

NADD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
DEANS AND DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK

FALL MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

Denver, CO

View program online: <https://cvent.me/3YDRkl>

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday, October 20, 2025	6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	NADD Board of Directors Meeting	Director's Row E Plaza Building Lobby Level Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel 1550 Court Place Denver, CO 80202
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Check-in / Name Tag pick-up: NADD Registration - Information Desk	Windows / Tower Court Foyer Tower Building Second Level Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel 1550 Court Place Denver, CO 80202
	7:30 a.m. -9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast Co-Sponsors: WashU Brown School University of Utah College of Social Work University of Michigan School of Social Work	Windows Tower Building Second Level
	7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Session for New Deans, Directors & Chairs Facilitators: Schnavia Hatcher, University of Alabama Stacey Kolomer, University of North Carolina, Wilmington Janet Shapiro, Bryn Mawr College	Tower Court B
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	NADD Business Meeting Welcome; Minutes Approval; Budget Update; Spring 2026 Conference; Forthcoming Elections. Dexter Voisin, President; Stacey Kolomer, Treasurer; Johanna Thomas, VP and Program Chair; Lori Messinger, VP of Communications, Judy Postmus, Secretary; Sharon Johnson, Board Member, Chair of the Nominating Committee	Windows Tower Building Second Level
	10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break	

	10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p>General Session</p> <p>Social Work and U.S. News Rankings: Next Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief overview of the issues -- Betsy Farmer 2. Members will self-select and break into three groups and discuss the rationale for their recommendations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Keep the existing model B. Propose an updated model that incorporates objective outcomes C. End participation in USN rankings 3. Summary will be presented and vote taken on the three options to the entire CSWE MSW membership 	Windows Tower Building Second Level
	11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<p>Morning Break</p> <p>Sponsor: Temple University School of Social Work</p>	Windows Tower Building Second Level
	11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<p>General Session</p> <p>Can Social Work Education Respond to Difficult Times: Significant and Reasonable Strategies Toward Change</p> <p>Social Work Educators, and particularly those in leadership positions, must both confront the realities of the current political, social, and economic situation, and yet abide by the constraints of their roles in universities. This talk focuses on realistic strategies that deans and directors can employ to support community and workforce needs and manage student and faculty involvement, while remaining mindful of role constraints.</p> <p>Learning objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conceptualizing one’s leadership role in difficult (and better) environment 2. Identifying and establishing positive opportunities for engagement of students and faculty 3. Identifying people and partners to carry out the work <p>Keynote Presenter: Jacqueline Mondros, Professor and Dean Emeritus, Stonybrook University School of Social Welfare</p> <p>Jacqueline Mondros is Professor and Dean Emeritus at Stonybrook University School of Social Welfare, and past dean at the Silberman School of Social Work. She is a past</p>	Windows Tower Building Second Level

		<p>president of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD). She has written extensively on community organizing, including her latest co-authored book, <i>Organizing for Power and Empowerment: The Fight for Democracy</i> (2023).</p> <p>Keynote Presenter Sponsor: University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work</p>	
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own / optional regional lunches	
3 Concurrent Breakout Sessions – Set 1			
	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Breakout Session #1</p> <p>Crisis Management for Social Work Academic Leaders</p> <p>Crises, both routine and severe, regularly land on the desks of social work academic leaders. This session briefly reviews research on effective crisis response, including why the first 24 hours matter, setting the tone, crafting clear messages, mapping stakeholders, and aligning communication with university policies, free speech, privacy, and social work ethics and values. Using a few brief case examples, we will talk about balancing transparency with confidentiality, signaling care while avoiding premature conclusions, and naming harms without escalating conflict. Finally, we will address the reality that our students often hold social work programs to a higher standard, and how leaders can rise to that expectation through a thoughtful, proactive response in light of constraints. There will be lots of time for discussion.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will be able to describe evidence-based components of crisis management. 2. Participants will be able to outline a first 24-hour response plan. 3. Participants will be able to identify communication strategies that align with social work ethics and university policies. <p>Presenter: Elizabeth Lightfoot, Director and Distinguished Professor of Social Policy, School of Social Work, Arizona State University</p> <p>Elizabeth Lightfoot has been Director of the School of Social Work at Arizona State University since 2021. Her research focuses primarily on disability policy and services,</p>	Tower Court B

