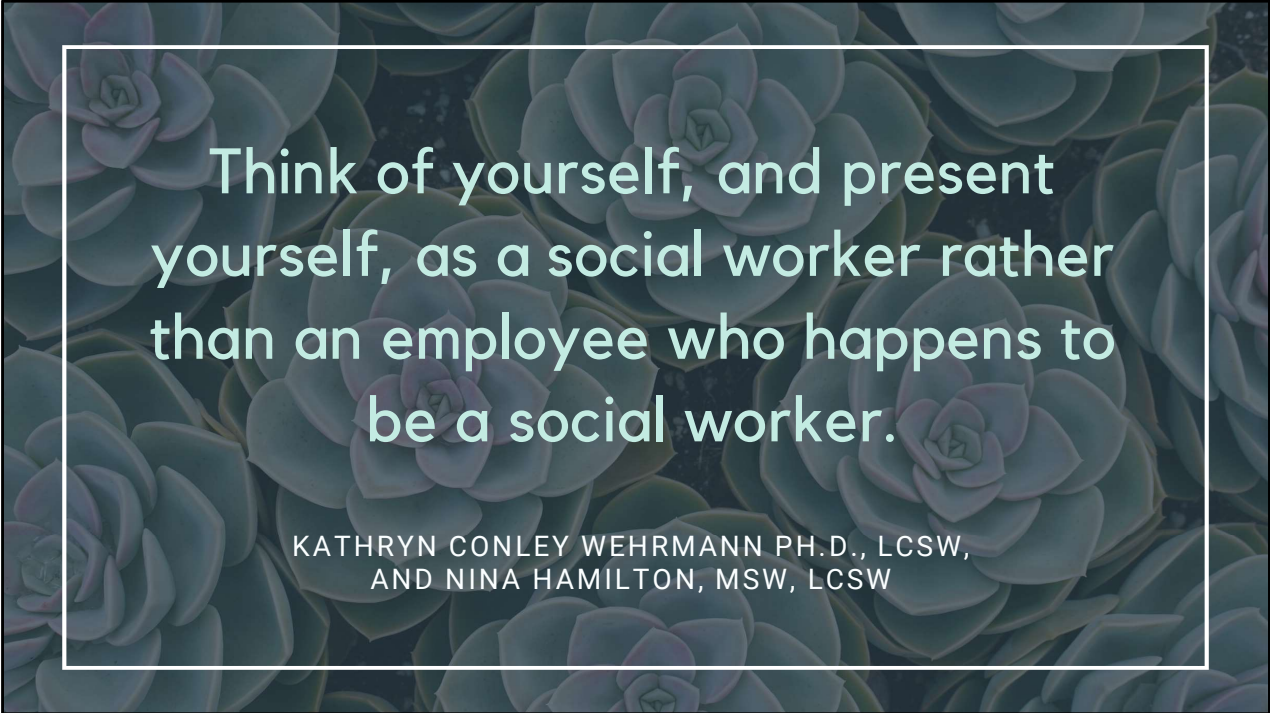




Grow your Professional Identity

Sara Bazydlo, LMSW-Clinical, CAADC
NASW Michigan Region 11 Representative

Sara Bazydlo, LMSW-Clinical, CAADC
Contact: sara.Bazydlo@gmail.com



Think of yourself, and present yourself, as a social worker rather than an employee who happens to be a social worker.

KATHRYN CONLEY WEHRMANN PH.D., LCSW,
AND NINA HAMILTON, MSW, LCSW

"You have earned the title - Cultivate pride in your profession by knowing your value to the organization where you are employed." Often times, we find ourselves in situations where we are the only social worker in the room, surrounded by other disciplines and we need to highlight what we bring to the table. (reference:

<https://www.socialworker.com/extras/social-work-month-2019/ingredients-for-a-successful-career-in-social-work/>)

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

Gain Knowledge, Skills, Competencies

Identify your unique knowledge and abilities related to social work practice.

Get Licensed

Become licensed and seek to advance your practice throughout your career.

Build a Social Work Network

Connect with other social workers, find a mentor, and receive quality supervision.

