



From the Editor

Journal:	Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education
Article Title:	<i>From the Editor</i>
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Volume and Issue Number:	<i>Vol. 16 No. 1</i>
Manuscript ID:	<i>161003</i>
Page Number:	<i>3</i>
Year:	<i>2013</i>

Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education is a refereed journal concerned with publishing scholarly and relevant articles on continuing education, professional development, and training in the field of social welfare. The aims of the journal are to advance the science of professional development and continuing social work education, to foster understanding among educators, practitioners, and researchers, and to promote discussion that represents a broad spectrum of interests in the field. The opinions expressed in this journal are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policy positions of The University of Texas at Austin's School of Social Work or its Center for Social and Behavioral Research.

Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education is published two times a year (Spring and Winter) by the Center for Social and Behavioral Research at 1 University Station, D3500 Austin, TX 78712. Journal subscriptions are \$110. Our website at www.profdevjournal.org contains additional information regarding submission of publications and subscriptions.

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ISSN: 1097-4911

URL: www.profdevjournal.org

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In this issue of *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*, Volume 16 Number 1, a collection of contemporary topics of interest to continuing education practitioners is presented. Topics are meant to enhance the understanding of the role of continuing education in social work and the critical importance professional development plays in advancing the field.

The first article in this edition of the journal comes from our colleagues in Canada from the University of Windsor and the University of Calgary. Carter, Matin and Wilson explore the role of promoting professional involvement in developing and maintaining support groups for clients and persons with autism. The article provides insights into the needs of support group participants and the critical implications this work has on professional practice. This article is followed by a paper focused on enhancing social work practice through holistic and mindful self-care practices. Given the interpersonal and professional requirements of social worker and client interactions, social workers, as a group, demonstrate deep levels of empathy and compassion. Self-care and maintenance of appropriate and professional boundaries through thoughtful process is essential. Wisner and Hawkins from Texas State University provide an excellent insight on this area.

Incorporating research findings into practice in the area of trauma-informed care is described and is the key theme presented by Beldwin and Rolf from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The next article deals with adoption, a critical area of practice. Two researchers, Warrener and Mi-Sung Kim from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey School of Social Work, present the perspectives of parents and children on the adoption experience. These findings are coupled with both the risk and protective factors related to adoption. Kaiser from The Ohio State University College of Social Work and Kelly at the Universi-

ty of Missouri School of Social Work provide an excellent article on the United States industrial food system. Lastly, the growth of social work practice and education in China is described by Tsui and Pak from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

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