		with a particular emphasis on the intersections of disabled people with social service systems, such as child protection. She has been very active in national academic organizations, serving in leadership roles of GADE, SSWR, CSWE, and AASWSW.	
	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Breakout Session #2</p> <p>Leading by Chance, Growing by Choice: Navigating Identity in Academic Leadership</p> <p>Many academic leaders step into roles like dean or chair by circumstance, not design—often without training, mentorship, or a clear leadership identity. This “accidental leadership” is common and shaped by the intersection of our personal identities and professional responsibilities. What we bring to leadership—our race, gender, caregiving roles, and lived experiences, etc.—deeply influences how we lead, how we’re perceived, and how we navigate complexity. Leadership is not just about managing others — it’s about knowing ourselves, honoring our identities, and leading with authenticity. Whether new or experienced, this is a moment to pause, reflect, and invest in our growth.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize the impact of accidental leadership paths and explore how unplanned transitions into leadership roles shape identity, confidence, and effectiveness. 2. Understand the role of intersectionality in leadership, including how race, gender, caregiving, and lived experiences influence leadership style and perception. 3. Commit to intentional leadership development, through self-reflection, executive coaching, and strategies that support authentic, inclusive, and resilient leadership. <p>Presenter: Nancy Meyer-Adams, Ph.D., MSW, Professor & Director, School of Social Work, California State University, Long Beach</p> <p>Dr. Nancy Meyer-Adams is Director of the School of Social Work at California State University, Long Beach—a complex public university in a large, diverse urban setting in Southern California. She has held this role for 12 years and brings over a decade of experience of practice in school social work and youth mental health. A long-standing member of NADD, Dr. Meyer-Adams is in her fourth year as a co-facilitator of LADD, where she helps new academic leaders explore their roles through an intersectional lens. Her leadership style reflects a deep commitment to mentoring, inclusive practice, and navigating the layered realities of academic and personal identity.</p>	Tower Court C
	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Breakout Session #3</p> <p>Answering the Call: Navigating Leadership Opportunities Across Different Types of Institutions, from Liberal Arts to Research-Intensive</p>	Tower Court D

		<p>This workshop will explore my experiences and the lessons I've learned at various types of institutions, including mid-sized metropolitan schools, private liberal arts colleges, and public research-intensive universities. Dean Miller will share valuable insights and tips for advancing in leadership roles that are applicable at all levels.</p> <p>This workshop aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage Deans and Directors to recognize their capacity to impact Social Work Education both local and national levels through their leadership roles. 2. Discuss common leadership challenges faced by different types of institutions. 3. Challenge attendees to appreciate the collective value of all institutional types for the future of Social Work education. <p>Presenter: John W. Miller Jr., Dean, University of Louisville - Kent School of Social Work & Family Science</p> <p>John Miller is a professional social worker, college professor, and administrator. He currently serves as the Dean of the Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work & Family Science at the University of Louisville. Previously, he was the Dean of Curriculum and Senior Diversity Officer at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.</p> <p>In addition to his administrative roles, Miller is a community organizer, scholar, and consultant. He has held positions as the department chair and professor of social work at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, and as an associate professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His contributions to the field have been recognized notably; in 2017, the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (AR-NASW) named him Arkansas Social Worker of the Year.</p>	
	3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	<p>Afternoon Break</p> <p>Sponsor: University of Central Florida School of Social Work</p>	
2 Concurrent Breakout Sessions – Set 2			
	3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	<p>Breakout Session #4</p> <p>Navigating Challenges Together: How CSWE Is Supporting Programs Amid Legislative Change</p>	<p>Windows Tower Building Second Level</p>