Enhance Career-long Learning

Seek opportunities to learn, grow, and evolve throughout your career.

Leave a Legacy

Contribute to the social work field through writing, research, education, etc.

1. Gaining knowledge, skills, and competencies – rooted within the social work code of ethics. We gain this knowledge from our academic and field experience and will continue to harness these skills throughout our career. The key articulating our skills and abilities (i.e. in an interview, on our resume).
2. Get Licensed – Having your license brings integrity to the profession – it adds protections for practicing social workers and holds social workers to a higher standard of practice.
3. Build a social work network – making connections with other social workers in various forms to strengthen and grow of social work network.
4. Enhancing career-long learning –The social work field is ever-evolving to meet the needs of the populations with whom we work, evidenced based practices are developed, political climates change, and we have to grown and change with them making not only continuing education essential, but a desire for our own growth and development.
5. Leave a legacy – this is more of a theme that I encourage people to have throughout their career, is to ponder what their contributions will be.

Connect

JOIN NASW

- NASW Michigan committees, work groups, Board of Directors
- Local and state-level networking events and trainings
- NASW National specialty practice sections

CONNECT WITH A MENTOR

- Mentors can be found through alumni association, NASW chapters, social work specialty practice groups, peers, respected colleague, or someone working in a role that appeals to you.

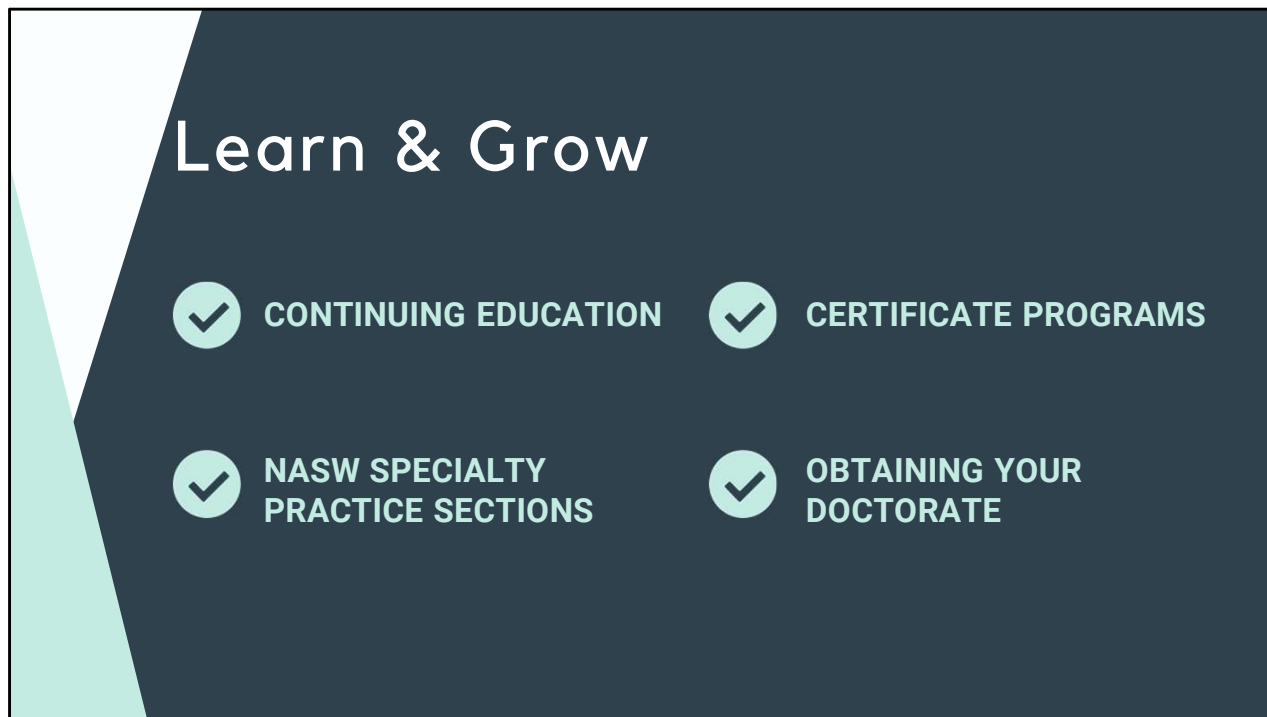
SOCIAL MEDIA

- Joining social work-based Facebook groups
- NASW Michigan Region-specific Facebook pages
- LinkedIn

GET OUT THERE!

