

## *Excellence in Serving Older Adults*

A Practicum Partnership Program  
California State University, Chico  
School of Social Work

*Every worker will find himself or herself involved with an older adult, even if it isn't within his or her scope of practice. The Practicum Partnership Program has increased my knowledge of the vast changes involved with aging. I know that my true passion is in working with older adults* (E. Clark, PPP Student - 2006-07)

The Practicum Partnership Program (PPP) is an innovative program for students interested in gaining knowledge, skills, and experience working with older adults. This opportunity is currently available to second year (concentration) MSW students at California State University, Chico (CSUC). Within the past year, 35 graduate social work programs throughout the United States have been awarded this competitive grant. We are honored that CSUC has this opportunity to enhance the training of social workers in gerontology. Through this program, students gain skills in gerontology while becoming leaders in a dynamic field.

The Practicum Partnership Program provides a rotation model for internships. Thus, throughout the academic year, a student is placed in a primary agency for two days a week, rotating into another agency for one day a week. Students participate in specialized activities in the second agency such as facilitating groups, developing grants, and/or providing outreach and research. Rotations are tailored to the needs of the students and the community. Students may have exposure and experience in up to four agencies and/or internal programs within the year. The opportunities are endless.

*The rotation model of the PPP has broadened my horizons and ability to practice social work across a variety of settings. My success with my macro project has increased my confidence in my ability to work in macro settings . . . I have learned valuable skills that will help me in my future work with older adults.*  
(K. Watson, PPP Student – 2007-08)

In addition, students attend three seminars/workshops per semester. The rotations and seminars provide students exposure to the challenges affecting social work with older adults ranging from legal concerns, mental health, physical health, spiritual aspects, planning and advocacy, policy, and wellness/health promotion. The PPP provides assistance to attend trainings outside the CSUC area. Students receive a \$2,500 stipend for participation in the Practicum Partnership Program.

Current Participating Agencies include:

- Adult Protective Services (Oroville)
- Butte County Behavioral Health (Chico and Oroville)
- Butte County Public Health (Chico and Oroville)
- Enloe Medical Center (Chico)
- Feather River Hospital (Paradise)
- Oroville Hospital (Oroville)
- St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Red Bluff)
- PASSAGES Adult Resource Center (Chico)
- Veterans Administration (Chico and Redding)

*I was almost certain that I wanted to work with foster youth when I entered graduate school. Due to the exposure to the lives of older adults through the Practicum Partnership Program, I know now, without a doubt, that I would like to pursue a career in geriatrics.* (B. Ferreira, PPP Student - 2006-07)

If interested, please complete the attached application and return to Dr. Jean Schuldberg, by **April 14, 2008**. Applicants will be notified of their status by April 30, 2008.

Contact information: CSUC School of Social Work, Chico, CA 95929-0550 (Butte Hall Room 519) Phone: 530.898.4187 Email: [jschuldberg@csuchico.edu](mailto:jschuldberg@csuchico.edu) Website: <http://www.csuchico.edu/swrk/GC/ppp.shtml>

***Excellence in Working with Older Adults***

A Practicum Partnership Program  
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School of Social Work

**APPLICATION**  
2008-2009 Academic Year

Name:

Student ID #:

Address:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

Foundation Year or BSW Senior Field Placement Site:

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Please provide on a separate sheet of paper responses to the following questions. Total length is a maximum of three double spaced, typed pages.

1. What are your career goals? Where do you see yourself in five years?
2. Why are you interested in working with older adults?
3. What do you view as the most important current issue confronting our aging population?
4. What skills, experiences, and values have prepared you for working with older adults?

Attach your current resume and narrative to this application form.

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**Involvement in the PPP requires commitment to a longitudinal study on learning and career development in gerontology. Additionally, PPP students are required to enroll in SWRK 656: Advanced SWRK Marco Practice, SWRK 674: Policy & Practice with Older Americans and Their Families, attend the California NASW Lobby Days, attend three specialized trainings on older adults each semester, and participate in the CSUC School of Social Work Employment Workshop.**

**Please sign if you willing to participate in this study (questionnaires will be via web-based format) and enroll in the above classes and trainings.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Date



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TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

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