		<p>As social work programs across the country face growing legal and legislative pressures, CSWE continues to provide responsive support rooted in its commitment to quality education, accreditation, and professional standards. This session will offer updates from CSWE's Education and Accreditation leadership on how the organization is engaging with programs affected by new state or federal laws.</p> <p>Presenters will share examples of how CSWE is working collaboratively with institutions to meet accreditation standards in legally restricted environments, clarify the role of site visitors and accreditation staff, and highlight practical resources available to programs navigating this evolving landscape. Though CSWE is not a legal or lobbying entity, this session will outline concrete, actionable ways programs can remain committed to the 2022 EPAS while responding to legal changes.</p> <p>Presenters: Megan Fujita, Ph.D., MSW Vice President of Education, Council on Social Work Education</p> <p>Katie Gibson-Ledl, BSW, LMSW-Macro Director of Accreditation Services, Department of Social Work Accreditation Council on Social Work Education</p>	
	3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	<p>Breakout Session #5</p> <p>From Roadmap to Reality: Harnessing AI in Social Work Education and Practice</p> <p>This session equips deans and program directors with a roadmap for AI adoption that draws on design thinking, scenario planning, and a bottom-up approach. It highlights experiences, experimentations, and lessons learned from real-world implementation, paired with case studies that show AI in action. Highlights include AI systems that flag COVID-19 misinformation, computer-vision models that interpret nutrition labels for tailored guidance, and web-based simulations that train social workers at scale. Attendees will leave with a replicable action plan and field-tested models ready for adaptation.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a clear roadmap for AI adoption in social work schools, covering governance, privacy, curriculum integration, faculty development, and equity safeguards. 2. Showcase field-tested case studies in public health, nutrition, and practice training that leaders can adapt to their own programs. <p>Presenters: Michael A. Lindsey, Dean and Paulette Goddard Professor of Social Work, Silver School of Social Work, New York University</p>	Tower Court D

		<p>Ruopeng An, Constance & Martin Silver Endowed Professor in Data Science and Prevention and Director of the Constance & Martin Silver Center on Data Science and Social Equity, Silver School of Social Work, New York University</p> <p>Dr. Michael Lindsey is a noted scholar in the fields of child and adolescent mental health, as well as a leader in the search for knowledge and solutions to generational poverty and inequality. He is the Dean and Paulette Goddard Professor of Social Work at NYU Silver School of Social Work, and an Aspen Health Innovators Fellow.</p> <p>Dr. Ruopeng An is the Constance and Martin Silver Endowed Professor in Data Science and Prevention and Director of the Constance and Martin Silver Center on Data Science and Social Equity at NYU Silver. He is co-editor, with Dean Michael Lindsey, of the forthcoming Springer volume <i>AI in Social Work</i> and author of the forthcoming Routledge book <i>Build an AI-Ready University</i>, which provides higher education leaders with a step-by-step, context-sensitive roadmap for AI adoption.</p>	
	5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Free Time and /or Informal Networking	
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	<p>NADD Reception</p> <p>Co-Sponsors: University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Boston College School of Social Work Simmons University School of Social Work University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work</p>	<p>Parlur Ground Floor</p> <p>Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel 1550 Court Place Denver, CO 80202</p>
		<p>NADD Event Photography Sponsor: Boston University School of Social Work</p> <p>NADD 2025 Future Leaders Networking Luncheon Sponsor: Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service</p>	

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Vitali Chamov, Manager, NADD

Y. Joon Choi, Director, Georgia State University

Emily Ihara, Chair, George Mason University

Naelys Luna, Founding Dean, Florida Atlantic University

Nancy Meyer-Adams, Director, CSULB School of Social Work

Janet Shapiro, Dean, Bryn Mawr College

Dorian Traube, Dean, Washington University in St. Louis

Future Leaders in Social Work Education Program

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Joan Blakey, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Justin "Jay" Miller, University of Kentucky

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