

PROPOSAL: Create the Child Welfare Graduate Certificate

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Child Welfare Graduate Certificate offered by the School of Social Work in the College of Health and Human Services.

This program aims to prepare students for work in child welfare, a needed and vital resource in Michigan. Recent reports indicate that there has been a decline in the child welfare workforce, with fewer individuals seeking employment opportunities within child welfare and high turnover rates among early career child welfare workers. This program seeks to provide students with an opportunity to gain knowledge of and experience in child welfare work prior to entering the field in an attempt to further advance the field of child welfare and improve overall workforce retention.

Additionally, with the new Title IV-E funding opportunity that has been secured by the University of Michigan and being implemented across the state, Western Michigan University and the School of Social Work is one of five universities being provided a subaward from the University of Michigan to offer Title IV-E funding for students interested in the Child Welfare Workforce.

Recommended Action

Create the Child Welfare Graduate Certificate.