



GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK

DATE: October 9, 2015
TO: NADD Members
FROM: Elizabeth Lightfoot, President Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education
RE: Annual Letter to Deans & Directors

I am writing to you as the President of the Steering Committee of GADE, the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work, which now has 83 member Universities from all over the world. I wanted to update you on our organization's developments and activities over the past year.

Held another successful GADE conference. Our Annual GADE Conference was hosted this year by the University of Kansas and featured a number of timely and relevant presentations for doctoral program directors. Approximately 60 members attended the meeting, and there were an additional five attending as speakers. The conference format was altered slightly to allow both for more networking and more in-depth discussion of challenges and trends in doctoral education. The first day of the conference included a pre-conference workshop for new doctoral Directors facilitated by Steve McMurtry (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), Laina Bay-Cheng of the University of Buffalo, and Brad Lundahl of the University of Utah. In the evening, attendees were all invited to a new networking dinner to allow new and returning directors a chance to meet before the conference officially began. The first keynote speaker was Dr. Rowena Fong of the University of Texas of Austin, who spoke on "Social Work Grand Challenges and Implications for Doctoral Education." After her excellent keynote presentation, the attendees broke into smaller groups for lively discussions, then reported back to the larger conference. Dr. David Roediger, Distinguished Professor American Studies and History at the University of Kansas, was our second keynote presenter. He spoke on "The Crisis of the Middle Class". This keynote was followed by a respondent panel of doctoral directors (Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden of Norfolk State University and Dr. Eugene Walls of the University of Denver) and a doctoral student, Felicia Mitchell, of the University of Kansas. The final plenary was a facilitated large group discussion featuring two GADE member panelists, Joel Blau of Stony Brook University and Larry Ortiz of Loma Linda University, speaking on "Preparing doctoral students for research and teaching in social and racial justice." This last plenary was in response to a commitment made by GADE and other members of the Leadership Forum to address what social work education organizations could do to raise the profile of social work education in finding solutions to racism, disparities and injustice. These in-depth presentations and discussions were balanced by a number of practical workshops for doctoral program directors. Our next GADE Conference will be held in 2016 in Chapel Hill with the University of North

Carolina serving as the host, and our 2017 GADE Conference will be in Minneapolis with the University of Minnesota hosting. Thanks so much for all the Schools of Social Work and other organizations that sponsored our 2015 GADE Conference. The major sponsors were: the Council on Social Work Education, Florida State University, the Ohio State University, St. Louis University, the University of Buffalo, the University of Calgary, the University of Connecticut, the University of Denver, the University of Georgia, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota, the University of North Carolina, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas at Austin, Virginia Commonwealth University, Wayne State University and Washington University.

Continued support of doctoral student work and promoted doctoral student visibility. GADE continued to work to increase the visibility of doctoral students and recognize their leadership and research. The CSWE Annual Program Meeting Doctoral Student Connection breakfast is one venue where GADE can promote doctoral students. At the 2014 Annual Program Meeting at CSWE, the Doctoral Student Connection was changed from an invitation-only event requiring RSVPs to an open breakfast for all doctoral students. This led to greater attendance at the October 24, 2014 event, with over 150 doctoral students attending this networking breakfast. More than 20 GADE members attended the breakfast and served as hosts, and a number of Deans and Directors attended as well. The President of NADD, Jacqueline Mondros, at that time Dean of the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, spoke on, “What Deans and Directors are looking for in Faculty Candidates”. In addition, at the Doctoral Student Breakfast, we presented our 2014 GADE Student Award for Leadership and Service to Ning Tang from the University of Alabama, and our GADE 2014 Student Award for Teaching in Social Work to Kenta Asakura of the University of Toronto. GADE thanks Howard University for co-sponsoring this event. The 2015 Doctoral Student Connection will be held at APM from 7:00 – 8:00 am on Friday, October 16th. We also held our third annual GADE Reception at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference on January 15, 2015. At this event we awarded our 2015 GADE Research Award to Dr. Amy Castro Baker, of Hunter College. We hope many of you will attend our reception at the 2016 SSWR Annual Conference on Saturday night after the SSWR Presidential Reception.

Forged stronger relationships with sister organizations. GADE continued to partner with its sister work organizations, such as CSWE, SSWR, the St. Louis Group, BPD and NASW. For example, GADE has participated actively in the Leadership Forum and Leadership Roundtable meetings, and joined in their various joint efforts. The Presidents of GADE, SSWR and the St. Louis Group met this summer for its first summit on exploring how these three national organizations with many overlapping interests could better collaborate. Chris Petr also served as the GADE representative to the DSW Task Force Commissioned by CSWE.

Presented at national conferences. GADE held a partnership session at the 2014 CSWE APM, sharing the results of its commissioned study on doctoral student debt. GADE provided a small amount of funding to Dr. Audrey Begun (Ohio State University) to complete this study, and findings were presented at CSWE. At the upcoming CSWE APM later this month, GADE will be presenting

a partnership session on Preparing Doctoral Students for the Academic Job Market, a topic that was suggested by some of the attendees of last year's CSWE Doctoral Student Connection. We hope you encourage your doctoral students to attend.

Updating communications. The GADE Marketing-Website Committee, co-chaired by Cynthia Franklin of the University of Texas at Austin and Beverly Black of the University of Texas at Arlington, is in the process of updating of our website to make it user-friendly to potential and current doctoral students, relevant for faculty working with doctoral students and easy to maintain for this volunteer organization. The listserv continues to be an important vehicle for GADE members to collaborate on a variety of topics.

Revising GADE Constitution. The GADE Constitution Sub-Committee, chaired by Renee Cunningham-Williams of Washington University, is at work updating and revising our constitution to reflect our continually evolving organization. GADE will be voting on its new Constitution at our next Annual Conference.

Congratulations to our newly elected Steering Committee members, Dr. Margaret Adamek (Indiana University), Dr. Sydney Hans (University of Chicago) and Dr. Peter Maramaldi (Simmons College). The returning Steering Committee Members are Dr. Liz Lightfoot (President, University of Minnesota), Dr. Cynthia Franklin (Vice-President, University of Texas at Austin), Dr. Sheryl Zimmerman (Secretary, University of North Carolina), Dr. Donna Harrington (Treasurer, University of Maryland), Dr. Beverly Black (University of Texas at Arlington), Dr. Renee Cunningham-Williams (Washington University) and Dr. Jill Duerr Berrick (University of California at Berkeley). We thank outgoing GADE Steering Committee members, Laura Abrams (UCLA), Theresa Early (Kansas), and Chris Petr (Kansas).

GADE looks forward to continuing collaborations with NADD in advancing doctoral education. Please feel free to email me with any comments or questions (elightfo@umn.edu).