



## FALL MEETING

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Atlanta, GA

View program online: <https://cvent.me/k8y0VR>

| Date                            | Time                     | Event                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Location                                                                                                                   |
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| Monday,<br>October 19,<br>2026  | 6:30 p.m. - 8:30<br>p.m. | NADD Board of Directors Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SEAR Restaurant<br>Private Dining Room<br><br>Atlanta Marriott Marquis<br>265 Peachtree Center Ave NE<br>Atlanta, GA 30303 |
| Tuesday,<br>October 20,<br>2026 | 7:00 a.m. - 3:00<br>p.m. | Check-in / Name Tag pick-up: NADD Registration - Information Desk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Atrium Foyer, Atrium Level<br><br>Atlanta Marriott Marquis<br>265 Peachtree Center Ave NE<br>Atlanta, GA 30303             |
|                                 | 7:30 a.m. -8:45<br>a.m.  | Networking Breakfast<br><br>Co-Sponsors:<br>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work<br>Case Western Reserve University Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences<br>WashU Brown School<br>University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2)                                                                                 | Atrium Ballroom A, Atrium Level                                                                                            |
|                                 | 7:45 a.m. - 8:45<br>a.m. | <b>Session for New Deans, Directors &amp; Chairs</b><br><br>Facilitators:<br>Stacey Kolomer, University of North Carolina, Wilmington<br>Janet Shapiro, Bryn Mawr College                                                                                                                                                                                                | A701, Atrium Level                                                                                                         |
| Tuesday,<br>October 20,<br>2026 | 8:45 a.m. - 9:45<br>a.m. | <b>NADD Business Meeting</b><br><br>Welcome; Minutes Approval; Budget Update; Spring 2027 Conference; Forthcoming Elections.<br><br>Dexter Voisin, President; Stacey Kolomer, Treasurer; Johanna Thomas, VP and Program Chair; Lori Messinger, VP of Communications, Judy Postmus, Secretary; Sharon Johnson, Ex-Officio Board Member, Chair of the Nominating Committee | Atrium Ballroom A, Atrium Level                                                                                            |

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|  | 9:45 a.m. –<br>10:00 a.m.  | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |
|  | 10:00 a.m. –<br>11:30 a.m. | <p><b>General Session</b></p> <p><b>NADD <i>U.S. News and World</i> Rankings Task Force - Report and Recommendations</b></p> <p>Members of the NADD <i>U.S. News and World Report</i> Rankings Task Force will report on the work undertaken and completed since the spring NADD meeting. The committee will review the rankings history, present the data and materials reviewed by the Task Force members, and provide recommendations for the NADD membership to consider.</p> <p>Presenters - Members of the Task Force:<br/>Debra McPhee (Chair), Sally Bachman, Giesela Grumbach, Sebrena Jackson, Elizabeth (Liz) Lightfoot, Kerry Vandergrift, and Rita Walters</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Atrium Ballroom A, Atrium Level |
|  | 11:30 a.m. -<br>11:45 a.m. | <p>Morning Break</p> <p>Sponsor:<br/>University of Central Florida School of Social Work</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Atrium Ballroom A, Atrium Level |
|  | 11:45 a.m. –<br>1:00 p.m.  | <p><b>General Session</b></p> <p><b>The Wellspring of Transformational Leadership: Finding the Source to Lead Through Change</b></p> <p>Transformational leadership is the capacity to elevate motivation, strengthen collective purpose, and help others see possibilities beyond present circumstances. That capacity begins with the leader’s own source—the values, beliefs, experiences, and convictions that provide grounding when circumstances become difficult. This morning address explores how conviction strengthens agency, how belonging gives rise to hopefulness, and how both help leaders guide others through significant or rapid change. Together, these forces enable leaders to create conditions that help people remain connected, confront reality, and move toward a more hopeful future.</p> <p>This address will explore how:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An individual’s personal values, beliefs, experiences, and convictions serve as a leader’s source of strength and steadiness.</li> <li>2. Personal perspective, the responsibilities of the role, and the leadership required in the moment can impact leadership effectiveness.</li> </ol> | Atrium Ballroom A, Atrium Level |

