



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

School of Social Work

Good afternoon. My name is Deah Miller. I am currently a full time instructor at Wichita State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Social Work where my area of research and instruction is social work practice and substance abuse issues. As a licensed professional social worker, my area of interest and work centers on researching effective social work interventions for addressing substance abuse and its related challenges.

At Wichita State School of Social Work we offer and manage two vibrant professional programs of study to prepare students to practice at the BSW level and MSW level within the community, state and beyond utilizing a Generalist and an Advanced Generalist Approach to Social Work. According to our recent self-study we will be graduating 89 BSW and 57 MSW students in May of this year. As a School of Social Work we have supported academic excellence and have many alumni practicing professional social work within the addictions profession. I would like to highlight a few strengths of our academic standards:

- Graduate-level knowledge and skills specific to the treatment of clients with overlapping mental health and addiction problems.
- Knowledge and sensitivity concerning issues related to family, culture, ethnicity, gender, and spirituality.
- Our program prepares students to develop and maintain a broad understanding of many client problems and an expanded knowledge of solutions for addressing such problems.
- Our students gain a broad perspective and understanding of the complexity of mental health problems and are prepared to effectively provide a full range of services in settings including community mental health and addiction centers, schools, criminal justice, and others.
- Our program is well integrated into the Wichita community mental health and addictions provider systems through our close working relationships with our many community-based practicum and internship sites and placements. We currently have BSW and MSW practicum students placed in these agencies practicing social work with an addictions focus.
- Our curriculum recognizes and addresses the fact that today's social work professional must integrate an increasingly diverse range of knowledge across many fields to be prepared to meet the needs of clients.
- Our program provides an opportunity for students to learn directly from the knowledge and experience of professionals and specialists in the substance abuse and chemical dependency field.

As an accredited university of the Council on Social Work Education, Wichita State School of Social Work asks this committee to support SB 217 and support the future of professional Social Work in Kansas. Thank you for allowing me to present to your committee today in support of SB 217.