

Office of the Dean
School of Social Work

Post Office Box 751 503-725-3997 tel.
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751 503-725-5545 fax
1800 SW 6th Avenue, Ste. 600
Portland, Oregon 97201 www.pdx.edu/ssw

February 17, 2021

Dear Salem, Southern Oregon, Social Workers, and PSU Community Partners,

This communication is to inform our broader community of an important change to the delivery of the Master's of Social Work Program in Salem and Southern Oregon. The School of Social Work has made the decision to discontinue distance site operations in Salem and Southern Oregon beginning Fall 2021. We have come to this decision after four years of strategic discussions about sustainable program delivery across the State of Oregon while simultaneously recognizing our existing fiscal constraints.

We will prioritize making the transition for current students in Salem and Southern Oregon during the Fall of 2021 as least disruptive as possible. Therefore, students who entered the program Fall 2020 will have some continued in-person course offerings as well as remote and online course offerings. Prospective students in the Salem and Southern Oregon regions who are interested in pursuing an MSW degree may apply to our Online, Portland, Eugene, or Central Oregon options. Students will continue to receive the same high quality education expected from the School of Social Work. Our nationally recognized academic options have successfully demonstrated our ability to offer a superb curriculum with the same high caliber faculty across the State.

The signature pedagogical approach of field education will continue in person for all students and we will maintain our current field instructor orientations, training, and field liaising through a combination of in person and remote methodologies. Students will still be able to complete in person field placements in their home communities while Michele Martinez-Thompson (Salem) and Michele Morales (Southern Oregon) will continue to be PSU points of contact for field education in these regions.

Throughout the years, we have appreciated the partnerships with each of you and we look forward to partnering with you as we move into this next chapter of our program.

Sincerely,



Jose E. Coll, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor
School of Social Work
Portland State University