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|                                 |                       | <p>3. The importance of belonging, grounded accountability, and collective agency in helping people navigate significant or rapid change.</p> <p>Presenter:<br/>Tayo Switzer, PhD. Executive Coach, Leadership Consultant, and Lecturer at The Ohio State University. Owner, Leadership 6 Consulting, LLC.</p> <p><b>Tayo Switzer</b>, PhD, is an executive coach and leadership consultant with 25 years of experience helping leaders navigate change. He owns Leadership 6 Consulting, serves in Organizational and Leadership Effectiveness at The Ohio State University, and lectures in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. His work emphasizes transformational leadership and organizational trustworthiness.</p> <p>Keynote Address Co-Sponsors:<br/>University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Helen Bader School of Social Welfare<br/>University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                 |
| Tuesday,<br>October 20,<br>2026 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | Lunch on your own / optional regional lunches                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |
| Tuesday,<br>October 20,<br>2026 | 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | <p><b>General Session</b></p> <p><b>Updates and check-in with CSWE</b></p> <p>This session will provide updates from CSWE on current advocacy efforts on education and accreditation matters including DEI; Strategic Plan 2026-'30; and CSWE 75th Anniversary. More importantly, providing an opportunity for Q&amp;A about topics important to deans and directors of social work programs.</p> <p>Presenters:<br/>Halaevalu F. O. Vakalahi, MSW, PhD<br/>President and CEO, Council on Social Work Education<br/>Collina D. Cooke, PhD, LCSW-C<br/>Executive Director of Accreditation, Council on Social Work Education</p> <p><b>Dr. Halaevalu Vakalahi</b> is the President and CEO of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Prior to joining CSWE, she was a Professor and Dean of the College of Health and Society, an interdisciplinary college, at Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU). Prior to HPU, she was a tenured full-Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Social Work at Morgan State University (Baltimore, MD); Associate Professor and MSW Program Director at George Mason University (Fairfax, VA); Lecturer and BSW</p> | Atrium Ballroom A, Atrium Level |

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|                                                                          |                       | <p>Coordinator at San Francisco State University (San Francisco, CA); Assistant Professor and Department Chair at BYU-Hawai'i (La'ie, Hawai'i); and Assistant Professor at New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM). She earned a BS in Business Management from BYU-Hawai'i, MSW from University of Hawai'i-Manoa, and MEd and PhD in Social Work from University of Utah. Dr. Vakalahi's two areas of research/scholarship are Pacific Islander culture/community and Women of Color in academia, in which she has contributed extensively to the existing literature. She is a proud alum of the CSWE Minority Fellowship Program, a Fulbright Senior Scholar, and a Hartford Faculty Scholar.</p> <p><b>Collina D. Cooke</b>, PhD, LCSW-C, is the Executive Director of Accreditation at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). In this role, she provides leadership and oversight to ensure that accreditation continues to uphold the highest standards and promote access, representation, and student success in social work education programs nationwide. She previously served as Director of CSWE's Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), where for two years she advanced mentorship, leadership development, and advocacy for emerging social work professionals committed to addressing the mental health and substance use needs of underserved communities. Dr. Cooke brings extensive expertise in program management, compliance, grant writing, counseling, qualitative research, and data administration to her role at CSWE. disorders. She has also practiced as a social worker in the Albany, NY area for more than a decade.</p> |                                 |
|                                                                          | 3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. | <p>Afternoon Break<br/>Sponsor:<br/>Temple University School of Social Work</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Atrium Ballroom A, Atrium Level |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3 Concurrent Breakout Sessions</b></p> |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                 |
|                                                                          | 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | <p><b>Breakout Session #1</b></p> <p><b>Dean &amp; Director Panel on Evaluation &amp; Reappointment</b></p> <p>Annual evaluation, 360 review, and reappointment are important but distinct components of effective leadership for social work deans and directors. This interactive panel will explore approaches to making these processes meaningful, transparent, and useful for both leaders and institutions. Panelists will discuss connecting annual evaluations to previously established goals; identifying meaningful indicators of success across areas such as enrollment, student outcomes, financial stewardship, and workplace climate; and using self-reflection to identify accomplishments, challenges, and areas where additional institutional support may be needed. The session will also consider how evaluation can</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | A701, Atrium Level              |