- Attend in-person conferences and trainings
- Join committees, work groups, and task forces
- Serve on local, organizational, or state boards
- Volunteer in your community

- NASW Michigan Committees: <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/page/19>
- NASW Michigan Work Groups: <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/page/workgroups>
- The Value of Social Work Mentoring: <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=G5sWhmASw3c%3d&portalid=0>
- National practice sections – which are groups that have formed around specific social work practice areas with the goal of helping members staying-in-the-know in their practice area and opportunities to connect with other like-minded peers. For more information and list of practice sections: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Specialty-Practice-Sections>



Continuing education:

- NASW National: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Continuing-Education>
- NASW Michigan Continuing Education: <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/page/CECentral>
- NASW Michigan Continuing Education FAQ: <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/page/61>

NASW Specialty Practice Sections

- Link to explore specialty practice sections:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Specialty-Practice-Sections>

Certifications:

- There are a variety of certifications that can compliment social work licensure and enhance social work practice.
- NASW National Certifications & Credentials:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Credentials-Certifications>
- NASW-Michigan Certificate Programs:
 - Core Supervision: <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/page/CoreSupervision>
 - Clinical Concerns and Gender Identity: <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/page/ClinicalConcernsAndGenderIdentity>
- Michigan Certification Board of Addiction Professionals - CADC/CAADC
 - Those interested in working in the substance use field can explore the option of

obtaining a certification as an alcohol and drug counselor.

- This certification is separate from social work license but can enhance social work practice in addiction treatment
- To learn more visit: <https://www.mcbap.com/>

Obtain your Doctorate

- Furthering your social work education - obtaining a doctorate:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zONQoQSGDKs%3d&portalid=0>



Your Social Work Legacy

What will your professional
contributions be to the
social work field?

The social work field thrives on the contributions of social workers who came before us. Thinking about your social work legacy can be an overarching theme that can guide your work as a social worker. What will you bring to the field? What will your contributions be? What passions do you want to pursue and share with others?

Leave Your Mark

- Creating a new work process
- Mentoring
- Research
- Presenting at a conference
- Writing for the NASW Bridge Magazine
- Sharing knowledge and expertise
- Starting a new program
- Securing a new donor/funding source

This can look like many things and is unique to each person. It can be anything that you are passionate about!

How to Write an Article for the Bridge (NASW-MI magazine): <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/page/68>

Career Resources

NASW CAREER CENTER

- Career Development Webinars
- NASW JobLink
- Tips & Tools for Job Seekers
- Salary Negotiation
- Your Social Work Resume and Job Interview
- Leadership Ladders: Tips for Career Growth

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SSW CAREER RESROUCES

- Job Postings
- Professional Development Series
- Career Services Office

NASW National Career Development Center:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Career-Center/Career-Development>

Interviewing Tips: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Career-Center/Kickstart-Your-Job-Hunt/Interviewing-Tips>

Resumes & Cover Letters: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Career-Center/Kickstart-Your-Job-Hunt/Resumes-and-Letters>

Social Work Salaries: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Career-Center/Kickstart-Your-Job-Hunt/Social-Work-Salaries>

Career Resources

- NASW MICHIGAN CAREER CENTER
- NASW MICHIGAN SUPERVISOR REGISTRY
- NASW MICHIGAN SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOKLET
- STUDENT LOAN MANAGEMENT

NASW Michigan Career Center: <https://www.nasw-michigan.org/networking/>

Student Loan Management: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Manage-Your-Student-Loans>

Student Loan Forgiveness for Social Workers:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Policy-Issues/Student-Loan-Forgiveness>

How to Obtain Your Social Work License Webinar:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmxkcShC_RE

Finding your Macro Social Work Job:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPQ4ED_jsT8&t=3s