



## MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2017

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Degree Authorization for the State University of New York at Binghamton**

### Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the State University of New York at Binghamton to offer the Baccalaureate of Social Work degree, subject to approval by the New York State Board of Regents.

### Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the New York State Board of Regents for the State University of New York at Binghamton to confer the Baccalaureate of Social Work degree.

### Background

Approval of this resolution will authorize the State University of New York at Binghamton to confer the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree, subject to approval by the Board of Regents. Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents Binghamton University's first use of the BSW degree.

Since 2003, Binghamton University has offered the Master of Science in Social Work and more recently an advanced certificate for Social Work in Healthcare. The proposed program leverages existing research and clinical capacity in two research centers—the Institute for Multigenerational Studies (2009) and the Institute for Justice and Well-Being, which includes the Center on Aging. The move to provide bachelor's level programs is a natural one particularly since no public institution offers BSW programs within 130 miles of the campus.

Binghamton University faculty have extensive research and publication histories, making them well suited to provide the quality education the proposed program promises. Diverse in gender, ethnicity, and breadth of experience, most

are also licensed social workers in the state of New York at appropriate levels of practice. External evaluators praised the program both for a strong faculty, whose expertise and research support the new program, and for strong leadership in the department chairperson, BSW program director, admissions officer, and field education administrators.

The proposed program is designed to meet or exceed the accreditation standards and benchmark system required by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The BSW degree is the entry-level degree for practice in human service organizations. Students who graduate from the program will be able to engage in practice-informed research, assessing, intervening, and evaluating individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. They will demonstrate ethical and professional behavior, engaging diversity and difference in practice, while advancing human rights and promoting social, economic and environmental justice. External evaluators praised the proposed curriculum as attentive to community needs and opportunities for students.

The program at Binghamton is expected to enroll 30 students in the first year, with growth to a steady roster of 60 students a year. These projections are based on the explicit interest of students and alumni and the encouragement of regional community and government agencies. The New York State Department of Labor projects that within the Southern Tier, between 2014 and 2024, "Community and Social Service Occupations" will experience a growth of "approximately 830 jobs, a 12.0% increase," and the U.S. is expected to have a shortage of 195,000 social workers by 2030.

To recruit students from historically underrepresented populations, Binghamton University has already established articulation agreements with community colleges with diverse student bodies. In addition to relationships with several New York City community colleges, including LaGuardia Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Queensborough Community College, the proposed program also has articulation agreements with SUNY Broome Community College, Corning Community College, and Monroe Community College. Community agencies including the Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC), Action for Older Persons (AOP) and United Health Services (UHS) have expressed interest in providing internship experiences and future employment opportunities to BSW graduates.

Offering a BSW program fits well with the mission and strategic plan of Binghamton University to provide a transformative learning community that prepares students for advanced education, careers, and purposeful living.

The proposed program has been carefully reviewed and was found to be sound from both an academic and financial perspective.