

Social work program takes last step for accreditation

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The Winston-Salem State Social Work program is on its way toward accreditation.

The program had its third site visit from the accrediting institution, the Council on Social Work Education, Feb. 3-4.

Commissioner Deloris Dungee-Anderson evaluated and analyzed the program.

"We have one last visit this upcoming winter and if all goes well, our program will be fully accredited by June 2012," said Isaiah Marshall, an associate professor and coordinator of Social Work.

"I'm excited that this is finally happening."

Dungee-Anderson said that she analyzed various categories including: the program administration; curriculum; faculty credentials; faculty's concern and care about the students and their learning; and the program's support from the University.

"The program is amazing," Dungee-Anderson said.

"There is a dedicated focus on serving the students and their learning needs."

Dungee-Anderson said that it was clear that students are addressed as individuals and their individual circumstances are considered.

Marshall said that the program maintains this by their majors' meetings, various fellowships, and the small class sizes.

Marshall said that the program's small class sizes of roughly 15 to 18 students give the professors a chance to get to know the students well.

"We are an upper division program, and there are 130 social work majors, but only 51 of them are in the Social Work program," Marshall said.

"Social work majors take the core classes their freshmen and sophomore year, and then they take the upper division classes their junior and senior year."

Marshall said the commissioner had very favorable things to say about the curriculum.

"She [Commissioner Dungee-Anderson] loved our students, and felt that they were very warm and knowledgeable," Marshall said.

"She praised the faculty for

Lauren Waters, senior social work major from Accokeek, Md., said the professors have practiced due diligence and have instilled it within the program.

"Through our collective hard work, we have flourished," Waters said.

"I expected and anticipated nothing less than progression and expansion."

Waters said that the large amount of progress that the program has accomplished is exhilarating.

After accreditation, students will be able to apply advanced standing in graduate school and will only have to attend for one year. Social Work Programs without accreditation have to spend two years in graduate school.

Waters said that if it were not for the work towards accreditation, she would have to take the two-year track in graduate school, and sit through foundational classes that she has already passed.

"Contrary to beliefs, social work is a very rigorous major," Waters said.

Dungee-Anderson said that it is clear that the students are receiving the help and education that they need to become professionally socialized in the social work profession.

Marshall said that he feels wonderful about the success of his former students. Several of them are attending graduate school and are practicing social work.

"The program is very new, and I have done many accreditation visits," Dungee-Anderson said.

"I am impressed with the program, and the curriculum will assist in reporting and training strong social work practitioners."

"Contrary to beliefs, social work is a very rigorous major."
— Lauren Waters, senior social work major

the wonderful things they have done, and our new department chair, who came in this past year and engaged in the process."

Marshall also said that the program is in the process of creating elective and special interest courses, including social work with the international population, and social work in justice studies settings.

Dungee-Anderson said that the students were overwhelmed by her visit. She said that they were also positive about the learning experience they were receiving, and laudatory about the care of the faculty.

"One student said there was a loving environment among faculty and students, and it made all of the difference to her," Dungee-Anderson said.

NAACP protests Wake County board 're-segregation' plan

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The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s is a major part of what students learn during Black History Month.

But all the efforts of integration may be unraveled in Wake County.

Feb. 12 thousands of protestors took to the streets of Raleigh with the NAACP and 90 other organizations as a part of the "Historic Thousand on Jones St." campaign. The aim of the campaign is to show their disdain for the proposed plan for students to attend schools in their neighborhood.

For 30 years, the Wake County School Board considered socioeconomic group and race for school assignments. The newly-elected, more conservative school board moved last March to start going back to students attending neighborhood schools.

The school board did a survey last year and 94 percent of parents wanted the system to stay as it is.

"Neighborhood schooling would drastically reduce school diversity and roll back years of progress," said Leila McDowell, vice president of communications for the NAACP.

Clayton Bennett, a sophomore elementary education major from Raleigh attended the protest.

"It is despicable that this is even a consideration," Bennett said. "The proposal doesn't even make sense."

The school board began its attempt to dismantle the nationally acclaimed integration system almost a year ago.

"I have personally benefitted from the way Wake County

buses students," Bennett said.

"I don't think I would have graduated high school or gone to college if I went to school with the students from my neighborhood."

The Century Foundation, and many other researchers agree with Bennett. Research says that the best thing you can do for a student from a low-income household is assign them to a middle-class school.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, which is less than half the size of WCPSS, uses a choice system for school assignment.

"Elementary and middle schools are placed in zones," said Theo Helm, the director of the department of marketing and communications for WSFCS.

"Parents are guaranteed a spot in the resident school but have the option to send their child to one of their top three choices."

High school students are assigned to schools based on where they live.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools were reassigned to neighborhood schools in 2005. Previous to this, parents and students were no longer allowed to choose which school they attended. Instead, students attend neighborhood schools.

No final decisions have been made, but the Wake Education Partnership and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce presented the school board with a proposal that is a compromise between the board and the people who oppose them.

The proposal would give parents some choice of where their children attend school.

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decided to change the server," said Terry Harmon, the director of IT Infrastructure and Client Services.

The new e-mail addresses will have the domain of rams.wssu.edu. The IT administration will be evaluating whether to keep the old server for a limited time after Live@Edu is available.

Evon Crooks, the technology support specialist says any e-mails that are on the old server will be moved to the new server.

"We will synchronize the old server with the new server," Crooks said.

"It will take an estimated four-to-six days to complete."

"With using Live@Edu, we can make sure service is up and running properly," Harmon said.

SGA president Jonathan Jackson says that he is grateful that Harmon and the IT administration worked closely with SGA to meet the needs of the students involving the e-mail server.

"Student Government Association has been piloting the new system, playing with the many features to ensure the students are getting all they want out the system," Jackson said.

"The simple fact that students will not be getting that 'System Administrator' e-mail every night is reason enough to celebrate the e-mail server."

The new server will only be available to students and WSSU alumni. It will be available to faculty and staff toward end of the calendar year.



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