No.

Most initiatives will not be ambitious. The objective is to engage our professional education and practice communities (students, faculty, practitioners) in as many ways as possible in addressing the Grand Challenges, find new ways of approaching the problems and attract new resources from donors, businesses and philanthropic organizations. Many small and medium colleges and universities are located in areas with access to populations most affected by the Grand Challenges. These schools can provide access for intervention for collaborations or partnerships between smaller and larger schools.

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Will some Grand Challenge Initiatives be grand? Yes.

Some research and externally funded projects will be large in scope and have the potential to make a significant impact. We do promote science-based research and the application of solid evidence for improvements in services and social policies.

Let's remember:

There is space for all schools to engage in the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative. The question is: How can we all contribute to this initiative?

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