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|  |  | <p>support leadership development and strengthen communication between deans and directors and those responsible for their review.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate the purposes and processes of annual performance evaluation and reappointment and identify how each contributes to leadership accountability and development.</li> <li>• Identify meaningful goals, outcomes, and indicators that can inform leadership evaluation</li> <li>• Apply a goal-based, reflective approach to annual evaluation that documents accomplishments and challenges, identifies areas for continued growth, and communicates resources or institutional support needed for future success. Apply a goal-based, reflective approach to annual evaluation that documents accomplishments and challenges, identifies areas for continued growth, and communicates resources or institutional support needed for future success.</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Ramona Denby-Brinson, PhD, ACSW, LMSW, Dean and Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</p> <p>Philip Osteen, PhD, MSW, Dean &amp; Professor, College of Social Work, University of Utah</p> <p><b>Ramona Denby-Brinson</b>, Ph.D., has served as Dean of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work and Distinguished Professor since August 2021. An accomplished scholar and academic leader, she previously held leadership roles at The Ohio State University, Arizona State University, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she co-founded The Lincy Institute.</p> <p>Dr. Denby-Brinson is a licensed social worker, nationally recognized expert in culturally responsive child welfare services, and preeminent scholar of kinship care. Her research examines how kinship care can promote child well-being, strengthen families, and inform culturally responsive policy and practice. She authored <i>Kinship Care: Increasing Child Well-Being through Practice, Policy, and Research</i> and has authored or edited eight additional books. She has secured more than \$50 million in competitive research grant funding and led mental health workforce development initiatives across multiple states.</p> <p>Her honors include the Child Welfare League of America’s Champion for Children Award and the 2014 Senator Harry Reid Silver State Research Award. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and immediate past president of the Society for Social Work and Research.</p> <p><b>Philip Osteen</b> is a professor and dean at the University of Utah College of Social Work. He served as interim dean for 18 months before being appointed dean in July 2023.</p> |  |
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|  |                       | <p>Additionally, he serves as the inaugural Chief Behavioral Health Officer for Academic Affairs for the university and co-chairs the University of Utah Wellbeing &amp; Resiliency Taskforce. Personally, he has gone through two 360 reviews (before being appointed dean in 2023 and at mid-appointment 2026). Working in tandem with the Provost's Office and Office for Faculty, he has used the results of the reviews to document accomplishments and challenges, identify areas for continued growth, and communicate resources or institutional support needed for future success. The 360 review is also an opportunity to model accountability and commitment across the college and larger university community.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |
|  | 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | <p><b>Breakout Session #2</b></p> <p><b>Community Partners and Alumni (CAPs) in Residence: Advancing Social Justice Through Community-Engaged Learning</b></p> <p>The Community Partners and Alumni (CAPs) in Residence initiative offers a scalable model for strengthening social work education through sustained partnerships with alumni and community members with lived experience. Funded by NADD Social Justice Fund, the six-week residencies focused on three critical issues affecting Atlanta communities: housing instability, economic inequality, and justice system involvement.</p> <p>Guided by Finn's (2021) JUST Practice framework, alumni practitioners and community partners co-led office hours, guest lectures, and public programming, connecting students with professional expertise, lived experience, and community-based perspectives. Evaluation findings suggest that the model increased students' understanding of structural inequality and evidence-informed approaches to social change while strengthening their commitment to community collaboration.</p> <p>The CAPs model demonstrates how schools of social work can leverage alumni and community partnerships as strategic educational resources to enhance student learning, advance social justice, and strengthen the school's connection and responsiveness to its community.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe how alumni and community partnerships can strengthen social justice education and student learning.</li> <li>2. Identify strategies for integrating alumni expertise and lived experience into social work curricula.</li> <li>3. Apply lessons from the CAPs model to develop sustainable community-engaged initiatives within their own schools.</li> </ol> | A702, Atrium Level |

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|  |                       | <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Dr. Qiana R. Cryer-Coupet, BSW Program Director, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University</p> <p>Elizabeth Swank, Project Coordinator for the CAPs, Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Dr. Qiana R. Cryer-Coupet</b> is Associate Professor of Social Work and BSW Program Director in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Her community-engaged research program examines drivers of health and wellness among fathers and the impacts of father involvement on child, caregiver, and community well-being. Dr. Cryer-Coupet conceptualized, implemented, and evaluated the CAPs in Residence Project as the Project Director.</p> <p><b>Elizabeth Swank</b>, MSW, practices at the intersections of educational equity, language access, and community engagement. An interdisciplinary background in psychology, education, and social work informs her work. She earned her MSW degree from Georgia State University, where she engaged in community-based work with Spanish-speaking communities in Atlanta. As Project Coordinator for the CAPs project, she maintained engagement with alumni and community partners across academic and community settings and facilitated the Oral History project.</p>                                                                                                                                         |                    |
|  | 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | <p><b>Breakout Session #3</b></p> <p><b>The Wellspring of Transformational Leadership: Conviction, Belonging, and Leading Through Change</b></p> <p>Transformational leadership begins with the capacity to elevate motivation, strengthen collective purpose, and help others see possibilities beyond present circumstances. But before leaders can inspire transformation in others, they must understand the personal source from which they lead—the values, beliefs, experiences, and convictions that ground them when circumstances become difficult. This interactive session explores how leaders draw upon that inner source, create a sense of belonging, and sustain their agency during significant or rapid change. Participants will consider how the person, the formal role, and the leadership demanded by the moment can work together to create conditions in which people remain connected, confront reality, and move toward a more hopeful future.</p> <p>By the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the personal values, beliefs, experiences, and convictions that serve as their source of strength and steadiness as leaders.</li> <li>2. Distinguish among the person, the formal role, and the leadership required by the moment—and examine how alignment or tension among them affects leadership effectiveness.</li> </ol> | A708, Atrium Level |

