



# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE

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Dear Deans and Directors:

It is with great pleasure that we notify you of the inception of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (the "Academy"). The Academy comes to fruition after years of discussion among professional social work organizations—most notably the St. Louis Group and the Council on Social Work Education. More recently, in January 2009, a Working Group was established to devise a mission statement and preliminary structure for an honorific academy.

The Mission of the Academy as drafted by the Working Group is:

*The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (Academy) is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare through high impact work that advances social good. The Academy has been established to:*

- *Encourage and recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and practice that contribute to a sustainable, equitable, and just future;*
- *Inform social policy by serving as a frontline source of information for the social work profession as well as Congress and other government agencies and non-government entities charged with advancing the public good;*
- *Promote the examination of social policy and the application of research to test alternative policies, programs, and practices for their impact on society; and*
- *Celebrate excellence in social work and social welfare research, education, and practice.*

The Working Group selected the inaugural class of Fellows and asked them to form the first Board of the Academy. The names of the Working Group and the Board members are listed on the left.

The Academy is a free-standing 501(c)3 entity with a virtual office located initially at Case Western Reserve University. The Board of Directors will develop a process to solicit nominations and make the selection of the next class of Fellows in the near future. They will also approve a business plan that will promote the success and sustainability of the Academy.

Sincerely,  
Members of the Academy Working Group  
and the  
Board of the Academy