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|                                 |                       | <p>3. Apply practical approaches for cultivating belonging, grounded accountability, and collective agency during periods of significant or rapid change.</p> <p>Presenter:<br/>Tayo Switzer, PhD. Executive Coach, Leadership Consultant, and Lecturer at The Ohio State University. Owner, Leadership 6 Consulting, LLC.</p> <p><b>Tayo Switzer</b>, PhD, is an executive coach and leadership consultant with 25 years of experience helping leaders navigate change. He owns Leadership 6 Consulting, serves in Organizational and Leadership Effectiveness at The Ohio State University, and lectures in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. His work emphasizes transformational leadership and organizational trustworthiness.</p> |                                                                                                                       |
|                                 | 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Free Time and /or Informal Networking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                       |
| Tuesday,<br>October 20,<br>2026 | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | <p><b>NADD Networking Reception</b></p> <p>Co-Sponsors:<br/>University of Utah College of Social Work<br/>Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service<br/>Howard University School of Social Work<br/>Boston College School of Social Work<br/>Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work<br/>Florida Atlantic University College of Social Work and Criminal Justice</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Pulse Loft, Atrium Level</p> <p>Atlanta Marriott Marquis<br/>265 Peachtree Center Ave NE<br/>Atlanta, GA 30303</p> |
|                                 |                       | <p>NADD Event Photography Sponsor:<br/>Simmons University School of Social Work</p> <p>NADD 2026 Next Level Leaders Networking Luncheon Sponsor:<br/>University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work</p> <p>NADD's Leadership Academy for Deans and Directors (LADD) Cohort 17 Meeting</p> <p>Breakfast Sponsor:<br/>Rutgers School of Social Work</p> <p>Luncheon Sponsor:<br/>University of Georgia School of Social Work</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                       |

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|  |  | <p>Afternoon Break Sponsor:<br/>Boston University School of Social Work</p> |  |
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**NADD 2026 Fall Meeting Planning Committee:**

Johanna Thomas, Director, School of Social Work, University of Arkansas (NADD VP and Program Chair)

**Planning Committee Members:**

Vitali Chamov, Manager, NADD

Y. Joon Choi, Director, Georgia State University

Philip Hong, Dean, University of Georgia

Emily Ihara, Chair, George Mason University

M. Sebrena Jackson, Dean, Clark Atlanta University

Naelys Luna, Founding Dean, Florida Atlantic University

Michael LaSala, Dean, Simmons University

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

John Miller, Dean, University of Louisville

Philip Osteen, Dean, University of Utah

Jo Ann Regan, Dean, Catholic University of America

Janet Shapiro, Dean, Bryn Mawr College

Dorian Traube, Dean, Washington University in St. Louis

**Leadership Academy for Deans and Directors (LADD)**

**LADD Co-Leaders:**

Joan Blakey, Director, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

David Jenkins, Dean, College of Social Work, The Ohio State University

Nancy Meyer-Adams, Professor, California State University, Long Beach

Marianne Yoshioka, Dean Emeritus, Smith College School for Social Work

**Next Level Leaders in Social Work Education Program**

Sally Bachman, Chair, University of Pennsylvania

Joan Blakey, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Laura Curran, University of Connecticut

Justin “Jay” Miller, University of Kentucky

Luis R. Torres-Hostos, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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Johanna Thomas, NADD Vice President and Program Chair (2025 -2028)  
Lori Messinger, NADD Vice President of Communications (2024 - 2027)  
Stacey Kolomer, NADD Treasurer (2024-2027)  
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Sharon Johnson, Chair of Nominating Committee (2026 - 2029)  
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Vacant, North Central (2025-2028)  
Maria Gurrola, West (2024 - 2027)  
Joon Choi, South (2025-2028)  
Lillie Wichinsky, North West (2025-2028)  
Joanne Corbin, Middle States (2024 - 2027)

**Huge Gratitude to NADD 2026 Fall Meeting Co-Sponsors:**

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Temple University School of Social Work

University of Central Florida School of Social Work  
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